

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 01

30th June, Mnotho walked through the hallway of his mother's palace. It'd been three days and all the rituals were a success but Mnotho hadn't been really free because he was stressed. He loved Danielle, he loved her too much that he could just let her go. They've been separated before and he had been the one to make that decision that he was leaving her. He'd broken up with her twice and now, he was expected to break her heart once again? He wasn't sure if he was up for that. No! He wasn't up for this.

Danielle was his entire existence, that's how he loved her. Could he really let her go for Happiness?

He wasn't forced to bring Happiness back into his family. But he wanted her back in his life, he wanted to give her everything but how could he even do that at the expense of his wife? The

mother of his daughter?

“Where are you heading?” Thembelihle asked Mnotho as they met on the hallway. She followed Mnotho. She was making her way to the kitchen but she wanted to speak to him about Siphosami. They stood by the bedroom door, the bedroom Mnotho normally used with Danielle.

Mnotho: “I am heading to the children I want see them before they leave.”

Thembelihle: “They will leave tomorrow morning.”

Mnotho: “I won’t be able to see them because I will be busy tomorrow. Siphosami is moving in with us today.”

Thembelihle: “I wanted to speak about that. I don’t like this. Why are you taking him? Siphosami should stay here with me.”

Mnotho: “My wife doesn’t have a problem with

Siphosami and I don't like that my son should stay here while I am a drive away."

Thembelihle: "But Siphosami never spoke to me about Pearl's mother and I still say that I don't trust your wife. The only person he'd mentioned to me, is Nonjabulo, Njabulo and Happiness."

Mnotho: "That's because he's used to them more than Pearl and MaNkosi. How was he going to get used to MaNkosi while his mother didn't even visit them? He only visited Njabulo."

Thembelihle: "Yes, and that means he mustn't live with your wife."

Mnotho: "I am afraid that won't happen. I was just telling you mom. I wasn't asking for your permission. My son will live with me from today. I have asked the maid to pack his bags."

Thembelihle: "I hope you won't regret this."

Mnotho didn't say another word but he proceeded with his journey. "You'll sleep at

home with us, dad?" Njabulo asked his father who was fixing his shoe laces because they were going to their mother now. The maid had come by to tell them that their mother was calling for them.

Mnotho: "No, I won't sleep with you." he replied and lifted Nonjabulo off the floor. He moved out of the room with them after they've told other children 'goodbye'. Mnotho pushed Njabulo forward.

Nonjabulo: "Why aren't you sleeping with us?"

Mnotho: "I have to go to work and that means I won't be sleeping tonight but I will be working. Your father needs money so that he can buy everything you want. Do you understand?"

Nonjabulo looked down at Njabulo, she asked him with her eyes if they understood. And Njabulo shook his head. "No!" She replied.

Mnotho: "Aw! You are breaking your father's

heart.” He told her and he pretended to be crying. The children laughed and said ‘Sorry’

“Mama, tell dad to come and sleep in our house.” Njabulo told his mother who was leaning by her car waiting for the children.

Happiness looked at Njabulo. “No, he can’t come and sleep with us.” She told her son and opened the backdoor of her car. She stood aside and Mnotho buckled the kids who were grumpy now because their mother had told them abruptly that their father was not going to sleep with them in the house.

“Can we talk?” Mnotho requested and he pulled Happiness away from her car. He was pulling her away by her hand that he was holding.

Happiness: “What do you want from me because I told you what you can actually do to speak to me and be someone who can demand things from me. You can’t just pull me like I am

your wife.”

Mnotho: “MaMthimkhulu, you can’t possibly ask me to divorce my wife. What about my daughter? You want my child to live away from me. How can you be so selfish and request this from me?”

Happiness: “I learnt that from the two wives you married.” She replied and looking at him, she could see that he took her serious. But she didn’t see something that signalled he wasn’t free because he was considering doing this. She saw anger and that meant to her Mnotho wasn’t going to do this.

Mnotho: “You knew I was going to marry more wives Happiness and now, why are you acting as if you didn’t know? You agreed to it.”

Happiness: “I agreed because you gave me no choice! Did you actually care what I wanted, Mnotho? You didn’t even care but you forced

everything on me and how about I force you to leave your wife then if you want me back?"

Mnotho: "And what if I leave her. How sure can I be that you'll actually come back to me? Or this is your plan to get me to destroy my relationship and rejoice when you see me alone?"

Happiness looked at him and she admitted she never thought it this way. And Mnotho had hurt her that she could actually love to see him alone. It would be best if she takes this idea, this was his idea that she might play him like this.

Happiness: "I am not cruel like you are that you can kill the father of my child and watch me be miserable alone."

Mnotho: "He was never your man to begin with and if you hate what I did. Why don't you tell everyone that I had a hand in his death? I

actually expected you to tell everyone why didn't you tell them?" Happiness kept quiet and she didn't answer him because she felt that Mnotho was just disrespecting her and to her, it sounded like he was boasting that he had Lonwabo killed. "I am waiting for a response." He insisted.

Happiness: "How was I supposed to say that while you have lied about his death? Are you actually proud that you killed him?"

Mnotho: "That's not something to be proud of. But Happiness, we can make this work. There's no need for me to leave my wife I love her and I want to love you. I have seen your eyes before and your actions, the love you had for me is not the one you can just bury and forget. I want to believe that."

"I am not going to do this with you." She said and pushed him away from her. She wasn't about to stand before him and listen to him say

all those things to her. She knew she didn't love him... She didn't love him! She stamped and stepped inside the car, her children were talking alone...

Mnotho looked at her car as it drove away, he shook his head. "She's lying to herself. She still loves me. Why would she run away when I speak about that? She's good at boasting about things but she ran away just now. She loves me!" He concluded and nodded his head believing that Happiness loved him...

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"I am not too sure about this." Simthande told Mntwana and she looked back at him. It was a Saturday, 6th of July. Mntwana was laying on his bed while Simthande was getting dressed for going out... They've been seeing each other for two months and these two months had been about getting to know each other, they knew each other, basically but they didn't know

each other as partners. They didn't know each other on the level of being in a romantic relationship... Mntwana had seen that Simthande was honest with him when she told him that she was insecure. She'd been trying to hide it from him but Mntwana could see it even. But all that didn't change the way he felt about her and he was hoping that he could be able to make her feel less insecure. She was a nice person but she had a shabby behaviour that was the side that Mntwana felt he strongly didn't like...

Mntwana: "She's your sister. Why would you be not sure?"

Simthande: "Is it easy to trust someone who'd hurt you?"

Mntwana: "Babe, it's not about trust but it's about meeting your sister."

Simthande: "I reckoned you would say that."

She said and sprayed the straight back that she had on her head... She was no longer using the guestroom but she was sharing the room with Mntwana... Mntwana was the one who encouraged Simthande to meet up with her sister. She'd been asking Simthande that they should meet up but Simthande didn't want to meet up with her. She'd declined every chance for them to meet up until Mntwana convinced her that she should meet with her because she was her sister.

Mntwana: "She's your blood sister and you can't change that."

Simthande: "And you, what will you be doing all day here?" she asked the question that moved them away from the topic about her sister.

Mntwana: "I will be in doors all day. You can come back here with your sister. I would like to meet her. Here, take, my car." He said and threw the keys on her direction. Simthande couldn't

catch the keys but they fell on the floor. She bent down to take the car keys.

Simthande: "Why should I bring her back here?"

Mntwana: "I want to meet her."

Simthande: "Really? I haven't been seeing her in years and already you want to meet up with her. I am not bringing her here."

Mntwana: "Go, then."

Simthande: "Why are chasing me away? Is there something you are planning on doing while I am not here?" she asked and turned to look at him. She was standing by the door on her way out of the bedroom but she stopped walking when she heard Mntwana pressuring her to leave.

Mntwana: "Of course not. But you won't leave if you keep debating with me. Let me walk you out." He removed the bedcovers and got up from the bed.

“You can’t walk me out while you are on your boxers and you are topless. That’s inappropriate. Get dressed.” Simthande made him aware as she could see that Mntwana was coming her way without getting dressed.

Mntwana: “We are going to the building’s parking lot. I am not moving out of the building, Sim.” He told her and pointed the door for them to leave but Simthande didn’t move away from the door. She kept her eyes still on him and Mntwana knew she wasn’t going to move away. “Go alone then because the last thing I will do is to do everything you want. I ain’t about that life.” He informed her and moved back to bed. He opted that than to do what Simthande wanted him to do which was getting dressed because they were leaving the apartment just to get to the parking lot of the building... Simthande walked out of the door mute. She walked out of the apartment feeling nervous

about meeting her sister. She had the unsettling feeling that she wasn't doing what was best for herself by meeting up with her sister. But Mntwana was right, Nikhona was her blood and she could never change that...

“You look good. Sis, how are you?” Nikhona asked her sister with a big smile on her face as she laid her eyes on her sister who was standing before the table that she was seated on. She'd been waiting for her and she wasn't sure if she would come... She had to come back not just to be around Cape Town but things were not really good and she'd remembered her sister's words, the words she spoke to her before she left Cape Town for her scholarship. ‘It's difficult to build a brand and it could take years of hard work for it to pay out but destroying it takes just seconds.’ It was Simthande's advice to her sister who was leaving to build a brand not just the brand of her

cosmetic line but her brand as the founder of the line, as the hard work behind the line... It wasn't known to the public yet that things weren't so great with the line. And after trying so hard to keep things on track Nikhona suspected the only person who could help her was her sister.

Simthande didn't return the smile but she sat down without hugging her fancy looking sister. Seeing Nikhona awakened old wounds, she'd given up her life for her siblings but once they were up on their two feet they turned their backs on her. They left her and never looked back, she'd always hoped they would come back and they would mend their broken relationship but as years ran along, she learnt to let go of the hope for her siblings to ever coming back.

Simthande: "How are you?"

Nikhona: "I am fine. It was insensitive of me to

think that you can smile when you see me after all those years of being apart. How are you?” She said looking at her hand that had the car keys and her phone. She wondered if she was doing well, if she’d achieved her goals. She didn’t want to ask her...

Simthande: “I am fine.” She replied and looked at the waitress who was standing next to her asking if they were ready to order. Nikhona placed her order and the waitress began speaking to Nikhona about her make up products... Simthande was just on the table looking down as they were talking about best colours for her type of skin and she could feel her heart being torn apart. And hate was something she recognised she had for her little sister for all the hurt she caused her. She wasn’t ready for this!

Waitress: “Sorry, mam, but I had to ask some questions.” She apologised turning to



Simthande now after she'd finished speaking with Nikhona. Simthande nodded once. "What are you going to have?" she asked.

Simthande: "Nothing."

Nikhona: "Why ain't you going to eat? I will pay for the food."

Simthande chuckled. "You'll pay? Did someone tell you I can't pay for my food, Nikhona? Is that what you've been told?" She asked her sister raising her voice as she felt she was offended by what she was saying to her. She was angered by her words because they indirectly implied she couldn't afford a plate.

Nikhona: "No, sis, that's not what I meant."

Simthande: "I don't know why Mntwana pushed me to come here. I am leaving, just enjoy your meal." She broke free and stood on her feet, she didn't even stand a minute to listen to her sister who was trying to convince her that she must

stay because she needed them to talk...

Simthande left the restaurant enraged. She'd thought she could do this but she couldn't stand Nikhona...

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It'd been a week and Mnotho hadn't been free since Happiness and the children left. The only thing that was on his mind was Happiness's request and he'd gone to Langalibalele to ask for the advice and what the ancestors were saying about this but Langalibalele gave him no answers from the ancestors. The only thing he assured him about the ancestors was that the anger that was upon him from them was no more because the two families had performed these important rituals. He had nothing for him regarding his marriage to Danielle breaking off just to bring Happiness back. He personally told him he couldn't really advise him on what to do but he needed to do what his mind was telling

him to do... He hadn't spoken to Happiness in a week but he only spoke to the children whenever he called. He had nothing to say to her because she'd put him on a tight situation...

Monday before going to work Mnotho decided that he must speak to his mother and maybe she was going to tell him something sensible. He wasn't even free around the house with his wife because he was stressed by this. They've been living together with Siphosami and he didn't show that he wasn't happy to live with them. But Pearl would cry every morning when Siphosami leaves for school because she would be left behind alone. Their parents had explained to them that she was still young to go to school but she would still cry. Mnotho didn't see any resentment from Danielle directed to Siphosami...

"Mnotho? Shouldn't you be at work?"

Thembelihle asked and she sat on her chair

inside the lounge. The maid had been the one to call her when Mnotho asked that he wanted to speak to his mother.

Mnotho: "I should be and where's dad?"

Thembelihle: "He left for Richards' bay this morning. He will come back late at night. Is there something wrong? I should come and take Siphosami?"

Mnotho: "Mama? Why are you so negative about Siphosami staying with us?" he asked feeling disappointed because he wasn't expecting the question that his mother was asking and this made him not to trust that his mother was going to give him a genuine advice.

Thembelihle: "Who would trust a person who hate the child's mother with that child? I would have acted the same way if Elena would be the one who would say she was going to look after Pearl. I don't trust that."

Mnotho: "There's nothing wrong happening."

Thembelihle: "Oh! What brings you here then, my child?"

He looked at his mother having a final debate whether to tell her or just leave. He concluded that this woman was his mother, she would never tell her something that would hurt him in future. "I have been put in a tight dark corner by Happiness and I don't know what to do." He told his mother.

Thembelihle: "What did she do?"

Mnotho: "I have been asking for forgiveness and asking her that she comes back home and give us another chance."

Thembelihle smiled. "Oh! She never told me about that." She told her son but her heart was already feeling light and joyful that Mnotho was trying. "But what's this tight corner is she putting you in?" she asked.

Mnotho: "Happiness gave me a condition that she will only come back to me if I divorce Danielle and send her back to her mother's house because she disrespected her in the beginning by getting into a relationship with me."

Thembelihle: "She's right about the last part that you've just told me."

Mnotho: "How is she right because we got married under customary law and she knew that I was going to marry other women?"

Thembelihle: "Did MaNkosi knew about this customary law?"

Mnotho: "Yes, I told her that I was a traditional man and I can marry other wives. She knew about that when we got into a relationship, mama. I didn't tell MaNkosi lies but I told her the truth because she didn't just agree to be with me." he told his mother the truth. Danielle

didn't seduce him but he was the one who made the first move on her and he slept with her that night when she was intoxicated. But even though she was intoxicated, she didn't just give in to him. She tried to resist him but he was determined to have her. He shouted inside him now because he was actually angered by the fact that Danielle was said to disrespect Happiness by sleeping with him but Happiness knew other women were going to come by. Ag!

Thembelihle: "Okay, we are not there but we are on Happiness's request. I didn't expect that she would request such a thing. Do you think that she means it? I can't ask her because it would be inappropriate if I do."

Mnotho: "She means it, mama. But a part of me tells me that she just wants me to destroy my marriage so that I can be alone and miserable."

Thembelihle: "Ayi! Don't think like that about Happiness because she's not evil. Don't you

think if she wishes bad things on you, you would be here by now? No, but you would be behind bars for abusing her.”

Mnotho: “What should I do? I love MaNkosi with all my heart and can I really break my marriage with her and be with Happiness?”

Thembelihle: “You don’t love Happiness?”

Mnotho: “No, I don’t have those feelings of love for her but I have grown to care for her ever since I have realised my mistakes. I didn’t love Elena either when she came here but I grew to love her. And all I wanted was another chance with Happiness, a chance to make her happy and learn to love her.”

Thembelihle: “Happiness was brought to you for a reason and you left home because you were heartbroken by your present wife. You may have not told me but I knew that it was something to do with her. And she came back

to stand in your way of seeing the woman brought to you.”

Mnotho: “I saw Happiness was a good woman and it’s not my wives who stopped me from seeing that because I have never denied that.”

Thembelihle: “Why did you begin mistreating her the minute you had these two women in your life then, Mnotho? Can’t you see they were a block between you and Happiness?” she asked looking at Mnotho but he didn’t answer his mother. He didn’t even look at her.

“Sometimes, we should make sacrifices for greater good and as Happiness is made for you my son. Who can make her happy if not you?” She asked him.

Mnotho: “You are telling me my daughter should grow away from me?”

Thembelihle: “Your son is growing away from you and very far compared to Durban. I can’t

really tell you what to do but you need to fix your wrongs and maybe that joy we have lost will only come back when we have our diamond back in our yards. I can't even speak to her about family matters as I want us to restore the peace because she's not part of our family. Happiness will not only be joy in your life but she'll be joy for the entire family. Mlamuli has his wife and you remember how the four of you went away to solve money problems? You told us Happiness was the reason you acquired the money. I believe the four of you can take this kingdom to greater heights if Happiness can come back and this time she'll be behind you as your true wife. Indians say it's a wife's duty to protect her husband's honour and prestige. Happiness had done that my son, she's a great wife you can ever have in your life because love alone doesn't build a man and a warm home."

Mnotho sighed as he listened to his mother's

words. He closed his eyes and he processed her words thoroughly...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 03

Nkosazana got off her car and she marched to the front door of Danielle's house. She'd been calling her since morning and she wasn't answering her phone. She was worried that something might have happened and she decided that driving to her house was the best thing to do than calling her husband.

"Where's your mother, Nkosazana Zulu?"

Nkosazana asked Pearl who was seated quietly on the couch and she was watching TV but she'd directed her focus to Nkosazana the minute she saw her walk through the lounge.

Pearl: "Mama is inside her room. Please swing me." she requested with an honest smile.

Nkosazana laughed, she gave Pearl a swing that she wanted and she placed her back on the couch with a big giggle.

Nkosazana: "I will see you when I am done speaking to your mother." She told her and walked away from the couch.

Pearl: "You'll swing me, again?" she raised her voice and looked back at her.

Nkosazana: "Yes, baby."

Nkosazana pushed the door after Danielle had told her to come in. Her eyes laid on the suitcases that were on top of the bed and Danielle was packing her clothes. She moved her eyes from the suitcase and she looked at Danielle's face. She saw she had no makeup put on to hide the dark – reddish shades on her lower eyelids. She'd never been without her

makeup because she didn't want to be questioned about this change she suddenly had.

Nkosazana: "What's going on Ntandokazi?"

Danielle: "I am just packing my clothes." she replied abruptly and she turned to the wardrobe to take more of her clothes... It was the following morning since Mnotho told her that he was divorcing her and she hadn't commented about what Mnotho had said. In the morning she didn't wake up to prepare breakfast and prepare Siphosami for school. Mnotho tried wake her up but she didn't wake up, she slept pretending as if she wasn't hearing him... She woke up after he'd left the house and that was when her daughter woke her up crying because her brother had gone to school and she was staying at home...

Nkosazana: "Packing your clothes? Can you tell me what's going on?"

Danielle: "Mnotho asked me for a divorce because he must bring his wife home. He told me that Happiness is a wife chosen for him and they should be together. He built this home with me while Happiness didn't want that and this home is built in Happiness's tears and so, we should get divorced."

Nkosazana: "Hhaybo! And what did you say about that?"

Danielle: "I didn't say anything to him."

Nkosazana: "Why not? You are just going to leave Ntandokazi?"

Danielle: "Yes, I wasn't given a choice or asked but I was told that I should leave and that's what I will do. I heard him speaking with his mother the other day. I was inside the bedroom in the palace and she was telling him that she didn't trust me with Siphosami. She asked if she can come take him. So, it made sense to me

that it was what he'd discussed with his mother that I wasn't fit to be Siphosami's mother."

Nkosazana: "No, don't think like that and don't take that to heart because it was expected that you won't be trusted with him because of your relationship with his mother. It's only naturally for our mother in-law to feel like that."

Danielle: "It's okay, but I am leaving then. I just want to say thank you for everything that you did for me. All the love and support-" she kept quiet and closed her eyes feeling the dizziness and she sat down on the free space available on the bed. She placed her fingers on her glands, she exhaled.

Nkosazana: "Did you take your medication for the dizziness?" she asked giving her a glass of water that she rushed to the kitchen to get for her. She placed her hand on her shoulder and she looked at her as she drank the water.

Danielle: "I haven't eaten since morning. I will take them after I have finished packing. I will drive home today."

Nkosazana: "Don't do this, Ntandokazi. You can't just throw your marriage away like this. For what? Ntandokazi?"

Danielle: "It's not in my nature to force things Ndlovukazi and now, Pearl's father doesn't want me but he wants his first wife. I won't stick around while I am not wanted I don't want to be abused because I chose to stick around even if I am not wanted. It's best that I give him what he wants."

Nkosazana: "Have you cried?"

Danielle: "No, I don't have tears. I think I have cried enough for one man. Can you please help me with packing?" She requested and she got up from the bed, she placed the glass on the bedside drawer.

Nkosazana: “No, I won’t let this happen.” She said to Danielle and she left the room with her phone on her hands... Danielle didn’t take note of her but she proceeded with packing her clothes...

“Ndlovukazi?” Mnotho accepted Nkosazana’s phone call.

Nkosazana: “Mageba, I am in your house right now and your wife is telling me that she’s leaving because the two of you are getting divorced. Is that true?”

Mnotho: “I had no choice but to let go of our marriage because Happiness is for me and she made it clear that she won’t come back in my life while I am married to Danielle.”

Nkosazana: “Wow! Men! I thought I have seen it all from you men but no, I have seen nothing you keep dishing out surprises. And you saw it was best that you break your marriage because

you should please Happiness now? Yehheni, you are full of surprises and we can never keep up.”

Mnotho: “Ndlovukazi-”

Nkosazana dropped the call feeling angered by this. He broke his marriage because Happiness told him to do it? How could he be so childish? He was a man but he took a decision of a boy. Weren't there ways he could get Happiness to come back into his life? Why did he fail to be a man about this? He preferred hurting his wife and breaking his daughter's home just to please the other? Men! And Happiness?

She sat down on the stoep of the house and she placed her phone on her ear to call Happiness. She waited as her phone rang.

“Sawubona, Nkosazana.” Happiness greeted Nkosazana.

Nkosazana: “How are you?”

Happiness: "I am fine and how are you?"

Nkosazana: "I am fine. How could you possibly request Mnotho to break his marriage for you to come back into his life? Why did you do that?"

Happiness: "He told you that?"

Nkosazana: "I asked you a question and you can't possibly answer a question with a question. And who can actually tell me about that? Danielle and her daughter should leave their home now. No, they're leaving their home because you want to come back here. Why are you breaking another woman's house?"

Happiness: "You are asking me, that? Did you ask Ntandokazi that question?"

Nkosazana: "Did I ask her? Don't ask me about that because I asked you if you knew about Ntandokazi and Mnotho, you freely told me that you knew about them and he was going to marry her. I asked you if you were fine about it

and you were chilled telling me you are fine about them being together. Or you have forgotten about that? Where was the need for me to ask Ntandokazi why she was hurting you if you were not hurt? Huh?"

Happiness: "I didn't mean what I said to Njabulo's father but I just wanted him to stop bothering me about coming back. I asked him to do that because I was certain he wouldn't do it because he loves his wife. I thought he would back off and stop bothering me. I didn't think he was going to do it."

Nkosazana: "That's nonsense and it's the most childish thing I have ever heard coming from an adult. You are playing jokes with Mnotho using Danielle and Pearl's happiness? Why can't you fasten your belt and tell Mnotho you don't want him? Why are you using Ntandokazi to get him to back off?"

Happiness: "I have told him I don't want him

back but he never listened.”

Nkosazana: “How was he going to listen if you are not firm? Indoda uma ungayifuni uyaytshela ukuthi awuyifuni ize ikuzwe awucashi ngabanye abantu. And this husband of yours took you serious while you are playing a game. Hhayi, umdala kabi uma umngaka funda ukumela into yakho ngaphandle kokuchasha ngabanye abantu. Umdala kabi nje funda ukuzimela. Gha! This woman is already sick and you are adding more stress with these jokes!” she clicked her tongue and she dropped the call. She marched back inside the house...

“Ntandokazi, I have to drive to my husband I will come back here.” Nkosazana told Danielle who was almost done with packing her clothes.

Danielle: “I don’t know if you’ll find me here because I don’t want to stay. I have to go home that way I will freely take medication from the hospital.”

Nkosazana: “But it’s been rejecting you and responding badly. Why don’t we change the type of treatment? Or do surgery because you are still on the grade I of the tumour. Don’t you think that’s best?”

Danielle: “The Doctor told us this would be expected and I don’t want to keep changing medications, ndlovukazi.”

Nkosazana: “Please, don’t just leave your marriage like this. This is a home for your child Ntandokazi and what about Siphosami who’ll be hurt that he’ll be losing another mother?”

Danielle: “Like I said, I don’t want to be abused for staying while I am not wanted. That’s what he did to her and I won’t let it happen to me. I rather be labelled as weak for not fighting than to fight for something like that.”

Nkosazana: “You know that he loves you.” she said and turned back to the door that was

opened and Mnotho walked inside the door with his daughter inside his arms... Mnotho drove home after receiving Nkosazana's call.

Ntandokazi hadn't been talking to him and he didn't know what that meant. He wanted her to say everything that was in her mind but she wasn't.

Mnotho: "What's wrong with your eyes, MaNkosi?" that was the first thing he asked Ntandokazi as he laid his eyes on Danielle's eyes.

Danielle: "Nothing." She replied and sent her eyes head down to close her suitcase that she'd finished packing.

Nkosazana played with Pearl's cheeks and she left the room after she heard Pearl giggle and had said goodbye to Danielle.

Mnotho: "What's going on Ntandokazi? What's wrong?"

Danielle: "What are you talking about?" she looked at him shortly and closed the second suitcase that had her dresses and underwear. She figured she couldn't take everything at once and she was going to have to come to get the rest of the clothes some other time.

Mnotho held Danielle's hand and she didn't raise her head. "Please, look at me. Your lower eyelids had never been like this before and this means something is wrong." He begged but Danielle didn't look at him.

Danielle: "Nothing is wrong. I just overslept." She told him removing her suitcase from the bed and she removed the other one.

Mnotho: "Can we talk about what I requested last night?"

Danielle: "I will divorce you, Mnotho. There's no need for us to talk."

Pearl: "Mama, where are you going?" she asked

her mother who was pushing her suitcase out of her bedroom. Mnotho followed after Danielle.

Danielle: "We are going to grandma's house, baby."

Pearl: "In the palace?"

Danielle: "No, but in Durban, Nontando."

Mnotho: "Can you not talk to the child like that because we haven't spoken, Ntandokazi? Please, stop this."

Danielle: "Hey, don't pretend as if there's something we can talk about now because there's nothing we can talk about now. We will just leave so that you'll please your wife and you ancestors who brought her here because I broke your heart." She insisted and packed her suitcase inside her car... Mnotho looked at her as she moved back in the house and he sighed...

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“You are not telling me truth, isn’t? That’s not the truth.” Mlamuli raised his voice and he stood on his feet... He was seated behind his desk inside the royal house when Nkosazana told him about what was going on between Happiness, Danielle and Mnotho. Mlamuli felt the anger inside of him as he heard this news. His brother had taken such a stupid decision!

Nkosazana: “Yes, it’s the truth I found her packing and the poor woman is sick, Ndabezitha. She has a brain tumour and she’d been hiding it from Mnotho so that he wouldn’t worry about her and lose focus on the children.”

Mlamuli: “What’s wrong with him?”

Nkosazana: “I think we should tell mother and father about this Ndabezitha. Your brother can’t break his marriage just to please another wife. And who’d told me that she wasn’t serious about what she said.”

Mlamuli: "Tsk! Who in their right mind could play with people's lives like this? And this brother of mine had to be foolish and do this."

Nkosazana sighed and looked at her husband as he dissolved back to his seat. "When are we going to speak to our parents?" She asked.

Mlamuli: "We will have to speak to them tomorrow because we have to drive to Ulundi by 2pm. We can't afford not to go over there."

Nkosazana: "Yes, you are right. Have you eaten something? I will prepare food for you before I leave." She asked standing up.

Mlamuli: "What's the need for you to leave because we can just drive now so that we don't have to speed up on the road."

Nkosazana: "I thought you are working."

Mlamuli: "I will finish up tomorrow or at home later. Let's go, we will drive alone in the car. Go." He pointed the way out of the office and

Nkosazana led...

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“Baba, my brother is big now? The other day you told me that he’s too small and I won’t be able to hold him.” Qalokuhle asked her father, she was seated on the passenger seat of her father’s car and they were driving to the hospital to fetch Qhawe. The nanny who was going to look after him was seated at the backseat of the car. She was on her mid-40s and she was going to live with Dalingcebo.

Dalingcebo: “Yes, he’s a little big now but you still can’t hold him because he’s still small for you to hold him.”

Qalokuhle: “Hawu! Baba, you said he’s big but now you are saying he’s small. You are lying to me, baba. You are lying.”

Dalingcebo laughed. “I am telling you that he’s small for you but not small for adults. You don’t

listen I will always pull your ears.” He said and pulled her ear, Qalokuhle laughed and removed her father’s hand.

Qalokuhle: “I can’t wait to meet my brother. He’s like me?”

Dalingcebo: “No, he resembles your father, Similo’s father.” He replied and stopped the car on the parking lot. The baby had grown and now, it was clear that he resembled Ngcebo not his father.

Qalokuhle: “Awu! Baba, why not me? He’s picky and I don’t like him already!” she told her father and lifted her arms for her father to lift her.

Dalingcebo laughed and picked Qalokuhle up.

Dalingcebo: “He saw that Similo’s father doesn’t have a boy but five girls and he thought he would smile when he chooses to look like him.”

Qalokuhle: “Oh! Baba?”

Dalingcebo: “Yeah?”

Qalokuhle: “Did baba smile because my brother looks like him and he doesn’t have a boy but five naughty girls who bother me when they visit?”

Dalingcebo laughed and pinched her playfully, she giggled. “You are the one who teach them how to be naughty big girl. And yes, your father gave your brother a big smile for that. How do you like your brother?” He asked.

Qalokuhle: “I love him big much!”

Dalingcebo: “That’s daddy’s girl!” he gave his high five and Qalokuhle hit her father’s high five. “You’ll sleep with us this week, okay?” He added.

Qalokuhle: “Yes.”

“Baba! Baba! I want to see him.” Qalokuhle pressured her father pulling his pants from his leg. Dalingcebo had the baby in his arms and he’d finished the formalities. Qalokuhle was impatient.

Dalingcebo: “Qalokuhle! Where are your manners because I am still talking with adults? Behave!” he shouted at her and looked down at her.

“Sorry.” She said to her father and looked down... They left the hospital with Dalingcebo lecturing Qalokuhle about respect when he was talking with older people. He lectured her about the importance of waiting until he finishes. Qalokuhle didn’t sit with her father when they were driving back home but she sat on the backseat with the nanny and she stared at her brother. Her brother whom she could clearly see that he was too different from her...

“Baba, my brother is very fair in complexion. He’s white?” Qalokuhle told her father what had been bothering her that her brother was very fair with his big hazel brown brighter eyes... They were laying on Dalingcebo’s bed with Qalokuhle at night. Qhawe was sleeping with

his nanny.

Dalingcebo chuckled. “Didn’t you see his ears were darker?” He asked.

Qalokuhle: “What does that mean, dad?”

Dalingcebo: “If the baby’s ears are darker than his skin that means the baby will grow up to be dark. Most babies are fair in complexion when they’re younger.” He told her what they believed about babies and what had been proved to be true for some babies.

Qalokuhle: “Oh! He’ll be dark like her sister and resemble her father.”

Dalingcebo: “Yes, and don’t you think we’ve been talking too much now. We should sleep now?” he asked and looked at Qalokuhle. She was talking none stop and he was sleepy now.

Qalokuhle: “No, baba, why is mommy not coming here anymore?”

Dalingcebo sighed. "We will not talk about your mother now, Qalokuhle. But we will sleep because we will have to work tomorrow." He told his daughter. He'd decided he wasn't going to tell Qalokuhle what was going on between her mother and him. It was best that he talks to her after the court had made the finally decision on who was going to take her. He didn't want to tell his child about the 'ifs' and the 'maybes' He didn't want to confuse her.

Qalokuhle: "Hawu, baba, we won't stay with my brother, tomorrow? And why can't we speak about mom?"

Dalingcebo sighed. 'Lord, help me, don't let Qhawe talk like this one. A man can't even sleep.' He mumbled the words to himself. "Okay, MaZulu, we will stay with your brother tomorrow but we will not stay with him the following day. Can we sleep now?" He requested lastly.

Qalokuhle: “Yes! Yes! I am not going to school tomorrow. Yes, baba, we will stay with my brother. I like it. Baba?”

Dalingcebo: “Huh?” he said lazily feeling highly irritated now because his daughter didn’t want to stop talking now.

Qalokuhle: “We can sleep now.”

He sighed. “Thank you!” He said and officially closed his eyes...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 02

“Aw! Congratulations, ntwana. You must be happy.” Nandipha said to Duma and she yawned, a long yawn. She was laying on her bed on the 3th of July. They’ve been alone in the house for a week. Ngcebo wasn’t home, he was

away for work but he was said to come back the present day. They didn't go down to KZN for the appeasing ritual that was taking place... Nandipha overslept because the children had gone to their grandmother's house. They left the two days ago and Faith promised to bring them back when they wanted to come back home to Nandipha.

Duma: "I am not happy I wasn't ready to be a father."

Nandipha laughed and she got up, to sit up straight. "You must be joking! Why didn't you abstain or use protection?" She asked.

Duma: "It was just that one time, ntwana but at least it was with my girlfriend not some one-night stand. I would have been doomed."

Nandipha: "Sies! Duma, what's wrong with being faithful?"

Duma: "Do you think Prince Tee is faithful to

you? Like, for real! He's a public figure and he hangs around a number of different women. Do you honestly think he'd never slept with someone else?"

Nandipha: "I can never answer for him but what I know is that, in 1 million men we might have in the city maybe half a million of those men are in relationships. I refuse to believe that all that half a million of men are the same and they're all cheaters. Just because you are a public figure who can't commit to one woman that doesn't necessarily mean every public figure does that."

Duma: "Oh! You are protecting your man. I see."

Nandipha: "No, I am not but I am trying to make you see that men are not the same. Same applies to women, we are not all cheaters. For every majority there's a minority ntwana. And if majority of women cheat I fall under the minority." She told Duma and she laughed as if

she'd shared a joke. Duma ended up laughing as well because Nandipha was laughing.

Duma: "What's funny now?"

Nandipha: "What's funny is that, I am afraid you fall under the majority of cheaters that makes us say all men are cheaters." She told her what was funny and they laughed seriously.

Nandipha wiped her tears. "You need to start saving money for your child so that you won't fall under the majority of men who are fathers, but just absent fathers. These days it's shocking for some women to see men loving and caring for their children. And we end up feeling the need to applaud fathers who are involved just for doing their duties."

Duma: "You are right on that one ntwana. I wasn't ready to be a father but I won't do to my child what my father did to me."

Nandipha: "That's it!" she said and lifted her

head to the door as it was opened. Ngcebo walked through the door without his bag.

Duma: “And I know if I flop I have you to put me in line. Ey, ntwana, the other reason I was calling was to ask about that retweet. Have you seen the replies?”

Nandipha: “Ntwana indoda yami isifikile sobuye skhulume ngalokho.” (Ngcebo is here, we will talk some other time about that.)

Duma laughed. “Sure. Sure. I will hold you for it.” He said.

“Yeah, I know.” She admitted and removed the phone from her ear. She placed the phone away after hanging up the call. Nandipha kneeled on the bed and she moved forward as Ngcebo was standing by the edge of the bed.

Ngcebo: “You awake. I came up here to wake you.”

Nandipha held him by his collar. “When did you

come back?" She asked and she kissed him without waiting for a response from Ngcebo. He held Nandipha's waist tightly and he pulled her closer to him...

Ngcebo: "I came back early in the morning and you were peacefully sleeping here. I tried waking you but you didn't wake up. I left you to make breakfast. My girls are not back yet. They should come back."

Nandipha: "Why don't we fetch them tomorrow? We will have the house to ourselves today and then tomorrow we fetch them."

Ngcebo: "I like that. Get off the bed." he told her and placed his wet lips on the visible flesh of her shoulder. Nandipha smiled and held the back of his head.

"I want to shower and I am not hungry. Rasta, my friend is going to be a father and the poor guy is no even ready to be a father." She told

Ngcebo and sat on the bed instead of getting off the bed. He looked down at her

Ngcebo: "He wasn't supposed to have sex if he's not ready to be a father. And you know I am not a fan of this friend of yours but I hope he'll be having just one baby." Nandipha laughed and kneeled on the bed, she held Ngcebo's arm to get of the bed. She stood on her feet.

Nandipha: "It's one baby and there's nothing wrong with more."

Ngcebo chuckled. "That's not what you say if they bother you till midnight. And what would you do if you can be pregnant and five boys?"

Nandipha hit Ngcebo's chest. "Don't say that and it hardly happens like that. It normally rotates for most women. I think that we must go to the clinic when we are ready for another child. We can have my egg fertilised by one

sperm and plant it in here.” She suggested and placed a hand on her womb.

Ngcebo laughed. “You are making suggestions now. Ziykunyisile lezi ngane.”

Nandipha: “Ah! Ngcebo, zisinyisa sonke mos.” She admitted and they laughed.

“What were you eating in your sleep as you’re not hungry?” he asked.

Nandipha held Ngcebo tight into a hug. “I was eating the father holy ghost!” She joked and Ngcebo pulled her locks. Nandipha screamed.

Ngcebo: “You didn’t tell me you missed me. The girls would have said it firstly when they saw me but you didn’t.”

Nandipha: “You know I missed you!” she screamed as Ngcebo was lifting her off the floor. Nandipha held on to his neck as Ngcebo walked with her to the bathroom. “Don’t fall with me, please.” She told Ngcebo.

He didn't breathe a word until they were inside the bathroom. Ngcebo pinned Nandipha's back against the wall. He was holding her by her thighs. "I missed this a lot." He told Nandipha and he pulled her locks. They weren't styled or tied up but they were let loose.

Nandipha: "Ah! Ngcebo!" she screamed the way Ngcebo wanted her to scream but she wasn't catching up to why he was doing that.

Ngcebo: "Yeah!" he said his voice sounding a little lazy and he pulled her again.

Nandipha: "Ngcebo! Hmm! Are you out of your mind?" she screamed and failed to remove her hands from his neck because she was scared he was going to let her go and she would fall...

He didn't answer her but he gave her a mischievous smile, his body warmed up and he felt his organ quiver as her screams were doing what he wanted. "I told you that I missed you

and I won't stop." He insisted and kept pulling her locks, irritating the heck out of Nandipha who didn't stop screaming the way Ngcebo wanted and it finally gave him a full erection. He then kissed her...

"You... are not... serious..." Nandipha spoke in between the kiss but Ngcebo didn't stop kissing her. He fastened his lips on hers, it didn't take her seconds to loosen up and they shared a highly coveted kiss...

May and June, they have been recovering from all the hurt they've experienced in April when Ngcebo left her and came back an angry man. They didn't become alright overnight but they tried by all means to work together into being better in time... Nandipha had a positive response from the public about her magazine issue. It wasn't everyone who had positive comments especially about her body issues but most women responded positively to it and they

appreciated her honesty. She was happy about the feedback and Ngcebo encouraged her not to mind the negative comments. And her short stories were put on market for the public...

Ngcebo began working on his line in June but he hadn't find the right balance between his music and this new deal that he had signed...

"I am really not hungry Rasta." Nandipha told Ngcebo as they sat down to have the breakfast that Ngcebo had prepared for them. They've taken a shower after greeting each other the way Ngcebo wanted and Nandipha wasn't on her sleep wear now but her black leggings and a yellow shirt.

Ngcebo: "I put my heart and time making this food for you. Please, eat the food." He pleaded with her and looked at her.

Nandipha nodded and convinced herself she was going to eat. She had no problem with eating but breakfast hadn't been the favourite

meal of the day. But she didn't want Ngcebo to feel hurt if she doesn't eat his food. He never liked it when she would turn down food he'd prepared for her.

She opted to eat pork Russians. "How did it go then? You didn't tell me." Nandipha asked Ngcebo about his trip.

Ngcebo: "It went well but I don't think I did my best in all my performances."

Nandipha: "Why do you say that? You are having a difficult time?"

Ngcebo: "Not really but you know that feeling that you didn't do your best?"

Nandipha: "Yes, we all feel that sometimes. I will get to watch you?"

Ngcebo: "You seriously don't want my food, neh?" he asked without answering the question that she'd asked last.

Nandipha: “Hawu, Ngcebo. I am eating your food. You want to make a big deal out of this now and all you’ll do is give me your ugly face all day.”

Ngcebo unexpectedly laughed. “You surely don’t know an ugly face.” He said and placed an egg on top of her toast. He lifted it to her mouth.

Nandipha didn’t refuse him but she took the bread from him. “I am trying to maintain my figure but he’s feeding-” She didn’t gulp the egg down as the half cooked yolk gave her nausea without vomiting. She spat the egg. “It’s half cooked Ngcebo!” She looked at him, her face showing that she wasn’t on the mood for this egg. She removed her eyes from his face and she grabbed a glass, she poured water and drank the water.

Ngcebo was looking at her trying to relax as Nandipha had spat the egg. “Since when do you spit the half cooked egg?” He asked calmly.

Nandipha: “I told you that I am not hungry but you’ll see by 1pm I will be on this breakfast. I was just eating because you’ve made it for me with love and I didn’t want you to be grumpy” she told him truthfully.

Ngcebo: “Why did you retweet that woman’s tweet and said those things you said? Did you see what people are saying about that?”

Nandipha: “I didn’t see but I don’t care what they say. That woman must not hide behind feminism. That’s not what we stand for as feminists. I won’t even explain myself or reply back.”

Ngcebo: “You are saying that because you haven’t seen the replies. Don’t forget that you have fans that means you can’t comment about people anyhow, Nandipha. And you’ll see them saying ‘Prince Tee’s wife not Nandipha.’” He lectured her but she wasn’t looking at him.

Nandipha: “What are we doing today?” she asked covering her plate of food after she’d added food on her plate. She deliberately ignored what Ngcebo was saying about her retweet.

Ngcebo: “You’ll ignore what I just said?”

Nandipha: “Yes, I will ignore it.” She replied and got up to leave the dining table with her plate on her hands... She placed her plate on the microwave and she cleaned the kitchen even though she knew her cleaner was going to clean but she felt like keeping busy while Ngcebo was eating. When she was done was done she took 2litre of sour cream and she pour them on the glass. She added sugar. And had them as her breakfast...

She looked at him as Ngcebo was laying back on the couch with his eyes closed. Music was playing, Nandipha had just finished cleaning the kitchen and the dining room... She wasn’t sure if

he was sleeping or just napping but either way she placed her body on his body.

Ngcebo: “Ah! Isaka elisinda kangaka lifunani phezu kwami?”

Nandipha: “Ha! Ngcebo that’s so disrespectful.” She said and hit his shoulder. She didn’t laugh as Ngcebo was laughing.

Ngcebo: “Keep quiet and close your eyes. I want to have some rest.” He requested and Nandipha closed her eyes...

Nandipha woke up as she heard Ngcebo calling her ‘MaZondi’. She looked at him but he had his eyes closed signalling that he was sleeping. Nandipha shook him lightly but he didn’t wake up. She laid back on his chest thinking she might have imagined him calling her.

“Inkunzi isematholeni. Ubukhosi ngaphandle kwabantwana bufile, ubukhosi ngaphandle kwabantwana abunakusasa.” (Future leaders

are amongst the children. A kingdom without children is dead.) Ngcebo spoke in his sleep and Nandipha heard the words he was saying. She raised her head and looked at him. He was sleeping and had stopped talking... Nandipha shook Ngcebo.

Ngcebo: "Mm?"

Nandipha: "Wake up, you are dreaming."

Ngcebo: "No, I am not. Let's go sleep in our room. I am sleepy." He yawned and held Nandipha's shoulders to push her back.

Nandipha didn't move. "No, Ngcebo, you were talking about children in your sleep. You were talking about the kingdom being dead without children..." She rephrased and told him the exact words he said.

Ngcebo chuckled and got up with her. "That might mean that we should go make more children. I want to sleep but we can begin by

doing that.” He said pulling Nandipha by her hand.

Nandipha: “You are not taking me seriously. What if that woman will pimp my children because I retweeted that on her tweet. Let’s go take the girls.”

Ngcebo: “Nandipha that woman works with professional strippers and call girls not little girls, nothing will happen to our girls.”

Nandipha: “But can we just go and take them so that I can have my heart at rest if they’re here. Imagine if something can happen to them while they’re not here I will blame myself. Please.”

Ngcebo sighed. “But how will I rest then if the children are here. We said we will go take them tomorrow and I support that idea. You know Nongcebo will not even listen when we tell her not to bother me.”

Nandipha: “We can’t just sleep.”

Ngcebo: “Okay, how will you feel if I call some security personnel who’ll watch over your mother’s house for the night until we go get them tomorrow. I will call two people to go over there.”

Nandipha: “Not for the night they should go now and I will call mom to tell her that they’ll be coming over there to watch over them.”

Ngcebo: “Alright then I will tell them to go now.”

Nandipha: “That’s better. Let’s go up then because my phone is there.” she encouraged and they climbed the stairs to do what they’ve decided on...

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“You seem miles away every time we are together and now; I am trying to speak to you but you are not breathing a word.” Danielle made Mnotho aware of his behaviour that has been going on not for days but for weeks...

Danielle hadn't told Mnotho about her illness and the more she was close to telling him was the more she found reasons not to tell him. She had to lie to him and tell him she was going away for work but she had to go to her mother's house. She wasn't responding well to the treatment and it wasn't easy hiding that from Mnotho. She decided to go to her mother's and have all the worst reactions to the treatment in her mother's house. She came back feeling better and even though she still had quite a few side effects, it wasn't as bad as it was on the first session of her chemotherapy... It'd been good for her to have two children in the house and she watched as Pearl became closer to her brother and every time when she would cry for him in the morning. Danielle always found that so cute. She'd seen Mnotho was happy that his son was with him in the same roof and that was all she wanted to see. Her husband happy because when he was happy that meant she

would be happy. Siphosami wasn't a troublesome child but they never played fair with Pearl. At times they would argue when they play and Danielle had to reprimand them when they fight. She knew her daughter might be a shy child but she was very bossy. She was happy with their mini family and Nkosazana's support was everything to her. Mnotho had been by her side for all the misfortunes that had happened in her life and at times she felt that he had no life of his own but he was living for her. He was living just to be her support system and she just wanted them to be a happy family without any bad news...

Mnotho was seated alone inside the lounge when Danielle sat next to him and asked him if he was coming to bed or not. It was a Monday night, a second week since he'd spoken with his mother. "You know that I love you, right?" Mnotho asked Danielle and he took her hand

into his hands.

Danielle: "Alright, what's going on?"

Mnotho: "Answer my question."

Danielle: "No, what's going on? You never ask me that but you just tell me that you love me. What's going on, Mnotho?"

Mnotho: "Nothing is going on." He said and tried to get up from the couch but Danielle stopped him from getting up. He looked at her... It'd been a week since his mother had given him an advice on what to do. It was difficult for him to reach a decision about what he wanted to happen. He'd considered what his mother had said and he'd tried to picture his life with Happiness as his wife alone. And he admitted it was going to be that warm life they had before. But he couldn't bring himself to break Danielle's heart again.

Danielle: "Something is going on because you

haven't been yourself this week and it's not only this week, since the ritual you have been somewhat. I am not saying we are not happy together but I know you, Mnotho."

Mnotho: "I love you but I didn't realise that we built our home in my first wife's tears-" he was broken off by Danielle.

Danielle: "Don't give me speeches just get straight to the point." She told him abruptly because she could feel that whatever Mnotho wanted to say to her. It wasn't something that was going to make her happy.

Mnotho: "Ntandokazi-"

Danielle: "No, tell me your point Mnotho don't beat about the bush."

Mnotho: "I have hurt Happiness by marrying you and Elena. She never wanted me to marry other women but I forced it down on her. Our marriage may have been arranged but it was



the will of my ancestors that I marry Happiness after the heart break I got from our relationship. She's the wife chosen for me and I want her back in my life. I should fix my wrongs by divorcing you and she'll be my only wife like it was meant to be."

Danielle looked at Mnotho with a blank face. She felt her heart being torn into a million pieces and it throbbed, she was certain her heart was bleeding as Mnotho had taken the knife that was on her hand as his wife. He drove it deep into her heart. She can never come back human from this hurt. It was the last nail to her already 'dying' corpse. She'd been keeping the hope of survival for her daughter and Mnotho, now for the second child that had been placed under her care, Siphosami. But now, this had to happen...

Mnotho: "Please, say something, MaNkosi." He pleaded with her as Danielle was blankly

looking at him without raising a comment or shout at him. He expected she was going to shout and fight, he was ready to take anything from her. He was ready for it all. But now, he was worried as Danielle wasn't saying anything at all. She was looking at him with a white face.

Danielle didn't say anything but she pulled her hand from his hand and she got up from the couch. Mnotho stood up immediately and he held her arm before Danielle could move away from him.

Mnotho: "Please, Ntandokazi, don't just keep quiet."

She didn't voice out her any comment but she walked away from Mnotho to get to their room without releasing tears from her eyes. All she could hear was heart that kept tearing apart, she could hear the throbs and now, her fear was that she was going to die alone. How could he do this to her?

# THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

## S6 == EPISODE 04

“They want a TV interview or radio?” Ngcebo asked Nandipha who was seated on the bed with a pen and paper. She was busy polishing the second song of the two songs that Ngcebo didn’t know she was working on... He was standing before the mirror fixing himself for the day that he had ahead.

Nandipha: “They want a TV interview not a radio, Rasta. Where’s your head at these days you have a broken hearing?”

Ngcebo chuckled. “I didn’t hear you because you are talking while concentrated on that writing you are doing. You are on another book or you are writing your assignment?” He asked and looked back at her shortly... It was the 10th

of July and the girls were back home. Nothing bad happened to them and Nandipha had loosened up on the idea of them being in danger.

Nandipha: “I am just being creative since the girls are not in the mood for my company. And you are leaving for work. You won’t come back late, right?”

Ngcebo: “I will come back tomorrow morning.”

Nandipha: “Oh! And why am I told about this now?” she closed the lyric sheets and she placed it beneath her pillow. She got off the bed and marched to him.

Ngcebo: “I was told this morning about it and I am telling you now. Please, tie my laces.” He requested looking at his wrist watch that he was putting on his wrist. Nandipha went down to tie his sneaker laces. “Did you have a talk with your sister about this divorce thing of

theirs that keeps being public?”

Nandipha: “I should call her today but I don’t think that’s her who keeps leaking the progress of her divorce. Your brother hasn’t even commented on it not even once. Why would she keep leaking the story?”

Ngcebo: “I don’t know and it’s really unlike her unless if she’s hurt.”

Nandipha: “Well, your brother did hurt her and that’s not even questionable.”

Ngcebo: “I got none to say about that.”

Nandipha: “Yeah, you go none to say to me but that’s not what you say to your brother. Give me a hand Rasta.” She gave her hand to Ngcebo because she was done with tying his laces.

Ngcebo took her hand and pulled her up...

Ngcebo: “I don’t even know why you had to sit that whole body down because it’s not heavy anymore.” he teased her and expected a

scream from her but Nandipha laughed without commenting any further about what he'd said.

“The girls and I are going to eat out with my brother since you won't be coming back. Rasta! You know I am short.” She stressed as Ngcebo wasn't bending down for Nandipha to put his brown coloured GUCCI backpack on his back.

Ngcebo chuckled and went down for her to have access to his back. “I am sorry my shot base and please bring takeaways for me. I will eat them when I come back.” He told Nandipha pushing her forward climbing down the stairs with her after she'd put the backpack on his back.

Nandipha: “Okay, I will do that and please don't overwork yourself. Your girls are not around I think they're outside the house.” She told him passing the lounge to access the front door.

Ngcebo: “I won't see them and you need to go

style your locks otherwise I won't stop pulling them." he said to her and he pulled them as his eyes had been on them and her butts since Nandipha was walking on his front.

Nandipha: "Ah! Ngcebo, that's not so on."

He chuckled and placed his hands on her shoulders to turn her around. "Have fun with your rats tonight. I will see you tomorrow morning and on the reals though. Style your hair unless if you enjoy it when I pull you." He kissed her cheeks and pulled her ears. Nandipha laughed and he laughed after her.

Nandipha: "Next thing you'll tell me to style my ears." She guessed opening the door of his Maserati for him because he was still laughing. "Please, don't overwork yourself Ngcebo." She insisted.

Ngcebo: "Yes, you are right wife. I already have some work stress but we will talk about it some

other time.”

Nandipha: “Okay, have a good time.” She kissed his cheek, the man chuckled.

Ngcebo: “I love you, sdudla.” He hopped inside his car.

Nandipha: “I have my figure back I don’t really qualify to be called sdudla now. And please, go now! I have rubbed off the talking to you.” she closed the door for him and he was folding his lips showing he wasn’t going to talk any further. Nandipha looked at his car as it drove out of the premises. She then moved back to the house to call Nontobeko...

“How are you? I have been meaning to call you but I have a lot of things going on inside my head.” Nontobeko asked Nandipha’s wellbeing.

Nandipha: “I am fine and how you? You are sleeping?”

Nontobeko: “Yes, I am home for the case dates.



I am so angry that it doesn't want to come to an end. We can't dust the divorce settlement without knowing about the custody of Qalokuhle."

Nandipha: "Where will she live?"

Nontobeko: "She'll leave in Cape Town with me."

Nandipha: "Hawu, Nontobeko, that's not so great."

Nontobeko: "What do you mean?"

Nandipha: "Don't take Qalokuhle because you won't be around her that much. Just imagine how her life will be? From being around her big family, always occupied with company all the time to waiting for mom to come home while she stays at home with the maid. Do you think that's fair on your child?"

Nontobeko: "So, you want these people to have my daughter after they did nothing about their

son cheating on me? I should please them?”

Nandipha: “Why would you do things for them? It’s not about them Nontobeko but it’s about Qalokuhle’s happiness. If you were doing a career that kept you home every night and at work during the day, then I would have been behind you but don’t turn your daughter into a lonely child. It’s not about her family because believe me you can never please those people.”

Nontobeko: “And what if she hates me?”

Nandipha: “Why would she, because you’ll call her every chance you get, you’ll have your leave when she’s on school holidays then she can come to Cape Town to be jolly and bond with her mother. Or back home Empangeni, you’ll also come back for the weekends like you did when you were with her father. Your relationship won’t break but if she’ll be spending more time with a stranger you can’t even trust. I don’t know what can that do to her

as a child.”

Nontobeko sighed. “Ey, Nandipha, I have given up my life and dreams before and you know that I have given up for Sthembiso and my Okuhle. I stopped perusing my dreams just to be a family woman and what happened?”

Nandipha: “You lost them and you were left alone and shuttered after you have invested all your love and life in them.”

Nontobeko: “Yes, at least you know that and it’s not that I didn’t love my husband and daughter, I loved them dearly and I have dealt with my past but that didn’t change the fact that I didn’t want to do what I did before. I just didn’t want to make any sacrifices with my career.”

Nandipha: “I understand but if I have clung on the fact that I can never be a good mother because I aborted my first child. Do you think I would have been doing my all at being a mother

to my children now? I never thought it was too late for me to be a caring mother just because of the abortion. You know how I liked irritating you about Stephen about his relationships talks and he says we shouldn't let the past hurt hold us from giving our best for the next person."

Nontobeko: "You are right but nobody wants to keep being disappointed at some point you reach your limit. And I don't think I can be in a relationship again while I am still doing this job."

Nandipha laughed. "Ha! Never! Don't say that. Relationships are somehow easier when you find someone with the same purpose as yours, someone who matches the relationship principles that you desire. The problem begins when we think we can make it with someone with a different purpose."

Nontobeko: "Yeah, and we will spend most of our lives trying to work through these different

purposes. That will only prevent us from growing as a couple.”

Nandipha: “Yes, next time you’ll know what to look for. That’s why when you are a Christian person just get married to a man who lives according to Christian values, traditional on traditional values, feminists on other feminists that way your lives won’t be a battlefield about the style/values of living in your home. You’ll know that you want a career driven man but who can still put you as a priority. Some people make it work when they’re opposites but for most people it doesn’t work because they always clash.”

Nontobeko chuckled having a thought. “We are always on some, I want someone who’ll challenge me and when I get a traditional man as a Christian woman I will think that’s a challenge.” She said and they laughed.

Nandipha: “Ha! You are right and it sounds so

right when we say it. 'he's challenging' but it shouldn't be on that level."

Nontobeko: "It should be on the level that someone challenges your thoughts, your intellectuality, the way you go on the choices you make but not entirely your principles, values and beliefs."

Nandipha: "You'll find a man who meets your purpose and vision. Dalingcebo was a great man we shouldn't lie about that just because he cheated but he wasn't great enough for you."

Nontobeko: "You are right, child. I should make peace with all this."

"Yeah, right, because we don't want that iron hearted lady back." She mumbled the last phrase of words and held her mouth.

Nontobeko: "I AM SORRY WHAT WAS THAT?" She screamed and they laughed for quite some time. Nontobeko exhaled loudly. "You are right

though. I don't want that old lady but I should look forward to what life has in store for me and talking about life. What's happening over there?" she asked.

Nandipha: "All is good beside the fact that I am making songs with some guy and Mr Rasta doesn't know about it. I have finished the first song. I want to tell him but he'll be angry because I refused to do a song with him in the past."

Nontobeko: "That's ridiculous Nandipha. Why would you do that? A song is not something that you can just hide from him."

Nandipha: "I didn't plan on it but there's this girl I normally send voice notes to. She would ask me to sing a song and send it to her. She's working in the entertainment industry as well and this Rapper guy heard my voice note. Layla told me he wanted to do two songs with me. I joked and said I don't work with unprofessional

people who send WhatsApp requests. Next minute, there was an email, formal email I turned him down but his management insisted. I just agreed. I will tell him but I know he'll freak because he had some beef with this guy before but that was before me being in his life."

Nontobeko: "You better tell him Nandipha. Don't joke like this."

Nandipha: "But what if he stops me from doing this. I really want to do it Nontobeko. I loved everything about the songs."

Nontobeko: "Has he stopped you from doing something before?"

Nandipha laughed. "Yeah, I was supposed to be a dancer for some Gqom video and the guy told me I ain't doing it. I tried to be stubborn, he locked me up on that day and called the artist telling him he has sent a substitute dancer because I have a running stomach. I was so



embarrassed and I don't want that to happen again."

Nontobeko laughed. "Ah! You better find a way to get him to agree even if it means you must twerk your way through his heart just do it."

Nandipha: "Sies! I am child!"

Nontobeko: "Voetsek, child my foot. Start practising, thank you for the call and that talk I really needed to hear it."

Nandipha: "Thank you too, it was nice talking to you." they shared their goodbyes and hang up the call. Nandipha then decided it was time to crash the girls' party... She rushed out of the bedroom to get to them...

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Happiness was left in disbelief after speaking to Nkosazana on the phone. She couldn't possibly believe that Mnotho had asked Danielle to leave him just for her. She was

seated in her room with a book on her hands when she received a call from Nkosazana. Her children left the house in the morning with her father. They were going to be out all day with him.

She heard by her tone that Nkosazana was angry about what she'd done. In her eyes Happiness had played with Danielle's marriage but she didn't know Mnotho would consider doing this. But this other side of her inner person convinced her not to feel bad about this because. Why was Nkosazana expecting her to respect Danielle's marriage after she'd failed to respect her marriage? She had the nerve to be seen in public, KwaNongoma with Mnotho while she knew that Mnotho's wife lived in that area. Couldn't she have respected her as a woman and refuse to come to Nongoma? She didn't owe Ntandokazi any decency because she'd never done that with her marriage. She settled

to be Mnotho's third wife and this man who loved her had chosen to leave her on her command. She couldn't believe that she'd said the words and Mnotho obeyed them. That was not what she expected.

Why did these women come into her marriage because Mnotho was her husband? He changed completely after the return of these women in his life and the dead one cheated on him. He did everything that he did to her because he was boastful of loving these women and now, she was expected to respect the last slut that Mnotho brought into their lives?

Happiness exhaled and reminded herself there was a child in this and Mnotho wasn't the man that she wanted back in her life. She didn't need to be angry about everything that Nkosazana said to her. She didn't need that!

Happiness chuckled in disbelief and she shook her head with her phone still inside her hands.

She decided to dial Mnotho's number.

"MaMthimkhulu?" Mnotho answered Happiness's phone call, calmly.

Happiness: "How could you divorce someone you love for me?" She asked the question without greeting Mnotho and asking how he was doing. She needed to tell the truth that she was just pushing him away.

Mnotho: "What could I have done because that's what you wanted?"

Happiness: "I just wanted you to stop bothering me with us getting back together Mnotho. I knew you wouldn't break up with Danielle just for me because you love her. I wasn't serious."

Mnotho: "You what! So, I was right that you wanted me to break my marriage so that you can rejoice when I am alone?" he shouted at her and Happiness felt the disbelief and anger that was on his voice stung on her.

Happiness: "No, that never crossed my mind but I just knew you wouldn't do it. Don't forget how you would boast about loving her and that was the only way I could have gotten you to leave me alone."

Mnotho: "That's bullshit and its total lies! You are lying to me, Happiness. They say you were brought in my life to give me happiness and love but that's not what you are doing now. You are playing games with me while you've seen that I am not the man to play games like a child. And I honestly think I could make you happy and love you back. But no, you want to hurt me."

Happiness: "What are you talking about now?"

Mnotho: "Why did you do this Happiness? Why did you joke about my entire life like this? I was willing to give up everything just for you but you were playing a stupid game with me?"

Happiness: "Mnotho, even if I meant it how

could you divorce your sick wife? Why would you want to please me while she's sick?"

Mnotho: "What do you mean, she's sick?"

Happiness: "Hawu!" she disappointed and wondered if Nkosazana said Danielle was sick just to make her feel bad? Why would she lie about that because it's impossible that his wife could be sick without him knowing?

Mnotho: "What do you mean? Just answer me or that's another joke that you are so good at these days? It's another one of your jokes?"

Happiness: "Calm down."

Mnotho: "Don't tell me to calm down! Would you come down if someone says sell the house you live in now because you'll get the house you've been promised will make you feel at home? Would be calm if that was just a lie? And now, you are telling me about my sick wife something that I don't know about. It's your

joke?”

Happiness: “No! I heard from Nkosazana and don’t you dare be angry with me, Mnotho. You’ve hurt me way more than you can imagine and I can never forgive you for what you did to me. I don’t get-”

Mnotho: “Then you should have said that very loud and clear. Tsk!” he hung up the call on her and Happiness looked at her phone not believing that he’d actually said that to her and he hang up on her? Who called who?

She clicked her tongue thinking about the fact that Mnotho had just clicked his tongue on her. He decided to cut their call short and disrespected her by clicked his tongue on her while he was the one who wanted forgiveness from her? “I will never forgive him. Never!” She stamped and clicked her tongue once again. She got from the bed to have a run on the treadmill because she was angered by

Mnotho's behaviour that he'd just given her. She had a women's event that she needed to attend. She didn't want to attend this event with so much anger...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 05

"You can't go and speak with hundreds of women on an empty stomach." Ngcebo told Nandipha. They were inside their kitchen on a Tuesday morning they were making breakfast for their children. The children were bathing...

Nandipha: "I will have something on my way there. You'll drive me?"

Ngcebo: "And who'll drive you back home if I drive you? I am meeting up with the guys later and I can't drive you back home."

Nandipha: “We have been busy all week and weekend. So, please, come back home early. We haven’t even spoken about your work stress. And we haven’t been with the girls much last week.”

Ngcebo: “We will talk tonight but it’s just the fact that I am struggling to find balance between the deal with the sneaker line and my music. I don’t want to fall like some artist who ended their music career because of deals like this.”

Nandipha: “Why didn’t you tell me if it would be like this?”

Ngcebo: “No, I want the deal my love and I enjoy working with them. You’ll see the first design we will come up with. It’s just that it’s difficult to balance. But can we speak about it tonight?”

Nandipha looked at him and she looked back on the pot that was on the stove. “Nandipha, I am speaking.”

Nandipha: “Yes, I heard you, husband.”

Ngcebo: “Now, I know you’ll feel bad and think that you were wrong to do this for me while I have told you that you were not. And I love it.”

Nandipha: “But I don’t want you to be stressed.”

Ngcebo: “Work won’t be work if it doesn’t stress me and you know how that is because work have stressed you before with your books.”

Nandipha: “Yes, I know. I will go check on the big 5.” She said removing the pot from the stove and she walked away thinking about Ngcebo’s work stress. She needed to know what his management was saying and maybe together they would be able to come up with a solution.

Ngcebo walked inside the bathroom casually dressed in white shorts showing his hairy bracketed legs and a blue vest with flops. He had his wraparound towel on his shoulder with

his phone on his hand. He was looking on the phone seriously. Nandipha was brushing her teeth she looked at him shortly as he walked to hang the towel on their hooker.

She held on to the squared white bathroom sink tightly and she rinsed her mouth. She threw her toothbrush on its sacred place and she quickly turned to Ngcebo who was leaving the bathroom.

She held his wrist. Ngcebo turned his head and looked at her face without relaxing his face for her face. "Come here. There's something I want to fix." She said pulling Ngcebo out of the bathroom. She walked with him to the closet.

Ngcebo: "What's that?"

Nandipha didn't answer him but she made him stand before the closet suede bench. She looked at him and she felt her cheeks burning. She smiled shortly seeing he was still keeping

his serious face that he gives strangers. She held his vest and pulled it off his body after she'd taken his phone from his hand and placed it on the bench that was behind him.

Ngcebo: "What are you doing, mama ka Buhle?"

Nandipha: "Why are you giving me a serious face?" she asked calmly and placed her hand on his waist to pull down his shorts but Ngcebo placed his hands on top of her hands. Nandipha looked at him.

Ngcebo: "Did I charm you much?"

Nandipha: "Is that how you charm other women when I am not around you?"

Ngcebo: "I don't know. Did you find me charming?"

"Boy lately, you been stingy with your time..."

She sang for him softly while removing the shorts, she left his hands holding his waist.

“Got me wondering, I’m wondering if I’m on your mind

Boy, I just wanna be in your possession

You say, I am the one you want so come and express it...” She broke off the song after brushing her cheeks on his chest slowly with her eyes closed and Ngcebo had his hands on her scalp. Nandipha moved her face away from him, she looked up at him, she walked away to wear heels just to reach his level.

When she was back before him she held a handful of her locks that she hadn’t styled even now. She hung them on his shoulder and Ngcebo closed his eyes as they gave him a tickle on his shoulder back where they reached. They’ve grown over the years, they were almost on her waist to reach her bums and cutting them had never been on her ‘to do list’

Ngcebo: “You haven’t had time either.” he

defended himself according to the lyric that she was singing to him. “But I can be in your possession.” He told her softly and he sighed as Nandipha’s locks tickled his skin.

Nandipha: “Lay back then I want to give you what you always wanted.”

Ngcebo: “Do you have time? And what’s that I have always wanted?” he asked walking back to reach the dressing chair area because it had the carpet that would be comfortable to lay on.

Nandipha: “It’s still 10am and I shouldn’t be here by 1pm.” She replied and took off her heels but her eyes looking at his body as he was laying down. “We will play with them until you are irritated by them. Kiss me slow.” She said softly, taking off her gown. She was naked beneath the gown she threw it away. She laid her lips on his lips. Their lips moved softly and tenderly, Ngcebo moved his hands to her bums. He massaged them while Nandipha was

massaging his earlobes... His tongue was invited inside her mouth by Nandipha's need of it. She moaned deep on her throat and pulled Ngcebo's hands from her bums she placed them on her waist. She pulled away from the kiss and they looked into each other's eyes.

She ignored that just from that kiss she was already throbbing for him. This was not her goal. She wanted to torture him because his actions had been signalling that he needed such treatment. She neglected her locks on his face and she heard a silent groan. Nandipha crept down to his body slowly kissing his male nipples, his chest ensuring she's dragging down her locks to his skin as she moved down to his lower abs.

Ngcebo: "Nana..." he sighed and that was followed by an unplanned deep giggle. Ngcebo moved Nandipha's hair from his skin and she placed them back.

Nandipha played with his sensitive skin and he would laugh here and there until she placed his erected organ inside her mouth and pulled a portion of her locks she used them to play with Ngcebo balls.

Ngcebo groaned and laughed at the same time because he was feeling different kinds of emotions, ticklish from his balls being tickled by her hair and pleasing at the same time as he was on her warm mouth. And even if Ngcebo had cum inside Nandipha's mouth she didn't stop because she felt it wasn't enough. He was too quick to cum when she didn't want him to.

Ngcebo: "Ag! Nandipha, I have had it!" he admitted and pulled her hair the way that made her scream and she neglected his penis as her mouth opened.

Nandipha: "Then stop doing that!" she commanded as Ngcebo was standing up pulling her as he stood on his feet.

Ngcebo: "Don't think you can be somehow greater than I am. We can be equals but not everywhere not in everything." He said rolling the ends of her hair once around his hand. He pulled her with him as he slowly marched to the brown suede bench.

Nandipha: "Do you realise that you are pulling me like a dog now!" she screamed telling him what he was doing as she was crawling on her knees obeying Ngcebo's hold that he had on her hair.

Ngcebo: "You started this and you thought you'll have a final act on me. Never!" He exclaimed letting go of her hair. He laid her face on the suede round bench and placed her hands on the edge of it. "Hold on to it because I won't kneel." He told Nandipha straightforwardly.

Nandipha: "Are you out of your mind I am too short for this."

He didn't say a word but he held her thighs as if he was holding a wheelbarrow. He moved forward to reach the end of her 'between' and stretched his leg forward to support her thigh. He rubbed his still erected penis on Nandipha's wet openings and he heard her moan...

Nandipha held on tight to the bench as Ngcebo thrust on her slowly. The impossible she thought, seemed to be more fun. He'd never turned her to his barrow while standing on his feet... She felt her emotions were racing faster than his. And she felt him deep inside her but it was pleasing...

He placed her legs down as he'd cum after her. But he didn't remove himself inside her.

"Straighten your legs I am not done." He told her.

Nandipha: "You must be crazy now. I can't even feel the fuckin legs you are talking about Ngcebo."

Ngcebo: “You wanted to play and irritate me, right?”

Nandipha: “Yes, and I have. Now, it’s all cool. You’ve done your part and now remove your penis from my vagina. I have limited space here. I can’t free myself from you.” she told him getting her face up and her arms stretched.

Ngcebo saw her doing what he wanted as she was getting up and he didn’t waste time but he held her waist. And he began thrusting on her again. He smiled as she automatically bent her waist inward for him to access her fully.

She was busy cheering Ngcebo’s slow thrust by her moans until he changed the pace. The time he decided to thrust on her harder was when he pulled her dreadlocks. He was having a time of his life hearing Nandipha scream. Ngcebo felt so great and formidable just for her in this moment just!

Nandipha: “Ngce...bo... Ngcebo!” she moaned his name more than once feeling her walls sharply closing in sharply around him...

He groaned deeper as they reached their climax at the same time and Ngcebo pulled her hair tighter. He held on until he was done releasing inside her. He exhaled heavily and let go of her locks. He was panting and he felt his heart racing. He placed his hands on his face and wiped the sweat off. He looked down at his upper body he was wet. He looked at his wife last she was seated on the bench trying to get a grip on her breathing. He smiled.

Nandipha: “There’s nothing you should be smiling about.”

Ngcebo: “Didn’t you cum? I did!”

Nandipha: “I didn’t.”

He chuckled. “I didn’t start ‘sexing’ you, yesterday Nandipha. I know when you did cum

and when you didn't." He told her and winked at her irritated face.

Nandipha: "Get out of my face."

Ngcebo: "Are you seriously going to talk to hundreds of people with the locks that you've been rubbing on my balls?" he asked her with a still face.

"They do talk to us with mouths that suck their partners' dicks and vaginas, right?" She returned the question and they both laughed.

"Whoa!" Ngcebo exclaimed and held Nandipha as she almost fell trying to get up from the bench. "Let's go and shower quickly." He lifted her up and marched to the bathroom with her in her arms.

Nandipha: "Don't you miss fucking around?" She asked him unexpectedly as she was looking at him still on his arms.

Ngcebo looked at her face. "Where's that

question coming from?" He asked.

Nandipha: "It's a follow up question."

Ngcebo: "A follow up question after so many years?" he asked putting her inside the tub and he turned to get her head cover.

Nandipha opened the cold water. "Yes, it's a follow up after so many years."

Ngcebo: "Sometimes I do miss it when you irritate the shit out of me." he replied comfortably knowing that wasn't going to offend her because she knew she could be irritating. He put all her locks inside her woollen Rastafarian coloured head cover. "But you wouldn't be mine if you don't irritate me, right?" he used her defensive words pretty fast just as defence for himself. He could never cram her behaviour.

Nandipha washed his face when he was seated inside the tub with her. "And you follow your

pussy cravings because I irritate you?" She asked.

Ngcebo laughed. "Are you trying to ask me if I have slept with someone else beside you?" He asked her after she'd wiped his face.

Nandipha: "No. I am just asking general."

Ngcebo: "Oh! I won't answer your question then because it's unnecessary and I don't even know where it's coming from." He told her and washed her face. Nandipha kept quiet after he'd told her that...

"Don't put that doek on your head I don't like it." Ngcebo told Nandipha who was dressed on a caramel and brown African printed women suit with a white vest beneath the blouse. She was wearing brown heels.

Nandipha: "What should I do? It goes with the outfit."

Ngcebo: "Oil your locks and go, nana. Or tie

them up.” He advised and put back the clothes he had on when Nandipha decided to undress him. She left the closet to do what he’d suggested.

“Good luck for today. You are not late as you think don’t speed on the road.” He said to her as she was standing before him outside the house.

Nandipha: “Okay, I will see you tonight.” She said and they shared a kiss...

They’ve greeted each other with the women around her and now, she was seated down with other speakers of the day. It was an event that gathered women only and there were going to speak about different issues they face as women in society. Nandipha was invited to speak at the end of the function to sum up everything on the event...

She lifted her tablet from her bag and she marched up to the podium. She was nervous

that she was going to speak among these smart mouth women and she didn't know if she was going to touch hearts because her topic was crucial for each one of them and herself included. It was not something she knew she'd mastered because things had happened in different forms...

She inhaled and exhaled as she was before the mic. She looked at the faces that were before her and she smiled without saying anything. "Sanibona!" She greeted the whole house and she heard the greetings back.

Nandipha: "I won't really greet us in position order because we are equals before the mercy of our creator. But I just want to say, ay NIBAHLE BAFAZI!" She said loudly and the whole house clapped, cheered.

Nandipha: "We are a whole power force and I hope that penetrated through our hearts because it really did for me. And I would have

loved to highlight on some points that had been spoken here but I know that I speak too much I won't finish." She said paging through her tablet and the women laughed at her words. She looked up at the house. "I was asked to speak based on the short story I have written 'chains around my skull' It's a story about a young girl who'd been a dumping site not only for her family but for society she was living in. She's a girl suppressed as most of us have been suppressed by our parents, that girl child you can have it all but not too much of it. It may be ambitions, dreams, you name it but it shouldn't be too much. This girl grows up taking all hurt from people until they're danger to her life because it's all bottled up inside in the name of 'She doesn't forgive them if they ask because if she doesn't forgive them she's chaining them' she walks around with that mentality not knowing she's actually chaining herself." She took a break and drank water.

Nandipha: “When I wrote this story at the back of my mind I had my life in high school how much my female friends would hurt me and my adoptive mother would always encourage me to forgive them every time they do something to hurt me.” she kept quiet and looked back as tears came out of her eyes. She looked forward as someone held her arm to hand her a box of tissues. She smiled and thanked her.

Nandipha: “Growing up it was easy for me to forgive people for their wrongs but as you grew up you start to realise ‘no, they’re playing me because I am too forgiving’ My mother was always there to remind me ‘That’s not you Nandipha, holding grudges is not you’ She is a traditional woman but being a bubbly child I didn’t have problems speaking to her. I wrote this story because I thought maybe there’s a young girl like me in high school and maybe she’ll reach a point that I wanted to put myself

in of not being a forgiving person. This girl on the story gets help from her teacher and she teaches her how forgiveness works.

Forgiveness is not about the person who asks forgiveness but it's about you as a forgiver."

Nandipha: "Today, I will tell you something that you'll have to remember when it's difficult forgiving someone. I know we ladies like to say 'I won't forgive him now he must sweat' I say that deep down when Rasta pisses me off. I would walk around the house with my lips pouted for him." she said and most of the ladies laughed as they could relate. "I was taught that when someone asks for forgiveness after they've done you wrong. They're coming at you with basin of hot coal, red coal and the time they say 'please forgive me' they throw that burning coal on your chest. You'll walk around the streets thinking you are punishing them by not forgiving them but no, you are punishing

yourself babe. You are carrying all that anger, that anger that's not healthy, the anger that threatens your happiness. You are giving them power over you because every time when you see them something will be activated in you, anger and hate because they've hurt you. Let me tell you, their life doesn't become miserable because you are not forgiving them. They have removed the burning coals from their hands but now, the coals are in your chest threatening your progress as a human being. My mother would always say 'Aybo, kumnandi ukuhamba namalahle manje Nandipha?' she mimicked MaNtombela's voice and some women laughed. She smiled.

Nandipha: "And hack! I would feel them burning me whenever I think about that person who'd made me angry until I would decide I can't have someone controlling me like this just because they hurt me. 'I want to breathe again!' I would

say and forgive them as difficult as it would be. Then after that you feel that lightness and it becomes intense when you meet them, you greet them while you couldn't even do that before because you've chained your skull. Forgiveness doesn't mean you are letting people have their way with you, that mentality should end. 'Uzongijwayela kabi ngoba azi ukuthi ngizomxolela!' No, throw that phrase off your mind. Forgiveness is part of living a healthy life. If you look back at the things that had been discussed here. Hhayi! We've been through the most bafazi. But let's learn to let go and forgive not for those people but for ourselves."

Nandipha: "Once you forgive more often you'll see the change in your life. Let's look after ourselves and stop carrying people's negative energies thinking we are punishing them. It's not healthy and humanly. I hope we heal and

stand together for a better future. Lastly, don't forget those burning coals they shouldn't be with you. Thank you." she said last and moved from the podium accompanied by a loud clap of hands...

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Simthande was before the stove cooking dinner, her sister was coming to join them for dinner... Days after the meeting with her sister, she was grumpy and having a difficult time with accepting the fact that she needed to face her past. Mntwana stopped channelling her into the right direction and pushing her to get along with her sister again and forgive her. He never spoke about it again and he did that on purpose. And every time when she would bring up her sister, show her anger through her actions. Mntwana would bluntly ignore her until she took it upon herself to meet up with her sister. And they had the better meeting that made Simthande invite

her for dinner because Nikhona wanted to see where she was staying. She wanted to give her sister a benefit of the doubt and mend their relationship. She wanted it to work.

“How’s the cooking?” Mntwana asked holding Simthande from behind.

Simthande: “It’s going well but you don’t smell like you’ve taken your bath.”

Mntwana: “I should bath for your sister’s arrival?”

Simthande laughed. “Yes, do you want her to think my boyfriend is not clean?” She asked removing the pot from the stove. She turned to face Mntwana.

Mntwana: “I don’t have a bad odour.”

Simthande: “You should smell your best.”

Mntwana: “I won’t join you for dinner if you don’t bath with me for the second time.” He told her



and gave her no chance to protest. He pulled her to the bathroom where he forced her to bath with him...

“You are such a mean man!” Simthande exclaimed and combed her long relaxed brownish hair. They were dressing up after the shower.

Mntwana: “You surely don’t know what mean looks like. I will go get the door.” he left her inside the room as he heard the bell ring on the door.

He opened the door for a tall thin dark skinned fancy dressed woman. “Sawubona.” Mntwana greeted Nikhona and he didn’t wait for her to greet back but he stood aside for her to enter the apartment.

Nikhona cleared her throat and looked at the door’s number because she was certain that she was lost. This gentleman who’d opened the

door wasn't her sister's boyfriend that she'd told her about. She told her he was just a simple man but she wasn't seeing a 'simple' man.

Mntwana was simply wearing a blue linen long pants and a muscle black tee shirt.

Mntwana: "You won't come in?"

Nikhona: "Eh, are you Simthande's boyfriend?" she asked after she'd seen that she was on the right door but she didn't want to say it obviously that she didn't think she'd knocked on the right door.

Mntwana: "Yeah." He replied and moved back inside the apartment leaving Nikhona at the door because she wasn't about to enter.

Nikhona found his action rude but she followed Mntwana even. She sat on the couch as he disappeared on to the bedroom. She looked around the apartment and she figured her sister's boyfriend was rich? Huh?

Nikhona turned back and she smiled a little as she looked at her sister laugh with her boyfriend. She didn't see this man as how her sister described him.

"Hey?" Simthande greeted her sister with delight than the last time she saw her. She greeted her with a smile that she didn't have the second time they met. She hugged her this time around and Nikhona embraced the hug while thinking about how happy she looked with this man.

Nikhona: "How are you?"

Simthande: "I am fine and let's go fix the table. We will leave Mr Zulu here."

Nikhona: "Mr Zulu?" she checked as she'd not been introduced to the man.

Simthande: "Babe, this is my friend, Nikhona and Nikho, this is Mntwana Zulu, my boyfriend." She introduced them with a smile.

Mntwana gave Nikhona his hand. "It's nice to meet you." Mntwana said to her and Nikhona said the words back to Mntwana with a short smile.

She followed her sister feeling uneasy between her legs. Nikhona wasn't a type of woman who starts a new relationship with a man but she was a type of woman who loved taking men from other women. But no, it'd never been to keep them for long run as she would get bored easily. She mostly envied strong looking men, the type who seem to get it together. The arrogant type and every time she'd been turned on by that man she always made it her mission to take him for herself as long as she wishes to keep them. 'Like mother like daughter' a person who knew her mother would say but she was on the different level compared to her mother. Nikhona was nothing like Simthande and it was her nature to use people for her gain...

Simthande: "You'll sleep here for the night, right?"

Nikhona: "What will your boyfriend say?"

Simthande: "He doesn't have a problem with it. I have spoken to him."

Nikhona: "Alright. I am very grateful that you've given me another chance."

Simthande: "I am glad you came back and I hope you won't hurt me like you did before. I really wouldn't have spoken to you if it wasn't for Mntwana."

Nikhona smiled. "I should thank him and I must say, you are very lucky to have a man like him. It seems he looks after you perfectly." She commented.

Simthande smiled. "Yes, and you, do you have a boyfriend? I didn't ask you that question the last time we met." She asked.

Nikhona chuckled. “Yes, and I am hoping you’ll get to meet him one day. But he’s always going up and down due to business.” She lied. She hadn’t had time for men lately because she was trying to do damage control.

Simthande: “He must be the same as Mntwana then even though he hasn’t travelled much since we started dating.”

Nikhona: “You must hold on to him tight because we want a wedding.” She joked and they laughed... Nikhona then asked her sister more about her relationship with Mntwana and the business he was doing. Simthande answered her freely... By the time they were done talking and setting the table she’d stamped that she needed a plan that was going to make her to move in with them. Maybe he wouldn’t mind if she could make it look like her life was in danger. Yes, she needed to do that...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

## S6 == EPISODE 06

“But baba, there’s baba’ omncane Ngcebo and baba’ omncane Banele. They can go with us because you’ll be busy and mom will be busy.” Prince convinced his father, he was following him behind with his brother Bongani. The two boys were dressed up for school and they were following their father who was also leaving the house... They’ve asked permission from their father to go for a Disney event that was going to be in Johannesburg. They’ve missed the one their mother promised them because she was busy when that day came.

Mlamuli: “They’re always busy and they won’t have time for children’s events.” He replied entering the kitchen where his wife was.

Bongani: “Baba, we can ask Similo’s mother to

go with us.”

Prince: “Yes, and aunt Candice and the girls.”

Nkosazana: “You are still on the Disney topic?” she asked and wiped her hands with a dry dish cloth. She took her handbag from her husband.

Mlamuli: “Yes, they’re still on that and I think there’s no better way than to contact Nandipha. If she’s not busy they’ll be driven to Johannesburg. I am tired of saying ‘No’ and having them keep trying to convince me.” He told Nkosazana and he looked at the boys, they were not looking at them as they speak. They knew better than to look at their parents when they speak.

Nkosazana: “Alright, I will call Nandipha tonight.”

Mlamuli: “It’s still early that she can get tickets?”

Nkosazana: “Yes, it’s still early, Wednesday is



not bad. The time is against us, Ndabezitha. Let's go." She made him aware and they used the back kitchen exit to leave the house.

Bongani: "Mama, we will drive with you and dad to school, today?"

Nkosazana: "No, you won't drive with us but I will fetch you, okay?"

Boys: "Okay, bye!" they waved for their parents standing next to their car and Nkosazana waved back. Nkosazana and her husband stepped inside the car while the boys went to the car they were normally driven on when they go to school... Nkosazana and Mlamuli were driven to Thembelihle's palace...

Mlamuli: "Did you speak to MaNkosi last night?"

Nkosazana: "Yes, she told me that she left after Mnotho."

Mlamuli: "He was there when you went to check on her?"

Nkosazana: “No, but I called him to ask about this divorce issue and he came back to the house while I was still there. MaNkosi left the house after he’d gone back to the hospital.”

Mlamuli: “She’s home now?”

Nkosazana: “She’s in the hospital. I had missed calls from your brother this morning but I didn’t call him back.”

Mlamuli: “He’ll ask what he wanted to ask in this meeting.” He told her and looked at his phone that was ringing. He ignored the call because he knew it was going to divert his focus from the meeting...

“What’s the meeting about?” Dalisu asked looking at Nkosazana and Mlamuli, then he looked at Mnotho last. The three of them were seated on the couches while Thembelihle and Dalisu were seated on their chairs. Wednesday morning that followed the day where Danielle

left her house for Durban.

Mlamuli: “I think my brother over there knows why we are here.”

Mnotho: “No, I don’t know.” He’d asked Mlamuli that they don’t hold this meeting with their father. He was still angry that he’d broken his marriage with Danielle for Happiness who was just playing games with him. He’d called Danielle but she never answered his phone call. He fell asleep the previous night worried because he didn’t know what sickness was Happiness talking about and Nkosazana didn’t answer his calls. But he remembered they were going to be busy all day with her husband.

Mlamuli: “We are adults Mnotho let’s not do things like children because you know why we are here.”

Mnotho: “And as we are adults there was no reason for you to call this meeting with our

parents because I can solve my problems on my own. You wouldn't have been pleased if I called this meeting for you."

Mlamuli: "I wouldn't have done what you did, Mnotho."

Dalису: "Did you two come into my house to argue?"

Thembelihle: "Yes, you can't just argue in our presence. You have your own houses that you can go to if you want to have an argument not here!"

Mlamuli: "Mageba, Mnotho decided that he's divorcing Pearl's mother not because he wants to divorce her but because Happiness told him to do that."

Dalису was looking at Mlamuli as he explained why they were in the palace and even after he'd finished explaining the reason for the meeting. He kept his eyes still with Mlamuli because his

head was still digesting what he'd just said. Dalisu then turned his head and he looked at Mnotho.

Dalisu: "What did you do, Mnotho?"

Mnotho: "I don't want to discuss this, baba."

Dalisu: "You don't want to discuss it because you know you are wrong."

Thembelihle: "Mnotho wasn't going to do this if he didn't want to do it. There's nobody in this world who could have forced him to do this. And I don't really see a problem with that."

"HAWU!" Dalisu and Mlamuli exclaimed, they both looked at Thembelihle. Nkosazana was looking at her as well but she didn't exclaim the same words. But she was surprised that such words were coming from her.

Dalisu: "Can you hear yourself? And you knew about this?"

Thembelihle: “Yes, I knew about it because Mnotho came here to ask for an advice. I gave him one but I didn’t tell him what to do.”

Dalisu: “Isimanga ke lesi! I am pretty sure you are the one who influenced him to make this decision. How can you give him such an advice?”

Thembelihle: “Baba, Mnotho want Happiness back in his life and we know that Happiness is meant to be with Mnotho. And these wives didn’t come here the right way but they hurt Happiness and didn’t respect her.”

Mlamuli chuckled and stood up. “This unbelievable coming from you, mom. It’s really unbelievable. And you took your mother’s advice for a joke that this Happiness of yours was dishing out to you? You didn’t trust that I will tell you something that’s sane? You trusted mom’s judgement? Hhayi, don’t come to me for damage control then your mother will do that

for you.” He said looking at his brother last after he’d removed his eyes from his mother. He left the house in disbelief that his mother would tell Mnotho to do such a thing. How could she encourage Mnotho to do something he wasn’t sure about? Why didn’t she encourage him to try other means to win Happiness back? Why did she tell him to break another woman’s heart just to earn the other one? Which sane woman would want to be with a man who make such weak decisions?

Nkosazana: “I really didn’t expect that you were behind bhuti Mnotho in doing this mama. You gave him a very wrong advice and to tell you the truth. He broke his marriage for a game. Happiness didn’t mean what she told him to do. She just wanted him to stop pressing her to come back according to what she told me when I called her yesterday.” She revealed and Thembelihle raised her head to look at

Nkosazana. She wasn't looking at her as she was speaking but she was looking at her hands. She was surprised by this.

Nkosazana: "MaNkosi is sick, she has brain tumour, she hadn't been telling Mnotho about it because she didn't want him to direct his focus on her and end up neglecting the relationship he was trying to build with Njabulo and Nonjabulo. I have been supporting her and going with her to the Doctors. I wanted her to tell you bhuti Mnotho but when she told me that she would fight with Elena about how much you give your attention to her. I understood she didn't want to meddle in your time with the children. But mama, I didn't expect this. I have to go as well." She said what was inside her heart and what had happened. And she left the house after Dalisu had nodded his head allowing her to leave...

Dalisu looked at his wife and Mnotho last.



“Mnotho, you are happy now? You’ve pleased your first wife. Are you happy?” He asked on a polite tone full of nothing but disappointment. He was disappointed at his son the most.

Mnotho didn’t answer his father but he had his head looking down with his fist painful heart weeping. Danielle was sick! She had such an illness but she didn’t think that it was the right thing that she let him know about this?

Dalisu: “I am talking to you, Mnotho!”

Thembelihle: “Please, calm down. He’s shocked now he’s just been told that MaNkosi has a brain tumour and now is not the time that you can shout at him. Let him calm down.” She told her husband and placed her hand on his arm. She looked at him and Dalisu looked at her with anger written in his face. “I didn’t know Happiness could joke like this but it was only right that Mnotho fixes his wrong as he wanted to do.” she told Dalisu who was till staring at

her.

Dalisu: "Tsk!" he clicked his tongue and he left the room...

Thembelihle got up from her chair and she sat next to Mnotho. She placed her left hand on Mnotho's shoulder. "Mfanawami, now is not the time for you to cry but you should stand up and fix this. I will call Happiness and tell her that what she did was wrong but I think you should be with MaNkosi." She advised.

Mnotho: "She left." The words came out like a dark cloud because of the lump that was on his throat. A lump caused by the pain he was feeling. He wasn't angry but he was deeply hurting.

Thembelihle: "What do you mean?"

Mnotho: "She drove to her mother's house yesterday with Pearl."

Thembelihle: "Hawu!" she disappointed and

removed her hand from his shoulder. She wondered how these girls were lectured before getting married. Most of them, when things go wrong they leave, they run to their mothers, they get divorced. It was Nkosazana and Happiness who had the spirit of staying even when things were South but the rest of them, they just run away from their problems. She couldn't say much about Candice because she wasn't a wife yet. But she wondered when they run away they think who should fix their problems? She looked at Mnotho. "What are you going to do now?"

Mnotho: "I want to be alone for a while." He replied and stood up.

Thembelihle: "You'll have to call her or drive to her mother's house because you didn't know that she was sick. I will go see her tomorrow. I will ask aunt Nomkhosi to go with me."

Mnotho: "Okay." He said left the house without going to his father.

Thembelihle sent her hand on her pocket and she came back with her phone. She called Happiness. She laid back on the couch and closed her eyes.

“Mama?” Happiness answered Thembelihle’s call.

Thembelihle: “How are you?”

Happiness: “I am fine and how are you?”

Thembelihle: “I am fine, I have just spoken to Mnotho about what happened between the two of you and that he’d asked his wife for a divorce. But you didn’t mean what you said.”

Happiness exhaled. “Yes, I thought he wouldn’t leave her for me, mama. I know that he loves her more than he can ever love me.” She told her.

Thembelihle: “Do you want him to love you? Why are you saying that now because you say you were joking or you lied?”

Happiness: "No, I was serious but I am saying this because he'd been asking me to come back to him as his wife."

Thembelihle: "I told you before that I wouldn't be happy if you can do something wrong to my son just like I wasn't happy when he did what he did to you. And I really don't like what you did because he took you serious. Now, he has broken up with his wife and he's stressed that she has a brain tumour something that he didn't know. But that one is not your fault."

Happiness: "I am really sorry but I will call him. I really thought he wouldn't break up with her. He would boast to me about loving her and that's the only thing that came into my mind when he kept insisting I should come back."

Thembelihle: "I understand. I just wanted to get that off my heart."

Happiness: "Yebo, mama and I will fix it."

Thembelihle: "What can you fix? Let him be."

Happiness: "No, trust me. I will fix it. Bye." She insisted quickly and she dropped the call...

Thembelihle looked at her phone and she shook her head thinking about what Happiness had said. 'She was going to fix it!' She wondered how she was going to fix it and should she really fix it she was going to strongly believe that Happiness was made for her son...

"Yebo, mma?" Nkosazana answered Thembelihle's phone.

Thembelihle: "I have just gotten off the phone with Happiness about this matter. And I have decided that I will drive to Durban tomorrow to see MaNkosi. I will go to aunt Nomkhosi now to ask her to come with me."

Nkosazana: "Oh, that's a good thing. I am sure her mother would appreciate that. I would have loved to come with you but I will be busy

tomorrow.”

Thembelihle: “Yes, and I saw you didn’t like what I advised Mnotho to do but you have to understand that I never liked how he chose these two wives. It was wrong and if it was you who was Happiness I was going to protect you the same as a mother. But that doesn’t mean I don’t care about MaNkosi. In my eyes they never respected themselves enough to settle for this kind of marriage. But I can see now that I shouldn’t have encouraged Mnotho to destroy his marriage. I am sorry to you for not setting a right example as queen mother and mother in-law. As other people talk you get to realise your mistake and I realise mine through Mlamuli’s words.”

Nkosazana: “Nobody is perfect mama and we can’t always expect you as our mother to do perfect things for us. For mother in-law stories I have heard around the village. I have to say you

are the best mother in-law.”

Thembelihle laughed. “I always told my mother in-law that when I was still queen. Ey. Kubi emnyango but I think I understand for some mothers because as a mother you always think you are doing what’s best for your son and you end up destroying.” She commented.

Nkosazana: “I wonder what kind of a mother in-law I would be.”

Thembelihle: “You’ll be a good one. I will talk to you when I come back tomorrow. I will leave in the morning.”

Nkosazana: “Okay, mama, thank you.” she said and they hung up the call...

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After getting off the phone with Thembelihle, Happiness marched up to her room. She left her children in the lounge. When she got to her room she took a bag and she packed her

clothes. She moved around her room with her head buzzing and she was scared that this woman might die and she wouldn't forgive herself if she were to die. She was going to feel responsible for adding heartache in her life. She didn't know how exactly was she going to fix this mess that she'd created but she knew that the first step was to speak with Ntandokazi and apologise for what she'd done.

"Why are you following me?" Happiness asked her children who were following her around. She last left them in the lounge but now they were following her around.

Nonjabulo: "You are leaving mom. You are packing your clothes only." She told her mother following her behind as Happiness was heading to their room.

Happiness: "I asked why are you following me."

Njabulo: "We are looking after you."

Happiness laughed and she looked down at Njabulo. "You are giving me protection?" She asked brushing his head.

Njabulo: "Yes."

Nonjabulo: "No, but you are leaving us, mom!"

Happiness: "I am packing your clothes now because we are going."

Kids: "WHERE?"

Happiness: "Your mother is going to see Pearl's mother because she's sick."

Nonjabulo: "Oh! We will also see, dad?"

Njabulo: "Yes, we will see him." he replied pretty fast on his mother's behalf. He had a smile on his face while looking at his sister.

Happiness: "Who said you'll see your father?"

Children: "We will see him!" they giggled and Happiness shook her head, she packed the children's clothes in one bag...

She'd called her father and informed him that she was driving down to KZN with the children for a few days. She made things clear to her father that she was driving for Danielle because she'd done her wrong. She didn't go into details on what had happened but she told him that she was sick. She had to explain all this because her father wasn't pleased that she was going to KZN.

Now, she was seated inside the car with her children seated at the backseat. She had her phone on her hands and she opted she was going to call Nkosazana not Mnotho.

"Hello?" Nkosazana accepted the phone call.

Happiness: "How are you, Nkosazana?"

Nkosazana: "I am fine and how are you?"

Happiness: "I am fine. Can you please send me the address of Danielle's house? I am driving to KZN now I want to see her."

Nkosazana: "She's in the hospital but I will send the hospital details."

Happiness: "Thank you."

Nkosazana: "Okay."

Happiness hung up the call and she placed her phone inside her bag. She said a short prayer before driving out of her father's premises...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 07

"I didn't expect that you'll be home before me."

Nandipha said to Ngcebo and placed her bag on top of the kitchen island. Ngcebo was standing behind the stove making steak for himself to eat and sleep. He came back earlier than he'd planned. He thought he was going to come back after 10pm but his time with the guy was

shortened by the news he heard about his wife. He was angry and he couldn't stay with the guys, he lied to them about an emergency at home.

Ngcebo: "Yeah. I came back early." He murmured the words and marched to the fridge for milk. He didn't look at Nandipha but he could feel her eye.

Nandipha: "What's going on? You don't look like you are in the right mood. Did something happen where you were?" she asked and lifted her left leg, she placed it on her knee to take of her heels. And she did the same on the other leg. She held the counter and looked at Ngcebo waiting for response.

Ngcebo: "Is there something you've planned for me over there as you are asking if something happened?" he asked sarcastically and moved back to the steak that was still on the stove.

Nandipha: "Okay, he's having hormones." She

sarcastically replied to his question and she bent down to get her shoes on the floor.

Ngcebo: "What did you say I have?"

Nandipha raised her head coming up with her shoes. She looked at Ngcebo who was standing before her now not by the stove. "What's wrong with you? You can't just give me this attitude unless you have a problem with me, Ngcebo. What's wrong? Just tell me." She pressured him.

Ngcebo: "Oh, so just because Mujo gets hormones you think I have them as well?" He asked looking into her eyes and he felt that this anger he had for Nandipha was deeply set within him. And that was generated by how much he turned himself into a fool today just for her. "You are quiet now."

Nandipha: "What are you talking about?" she asked and wondered if Mujo had tweeted something and mention her? Why would

Ngcebo bring him up?

Ngcebo: “Stop acting innocent because you know that you’ve been lying to me. You made me think that since last month until now you had some type of job with the Department of Education but no! You didn’t have any job but you’ve been rubbing shoulders with my enemy, Nandipha.”

Nandipha: “Enemy? He’s your enemy? I didn’t know that but all I knew is that the two of you had a beef years ago. And that was before I came into your life Ngcebo. You never told me it’s bad that much that you can call him your enemy. I didn’t know that.”

Ngcebo: “You didn’t know then but you know we had a beef and still, Mujo and I don’t get along. But you had to go and work with him, two fuckin songs Nandipha yet you refused to do just one song with me! And you didn’t have the decency to tell me that you are rubbing shoulders with

someone I don't get along with." he shouted at her and Nandipha looked down without breathing a word to him but she kept massaging her fingers. "I am talking to you! Why are you quiet now, huh?" he shouted further.

Nandipha: "I was going to tell you, Ngcebo-"

Ngcebo: "When, huh?"

Nandipha: "I was going to tell you before the song was released. I didn't tell you because I knew you wouldn't have let me do these songs with him just like you stopped me from dancing. You locked me up like your child."

Ngcebo chuckled. "Hee! That's me amongst the guys we are talking, having drinks and eating. 'Ee, Prince Tee, I didn't know your wife can sing so perfect' a champ who works with him says this to me and I chuckle since I am a fool I don't know what's going on. I asked where he heard

you. 'She's doing joints with Mujo akere? You know that.' He says and everyone on the squad is shocked by this but I have to pretend I knew about this so that I won't look like a fool before them. But I am your fool, right?" He narrated to her how he learnt that Nandipha was working with a Rapper they didn't get along with.

Nandipha: "No, Ngcebo, you are not a fool but please, understand that I didn't want you to do what you did the last time-"

Ngcebo: "The last time? You wanted to go dance for the world!"

Nandipha: "Ngcebo, it was just gqomu music and there's nothing seductive about that dance. I even told you I won't dance half naked because I don't like it but no, you didn't give me any chance but you made commandments for me, Ngcebo. 'While married to me, you won't do any type of dance for the world' You didn't care that I just wanted to do this and have fun but

you cared about your ego.”

Ngcebo: “Yeywena-”

Nandipha: “Don’t call me like that Ngcebo. I have never addressed you like that and you won’t start today speaking me like that with me just because you are angry with me. I am your wife not your slut that you can call me like that.” She cut him short quickly because she wasn’t about to let him address her as ‘Yeywena’ If he begins calling her like that today he was going to do it next time and she would be dammed if she can allow him to call her like that.

Ngcebo clicked his tongue. “You are my wife but you are go around singing with other men without telling me about it. And you expect a ‘congratulations, love’ from me? Is that what you expect since you roll with Mujo now?”

Nandipha: “It’s not like that and I don’t expect you to understand me because you are angry

but I was going to tell-

Ngcebo: "Stop telling me that!"

Nandipha: "Babe-" she let go of her shoes and tried to take a step forward to hold Ngcebo's arms but he moved back.

Ngcebo: "Babe', ini? Babe, amasimba! Huh?"

Nandipha: "Ngcebo-"

Ngcebo: "Yazini, get out of my face." He told her pointing the way out of the kitchen but Nandipha didn't turn to leave. She moved forward. "Fuck you, man, Nandipha. Leave my sight!" he insisted and Nandipha turned to her shoes. She picked them up and grabbed her bag. She left the kitchen.

Ngcebo inhaled deeply and he dashed to the fridge to get some cold water. He clicked his tongue repeatedly as he thought of what Nandipha had done. He was still going to be further angered by hearing her voice sing with

that man. And where did he get the nerve and balls to ask his wife to sing with him? Ngcebo slammed the glass against the wall as he could already picture the headlines about Nandipha singing with Mujo. His beef with Mujo wasn't just about music but it was more than that, it was issues that the guy had about Ngcebo.

That made Ngcebo resent his behaviour around him and they've tried to settle it in a nasty way but it didn't help Mujo get over the issues but it made it worse. Mujo was the first to be childish about it and he made it public without stating it obviously what was going on. Over the years he would dis Ngcebo and he would professionally dis back because it how the game was played in their music. The last few years they've been quiet but Ngcebo have never attended an event with him and he'd done the same. But today, he'd been singing with his wife! People were going to think his wife was getting into music and she had another man, the one whom he

didn't get along with to help her get into music.

Ngcebo looked at his phone as his brother, Dalingcebo was calling him. He was seated down eating his food inside the kitchen. He didn't answer Dalingcebo's phone call but he ate as if he wasn't seeing his call...

Nandipha sat on the bed after she'd taken a shower, she wasn't too sure if it was safe for her to go down to the kitchen. Or she could sit on the bed until Ngcebo heads up. She'd eaten after the event with her mother and Palesa but she was still hungry she wanted to eat before sleeping. She closed her eyes and laid back on the pillow, her head thinking about how angry Ngcebo was. She really thought she could tell him a few days before the release of the song because then, he wasn't going to have power to stop her. She saw no problem with singing with the guy because it'd been years since they last dis each other with Ngcebo. And he'd never

spoken about him to her. She never thought it would be much of a big deal she only thought he was going to be angry that she agreed to sing with him while she'd turned him down. But it seemed like he wasn't dwelling much on that but rather her singing with the guy. She sighed as she could hear all his words ring inside her head. He was fuming and from where she was standing she didn't know where she was going to begin just to apologise to him. Now, it didn't matter how much of a good time she had singing because Ngcebo was going to obviously hate those songs especially the one about love. She'd thought about the media, the management have thought about the media and they saw this as a positive collaboration. But even if she could explain it to him, she doubted he would see it that way. She opened her eyes as she heard the door being opened. Her eyes locked with his.

“Didn’t it cross your mind that this guy is using you?” Ngcebo asked Nandipha and he stood by the door without moving.

Nandipha: “No, but we saw this as positive.”

Ngcebo: “Positive? I thought I married a smart woman but it seems like you can’t even think you are just an idiot.”

Nandipha tormented her jaw and looked down as she was angered by what he was saying about her. She was an ‘idiot’ She didn’t want to fight that because she’d made him angry by hiding this from him and being angry with him because he’s angry wasn’t going to solve anything.

Nandipha: “I am sorry that I didn’t tell you about this Ngcebo but I was going to tell you before the song comes out. That guy wasn’t supposed to tell you.”

Ngcebo: “Well, what did you tell Mujo? I agreed

that you can sing with him?”

Nandipha: “Didn’t you say it on national TV that you are not that guy to make rules for your partner about what she can and what she cannot do? They only asked if you were cool with it.”

Ngcebo: “Oh! And you said I am all good. What positivity can this have on my brand? Huh? You think you’ve done me a favour by singing with that dog? Gha! I can’t even imagine you looking at him while you sing it’s like you’ve been fucking with him, Nandipha. You disgust me.”

Nandipha: “I didn’t know hate was serious between the two of you. You didn’t tell me, Ngcebo. You never told me about him.”

Ngcebo: “And I was going to tell you if you told me about singing with him.”

Nandipha closed her eyes and she burped, she held her chest feeling the heartburn. She looked

at Ngcebo. "I am sorry, Rasta. Please, forgive me." She told Ngcebo sincerely but he didn't say anything to her beside clicking his tongue. He went to the closet. Nandipha got up with her phone and she left the room for the kitchen... She couldn't possibly picture the video of last song happening as angry as Ngcebo was. How could he possibly match singing with Mujo to having sex with him? And suddenly she was an idiot?

"Mxm!" She exclaimed and took out the ingredients that complemented a sandwich that she wanted to have before heading to bed. She took sour cream along with the ingredients. "I don't even want to ask him what I can do for him to forgive me because he'll obviously say I should not agree for the songs to be released. I have worked so hard for those songs to be what they're now and I will get a lot of money for that. And I can't believe he called me an idiot!"

Tsk! I dare he asks for my opinion in anything in future I will hit him with 'I am an idiot I can't think.' Tsk! Ungijwayela kabi uthi ngiyislima? Tsk!" she spoke alone moving around the kitchen making herself a sandwich... She took her time eating it...

She climbed the stairs and made her way to the girls' room. "Ey, Similo! I can't believe Thula allowed her to sleep like this." She spoke to herself and removed Similo's dirty clothes that she was wearing while the others were on their pyjamas. Similo fell asleep when it was time for them to bath and Thula didn't change her. "I always ask that she must just bath them even if they're sleeping but no ugal, cha, nje!" She left the room for the bathroom. She moved back to the girls' room with Similo's wet warm towel. She wiped her entire body from the face down to her legs and hands. She removed the socks from her feet and checked her nappy.

Nandipha: “The nappy is all good but not the clothes. Ah!” she covered Similo with her blankets without dressing her. She fixed the others who weren’t sleeping properly. She then left the room for bed... Ngcebo was already sleeping and the room was dark. She marched to the bathroom to have tablets for heartburn... Nandipha then slept next to him...

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Nikhona settled into the guest bedroom, and she couldn’t sleep thinking about Mntwana. She laid on the centre of the double bed naked with the bedsheet covering her body. She closed her eyes and let her imagination run wild. She wasn’t intending on masturbating using her hands but she wanted to achieve an orgasm by using nothing but her mind...

She could see herself standing before the stove barefoot on Mntwana’s kitchen. Her sister was at work and she was intending on letting

Mntwana drool on her legs and thighs. She had the body so perfect and flawless.

She could imagine Mntwana standing by the entrance of the kitchen and his eyes were hungrily gazing at her legs... On the bed, Nikhona's clit swelled as in her head she had turned to Mntwana who was on his boxers and her eyes set on his penis that had sprung out in readiness. She was sure it was seeing her body that made him hard like that. She thought he would just turn because Simthande meant everything to him but he didn't turn. He instead gave Nikhona the mischievous smile... On the bed Nikhona had her legs twirled around each other as she felt the pressure between her legs. She wasn't just feeling the pressure of covet but she was moist from picturing Mntwana's penis in her head. With the strong arms that he had, the thick fingers that Mntwana possessed she imagined him as a man with a thick penis.

She didn't want to believe this would be the opposite for him as it had been the opposite for some men she'd been with. They would have the fingers and right feet sizes but they wouldn't be close to matching their... But not Mntwana she'd seen his dick print and she anticipated it wasn't a joke of a dick.

Inside her head she trembled as Mntwana invaded his hand inside her short purple pyjama without any exchange of words she held his wrist. But she knew she didn't want him to stop and he didn't stop. His thick finger penetrated her... She gasped on the bed as her body felt the shocks responding to the imagination. Nikhona felt she was dripping on from imagining this man.

Inside her head, she didn't have his fingers on her vagina but now she was on the kitchen table with his big penis buried deep inside her and he was pumping her harder as if he wasn't her

girlfriend's sister...

“Ah.... Ah.... Ah....” She cried on the bed as the sexual rage and hunger was intense and her moist was thicker only from imagining Mntwana... She drove her two fingers inside her moist vagina to wrap up the feeling nicely...

“Haaa! I must have this man. I must!” She stamped and looked at the sheets that were wet as she was done having her moment with Mntwana inside her head. Nikhona placed her hands on her forehead and she smiled feeling lightly.

She looked at his legs and her skin got the chills as her mind took her back to the previous night where she could see him and feel him inside her as if he was really there. But he was just inside her mind... This was the perfect timing, it was as it was inside her mind but only this morning, Mntwana was the one before the stove wearing the red, white and black boxers with a white

vest.

“You are awake! Your sister had to run somewhere and I am going out in a sec. But I have finished up making breakfast I will leave you here.” Mntwana said to Nikhona turning to her as she was standing by the kitchen entrance on her sister’s big gown. It was big to her because she was thin.

Nikhona realised the difference, this morning he wasn’t erected but her sister wasn’t in the apartment. Maybe this was the universe making her thoughts, her imaginations a reality.

Nikhona: “Yes, and we can have breakfast on the table. It can be just you and me, you can decide how we will have it.” She said on a low tone giving him a clear seductive smile. She saw Mntwana giving her a confused look and she smiled liking the fact that he was acting like someone who couldn’t catch up with her. But no man wouldn’t catch up.

Mntwana: "You'll have your breakfast but I will have mine on my way to work." He said avoiding what he was seeing, he didn't want to admit that his girlfriend's sister was actually flirting with him. What did this woman think of him? He was some typical boy who would just fuck the sister of his girlfriend? Maybe if Simthande was some girl he wasn't rooted to, he would go for it. But again not after his brother had fucked their older brother's wife and got her pregnant. He would never play nasty like that! Never! Mntwana opened the fridge after he'd answered Nikhona. He searched for milk more than two seconds, he couldn't find the milk because he was surprised he was being tempted like this! This woman was disrespecting him!

Nikhona: "You'll pretend like you can't see this?" He turned to her and his eyes were set on her breasts that she'd popped out for him to prey



on. Mntwana taunted his jaw and took a step forward to get to her. He saw a smile on her face and he guessed what might be on her mind right now. “Easy women are a very nice snack and I am not that guy who normally turns them down but I give them what they want and how they want it. But, you,” He spoke to her standing before her on a limited distance, Mntwana shook his head looking at her breasts. He pointed his penis’s direction and Nikhona looked down at him. “I am not even erected by this I am seeing. Don’t try it again.” He told her calmly.

Nikhona: “Ow, not even this.” she asked and lifted her gown revealing her well shaved and clean looking vagina...

He chuckled and looked down at himself. “Ouch! Still, we are offline. Just get covered up and leave with your little pride. Nice breasts though.” He said and moved away from her with

rage brewing inside him. He was angry that he was the one who encouraged Simthande to bring back this snake of a sister into her life. And his worry now was that this woman was going to hurt Simthande once again. He couldn't even imagine what that could do to her.

Mntwana chuckled and shook his head.

“Ngiyalingwa! I saw the whole vagina being served to me, shaved and looking pretty but no erection!” He clicked his tongue as he was fastening the buttons of his shirt. He liked Simthande, their relationship was coming up nicely and he strongly cared for her. But this woman called her sister, he needed to get rid of her pretty soon because she was only going to hurt Simthande...

When Mntwana left the kitchen, Nikhona turned to look at him as he walked away and she smiled to herself as he left. “I am used to men like you. Who think they're crushing my pride by

turning me down. I will bring you on your knees and you'll beg for it." She made a vow and marched to the stove sure that she wasn't going to give up. She wanted Mntwana!

Nikhona rested her eyes on Mntwana's wallet that was next to the stove and she wondered what was his wallet doing in the kitchen.

"Maybe he was giving Simthande money." She guessed correctly and she lifted the wallet, she opened it just to take a look of what was inside...

Nikhona: "No, it can't be!" she exclaimed removing Mntwana's driver's license. She placed her hand on her mouth and she popped her eyes. "How come?" She asked herself and immediately placed the wallet back on the wallet as there was a knock on the door... She placed the wallet where she found it and she took a plate for herself without going to the door. She wasn't going to open the door, she

was a guest and it would be rude of her to open the door...

“I hope you won’t come back here.” Mntwana said to Nikhona who was having breakfast on the dinner table. Mntwana’s PA had been the one on the door. He was dressed up and ready to leave for work.

Nikhona laughed. “I was just testing you brother in-law. It’s what we used to do with my sister back in the day even though we wouldn’t show our bodies but I thought I should go deep with you because you seem very serious and you passed the test with flying colours.” She lied to cover up and she had a relaxed convincing face as she told Mntwana the cover up lies. And she was hoping that Mntwana was going to believe her...

Mntwana looked at her for a few minutes and he left the house after shaking his head. He didn’t know whether to believe her or not but

she didn't look like she was pretending now after having her ego bruised. Maybe she was really testing him. Women! And their typical tactics!

Nikhona looked at him as he left the kitchen and she was hoping that he believed her because she wanted to blackmail him. "I have never had a small aged boy before but this one definitely doesn't look 21 years. And the bastard lied to my sister. Soon, he'll be in my palm!" She vowed and nodded her head as she could picture herself pressuring Mntwana... And she saw the ticket to her money problems. Mntwana was that ticket! He was going to help her! Inside her mind she didn't even think of her sister but her getting Mntwana...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 08

“MaNkosi?” Mnotho called out Danielle’s name, he was seated next to the hospital bed and Danielle had her eyes closed and her lower eye lids were red and swollen than the last time he saw her. He looked at her face and it was pale and her lips were dry. Mnotho sent his hand inside his pants’ pocket and he came back with ‘Zam-buk’ he opened it and he moisten her lips with his forefinger that had the Zam-buk.

It was after 5pm of the same day that he learnt that Danielle had brain tumour. He left Siphosami in Nkosazana’s palace because his mother had to fly to Johannesburg as Ngcebo was admitted in the hospital. He drove to Durban and he was told by Danielle’s sister where Danielle was...

Mnotho looked at Danielle as she wasn’t opening her eyes after he’d called her repeatedly. He got up from the chair and placed

his two fingers on her neck even though he could see the machines were signalling she was alive. He just needed to confirm and when he felt her pulse he sighed.

Mnotho: “MaNkosi, please don’t die. I can never live with myself if you can die. Why did you hide this from me? Please, wake up. I am sorry.” he placed both his hands on Danielle’s hand and he closed his eyes to listen to his heart. He’d been briefed by the Doctor about Danielle’s condition and it was stressing him even more that she wasn’t responding positively to the chemotherapy. He was the world’s biggest idiot. He trusted Happiness after everything that had happened between him and Happiness, he wasn’t supposed to trust her. He destroyed his life for a game! Just a useless game!

Happiness got off the car before City hospital, she took her handbag and moved to open the backdoor of her car. She unbuckled her children

after putting her handbag down. They were awake and rumbling alone, Happiness put them down and she closed her car. She then pushed them forward and kept her eyes on them as they walked inside the hospital...

Happiness's eyes laid on Mnotho's face as he was seated on the chair holding Danielle's hand. All she saw in his face was worry and hurt, she didn't want to rejoice on that any longer because that was not who she was. It'd had penetrated through her heart how being an unforgiving person could turn into a slave of hate and anger. And seeing Mnotho now she didn't allow herself to feel any joy because he was suffering...

"Baba?" Njabulo called his father and he pat his thigh repeatedly. Nonjabulo was standing behind him, they've left their mother's side the minute they saw their father's face. Happiness was standing opposite Mnotho.



Mnotho opened his eyes quickly and he looked at Njabulo and Nonjabulo, he smiled at their faces even though he could feel that he didn't want to smile. He placed his hands on their heads. "Sanibona. I didn't expect to see you here." He greeted them and stood on his feet as the children were greeting back. He lifted them up and placed them both on the chair that he was seated on.

Nonjabulo: "How are you, baba?"

Njabulo: "Thina siyaphila kodwa wena baba ukhuluma kancane nathi."

Happiness: "Njabulo, no, can't you see Pearl's mother is in the hospital and that means your father is not happy now. He won't speak louder." She said to Njabulo seeing that he was expecting more from his father because he didn't understand that in this moment he wasn't alright.

“Sorry, baba.” Njabulo said to his father without looking at him.

Mnotho: “There was no need for you to say that to him. I was going to answer him, myself.” He told Happiness abruptly looking at her with a sharp eye. Happiness didn’t say another word but she removed her eyes from Mnotho and sent them to Danielle who was on the bed.

“Come, let’s go.” Mnotho said to the children and he lifted them off the chair. Their face lit up when their father told them he was taking them and they were going with him.

Happiness: “Where are you taking them?”

Mnotho: “I don’t ask you when you leave with them, Happiness.” he replied and he walked away from the bed. The children waved their hands to their mother with delight on their faces and she waved back.

Happiness moved to the chair’s side and she

sat down. She looked at Danielle and she looked down. "Eh, Sawubona, Ntandokazi?" Happiness greeted her and she moved her as means to wake her. She looked at her and she waited hoping that she was going to wake up.

Ntandokazi opened her eyes, she wasn't dead sleeping and she'd heard her husband talking but she was too reluctant to open her eyes and speak with Mnotho. She only opened them now because she'd heard Mnotho was leaving.

Danielle: "What do you want here?" she asked with a dry voice as her throat was dry. She looked at Happiness shortly and tried to sit up straight with her eyes set on the bottle of water and glass that was on the bedside drawers.

Happiness got up from the chair and poured water on the glass, she gave the glass to Ntandokazi. "I am here because I want to speak to you." Happiness replied and she sat back on the chair.

Danielle: "I have left Mnotho for you and there's no need for you to speak to me about anything because we are not friends or relatives."

Happiness: "I know, but the thing is, I was very selfish when I asked that Mnotho leaves you just for me." she said and looked down, she had decided that she wasn't going to tell her that she was only playing a game with Mnotho because there was a big possibility that she was going to refuse to go back to him. She didn't think she was going to go back to Mnotho if she could hear that Mnotho wanted to leave her only for something that Happiness didn't even mean. She feared she was going to do that and she didn't want to be the reason their marriage ended. "I really didn't know what I was saying and I just said that out of hurt, anger and bitterness of losing my partner. And to tell you the truth Mnotho and I, were in a very good state before he chose to marry you and Elena.

But I don't want to talk much about the past. I am sorry for hurting you. I hope that you'll find it in your heart to forgive me." She said to her feeling the need not to explain further because she was going to end up admitting things she didn't want to admit. She was going to end up admitting that she didn't mean what she said to Mnotho and she didn't want her to know that. She didn't want her to know that Mnotho was played for a fool. She heard as she was talking that her words were not convincing and they had loopholes but she was hoping Danielle wouldn't even think of questioning her further.

Danielle looked at her and she looked at her not getting what she was saying. She said that because she was hurt from losing her partner? And so, what did she think? She was going to go back to Mnotho to replace her lover with Mnotho? Or she just wanted Mnotho to break his marriage and be miserable and hurt like she

was hurting? Yes, that was the only valid explanation Danielle could make out of Happiness's words. That was what she was hoping to achieve and it made sense because she was in pain.

Danielle: "It's okay, I am dying anyway and you don't have to feel that I am standing in your way with Mnotho. I didn't deliberately plan on marrying Mnotho and he didn't tell me-"

Happiness: "Please, don't say that because you won't die and I will take you back to your house. I will fix my wrong."

Danielle shook her head. "No, Happiness. I won't hold a grudge with you and I forgive you as you've asked for forgiveness. But, it's Mnotho who asked me to leave him it's not you. And there's no need for you to feel bad about it."

Happiness: "I know but any man who's feeling

guilt and hurt and wants to correct his wrong would take any measure when desperate and pressured. You just have to understand where he's coming from."

Danielle kept quiet and she remembered Mnotho's words about Happiness being brought for him because she hurt him. She loved Mnotho and she was hurt when he asked her to leave him. But she didn't want to cry because she'd cried for Mnotho before when he broke up with her. She'd cried for him and even tried to kill herself. She'd cried for him when he left her in the hospital. And he'd done it once again. Maybe letting go was appropriate because she didn't have hope that she was going live as the medication wasn't treating her the way she thought it was going to treat her.

Danielle: "And I want him to correct that wrong he did. You'll have to go back home with your children and be in your house with Mnotho. It's

where you belong. I don't want him to waste his time worrying about me and when I die he'll have no one by his side. I don't think you, yourself would love that for the man you love. I don't know if you love him or if you've loved him but you can have a life together. He'll come back here but I don't want to talk to him even after I have spoken to you."

Happiness: "No, I can't do that."

Danielle: "Why?"

Happiness: "I will only go back if you agree that you'll come back and we will live together for this time that you are sick. The children, Mnotho and I, we will look after you until you are fine."

She said to her unexpectedly and she felt her heart beating pretty fast after she'd made that pact with her. Danielle laughed and she pulled the water bottle to herself. She poured the water on the glass. Happiness looked at her.

"Why are you laughing?" She asked.



Danielle: "I haven't really laughed in long hours and what you are saying now made me laugh. You'll look after me?"

Happiness: "Yes, you said you want Mnotho to correct his wrong and I want to do the same." She told her and took the bottle from her as she was holding it with a hand that had a drip. And she didn't look stronger to be holding it.

Danielle: "I told you that you didn't do me wrong but Mnotho asked me to leave. You might have been the one who told him what to do but you were never going to force him to do what he doesn't want to do. Mnotho is not like that but he does what he wants to do and when he wants."

Happiness admitted that she was right and it really amazed her that Mnotho did what she thought she could never do. "Yes, you are right but if you want the man you love to be alone and miserable you'll stay in Durban. But if you

are serious that you love him as you say you'll do what I am saying. We will live together in my house because it's bigger all four children and Mnotho, the six of us will look after you. Mnotho and I, will arrange that you get treatment from home. You won't die." Happiness insisted.

Danielle: "And if I recover? You'll take your husband?"

Happiness: "No, you are married to him legally and me, he's my husband by tradition. When not 'if' when you recover you'll go back to your house and I will remain in my house and we will make this family thing work. Elena is not there to bother you anymore because she sure did."

Danielle laughed and said. "You are right about that. But when I recover I want Siphosami to stay with me and Pearl. I know you looked after him before but I would love for him to stay with us." She told Happiness taking up the offer

without saying it obvious that she was taking her offer.

Happiness smiled as she figured that she was admitting to it. "You have a girl and you don't have a boy, so, in polygamy, when a house doesn't have a boy the husband gives the boy from the other wife to the wife who doesn't have a boy." She agreed to it indirectly as Danielle was doing.

Danielle: "Really? That happens?"

Happiness: "Yes, real traditional people who don't rob tradition they do that. And I do have a boy and so, we will both have a girl and a boy."

Danielle: "No, this sounds too good to be true." She told her mind to come back, and told herself this was just a fairy-tale that Happiness was saying. It sounded too perfect and why would she want to look after her?

"You can trust this one, MaNkosi." Nkosazana

said to Danielle. She was standing behind the curtain separating Danielle's room to the other room in the ward that she was on. She didn't show her face the minute she saw Happiness's serious face as she was talking to Danielle. She stood behind the curtain and listened to their conversation when Danielle was convincing Happiness that Mnotho was the one who wanted her to leave.

Danielle: "Ndlunkulu?" she smiled and Nkosazana hugged Ntandokazi, she closed her eyes and sighed. "I thought you said you are busy." She said.

Nkosazana: "Yes, I was busy but on my way back from Mbumbulo I thought I should pass by and see you. And I will confess that I eavesdropped." She told them and they all laughed. Nkosazana looked at Happiness with a smile and she shook her head. She moved to her side.

Happiness: "I will only hug you if you forgive me." she said to her as Nkosazana had her arms opened up for Happiness.

Nkosazana: "Ayi! Don't be silly who would hold a grudge with you forever?"

Happiness: "Thank you and for calling me." she said and stood on her feet. She hugged Nkosazana tightly with her eyes closed. She smiled.

Nkosazana: "I hope there won't be any unnecessary secrets."

Happiness: "I won't do one mistake twice."

Nkosazana nodded once and Happiness sat down. "Happiness will keep her word, Ntandokazi. Just come back home and everything will work out for better good." Nkosazana said to Danielle.

Danielle looked at Happiness. "Thank you, Happiness." She said to her. Happiness nodded

once with a short smile on her face... Happiness looked within herself and she prayed and hope God would give her strength to do what she'd promised she will do...

## THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 09

She could hear her phone ring from her sleep but she was too lazy to open her eyes and answer the phone call. But she couldn't ignore the call as it kept ringing. She finally opened her eyes and stretched her hand to reach her phone. She yawned and placed her phone on her ear.

Nandipha: "Maaamaa"

Faith: "Sies! It's 10am and you are still sleeping, Nandipha!"

Nandipha sat up straight and she rubbed her

eyes, she looked beside her and Ngcebo wasn't there. "I was tired mama. We had a long day yesterday."

Faith: "But that doesn't mean you should sleep until now."

Nandipha: "I am waking up now. How are you?"

Faith: "I am good baby and how are you?"

Nandipha: "I am not good like you because I messed up, mama."

Faith: "What did you do?"

Nandipha: "There's this Rapper called Mujo..." she told her mother honestly about what she'd done, doing a song behind Ngcebo's back.

"Mama, please say something." She said to her mother after a few minutes of silence.

Faith: "What were you hoping to achieve?"

Nandipha: "Mama, it's not like there's something I was hoping to achieve but Ngcebo

wasn't going to let me do this song. He has stopped me before mama."

Faith: "That doesn't mean anything but you were supposed to tell him. It would have been better if you are fighting for doing the song while he'd told you not to do it but you went behind his back that's a different story. And with his enemy!"

Nandipha: "But mama, I wasn't there when they began this beef and he never told me that it was more than just a beef."

Faith: "Don't you remember Ruth from the bible. She said to Boaz, your God will be my God and your enemies will be my enemies. I will die where you will die. And that's what you vowed when you chose to become his wife Nandipha. You inherit all his enemies and acquaintances because you can never laugh freely with people he doesn't laugh with. That also happens with some of the closest friends and for friends you



wouldn't even like her other friends."

Nandipha: "I understand mama. I am bound by a contract I can't say they should stop releasing the songs when they're due. And I don't know how I can really fix this. I think I have to tell Mujo and his management that I won't do the video. They can do it but I won't be on it. And I won't do gigs with him for the song promotion. I would have gotten a lot of money mama. From a single gig these people make about R250 000 and I would have gotten a share of that money. Ah! But I won't do it then."

Faith: "Awu, bakithi, nawe wasubalisa kangaka kwabuhlungu nakimi ke manje."

Nandipha smiled. "Don't worry mama. I will appreciate the money I will get for working on the songs. It's good money." She told her mother.

Faith: "Alright, if that's what you see fit then do

that. I was calling you to tell you that I was buying myself a dress and I saw two dresses for you. I can see your figure is coming back by force. I bought them but you'll buy shoes for yourself. You'll look good on them. You must come take them."

Nandipha: "Aaaaa! Thank you, sis Nandipha!"

Faith: "My ear, Nandipha!" she shouted.

Nandipha laughed. "I am sorry but thank you, mama. I will come later to take them. I should get up now and see who's running the house. Eish." She said.

Faith laughed. "In Zulu, we say 'Wavuma mfazi!' wake up and run your house."

Nandipha giggled and removed the blankets from her body. "Bye, mama. I will see you later." She said her goodbyes and Faith said them back. Nandipha removed her phone from her ear and she rushed to the bathroom to take a

quick shower to have her day started...

She closed her eyes shortly as the noise of the children greeted her. They were running around the house laughing and screaming. "HHAYI! HHAYI! YINI?" She screamed and held Thando's head as she bumped into her. She held Nandipha's leg while she was busy laughing.

Buhle: "Yini mama?" (What's wrong?)

Nandipha: "You are making noise."

Similo: "Mama, mina nivuke ningagcokile!" (I woke up half naked) She told her mother loudly with her head looking at her and she was panting from the running that they were doing with her sisters.

Nandipha: "I am the one who undressed you. Where's Ntokomalo and Nongcebo?" She asked as she wasn't seeing them.

Buhle: "Ntoko yena uhleli kusofa bese uNongcebo yena uhleli no baba ekhishini."

(Ntokomalo is in the lounge and Nongcebo is with dad in the kitchen) She replied. Nandipha nodded and she pushed them forward.

Nandipha: “Your father is here and you are senselessly making noise. Didn’t we agree that when he’s home he wants to sleep because he works hard?” she asked and lifted Thando off the floor as she was requesting it.

Similo: “Mama, ubaba uthe ashambe shodlala nje.” (He’s the one who said we should go and play, mom)

Buhle: “Ehe, shenze kabi?” (Yes, were wrong?)

Nandipha: “If he said play you can play until your feet hurts.” She said and tickled Thando’s feet. She laughed and the rest of her sisters laughed. “You’ve had your breakfast?” she asked.

Thando: “Yebo, mama, shidlile kakhulu shashutha kakhulu.” (Yes)

Similo: “Ehe, baba ushinikile ukudla okukhulu kodwa uNtoko udle kancane.”

Nandipha: “Go and call your sister, Similo. Don’t bother her but call her-” she was cut short as Similo ran away without waiting for her to finish...

“Baba. Uzonyisha nini mina eshiteji?” (When will you take me to the stage?) Nongcebo asked her father. She was seated on the kitchen island and Ngcebo was seated on the chair facing her.

Ngcebo chuckled. “I will take you when you are older.” He replied and gave her the piece of a banana. Ngcebo was having fruit salad.

Nongcebo: “Baba, mina nifuna ukuhamba manje.” (I want to go now)

Ngcebo: “No, your mother won’t agree to that.”

Nongcebo: “Shomcashela.” (We will hide from her) She whispered and Ngcebo laughed. He shook his head.

Ngcebo: "I can see you're taking from her with this hiding things." He mumbled the words to himself. "We won't do that Nongcebo, she'll cry." He told her and Nongcebo giggled.

Ngcebo turned his head to look at the girls as he heard their noise approaching the kitchen side. His eyes their mother's eyes. He sent his gaze back on the salad that he was eating.

Nandipha: "Sanibona." She greeted her husband and daughter.

Nongcebo: "Yebo, mama. Shuvukile? Ulala kakhulu manje." (You are awake)

Nandipha: "You talk too much uma uthanda." She said pulling her cheeks and Nongcebo giggled. "Ey, le ngane!" She left the kitchen as she heard a cry and she suspected that Similo had made Ntokomalo cry but she met up with Similo crying. And Ntokomalo wasn't following her.

Nandipha: “Why are you crying?” she went down to her level and held Similo’s face. She wiped her tears with her hands.

Similo: “Ntoko hit me, mama.”

Nandipha: “What did you do to her?” she asked and she lifted Similo from the floor. She walked to the lounge to get to Ntokomalo.

Similo: “Lutho!” (I did nothing)

Nandipha didn’t say anything but she knew she was going to find the truth from Ntokomalo.

“Ntokomalo, why is your sister crying? And why are you still seated here because I told her to call you.” She asked her daughter who was kneeling on the floor getting together a six-piece puzzle.

Ntokomalo: “Mama, uhliphize into yami uMimi nje nase namshaye kakhulu.” (She messed my puzzle and I hit her)

Nandipha: “Similo?”

Similo: “Benafuni yena ukuza nje mama.” (She didn’t want to come)

Nandipha: “I am the one who told your sister to call you. Why are you alone?”

Ntokomalo: “I am playing.”

Nandipha: “Come, everyone is in the kitchen. Hitting your sister is wrong and you were wrong to mess her puzzle.” She told them both.

Girls: “SHOLI” (Sorry)

Nandipha gave her hand to Ntokomalo and she took it leaving her puzzle. Nandipha left the lounge for the kitchen with them...

Buhle: “Mama ukudla kwakho kukhona. Idla khona mama nathi shidlile.” She told her mother as she was pouring sour milk inside a bowl not taking her food that their father had left for her.

Nandipha: “I will eat the food later sthandwa sami.” She told her and placed the bottle back



on the fridge. She poured sugar on the sour milk that wasn't mixed with uphuthu.

“Ngizokushaya wena Similo yeka leyonto!”

Ngcebo shouted at Similo who was playing with the cupboards, opening and closing them.

“Hambani la no msindo wenu! Hambani!”

Ngcebo shouted at the girls for Similo's mistake and they left the kitchen on their father's command leaving Nongcebo behind.

Nandipha: “But they were not making noise it was just Similo playing with the cupboards. There was no need to shout them all.”

Ngcebo: “Why don't you follow them then?”

Nandipha: “You are angry with me Ngcebo not our children. They've been making noise in the house but you didn't shout. And you cursed them all out of the kitchen just for Similo's doing. I brought them here.”

“Go to your sisters.” He told Nongcebo after

placing her down. He then left the kitchen after Nongcebo had left the kitchen...

Nandipha sat down and had her yoghurt... She went up to her bedroom after she'd seen her children were playing together not sulking... She opened the door to the bathroom and she saw Ngcebo standing before the bathroom sink. His hands were shaking and he had the tablets' containers on the sink.

Ngcebo was looking for his antiarrhythmic agent and he couldn't find them but he remembered he might have left them in studio. He was now looking for beta blockers but the one he was finding had expired. He didn't use them normally but he used them when he was out of antiarrhythmic agent. He was angry and strained, that had an effect on his heart.

Nandipha: "What's wrong Ngcebo? What are you looking for?" she asked holding his hand and Ngcebo looked at her. Nandipha looked at

his chest and she placed her hand on it. She looked at him quickly.

Ngcebo: "Can you... please give... me space?"

Nandipha: "What's wrong? Speak to me, why is your heartbeat so chaotic?" she asked and pushed him back to stand before him. Ngcebo placed his forehead on Nandipha's shoulder and pressed his shaking hands on her arms. Nandipha pushed Ngcebo away from her and she placed her hand around his waist. She swallowed hard and dragged him to exit the bedroom.

He wasn't having difficulties walking but listening to the rhythm of his heart was setting him to walk on a slow pace because it wasn't pleasant such a disorganized heart rhythm...

Nandipha ran back inside the house to get her handbag and Ngcebo's medical aid card after she'd placed Ngcebo inside the car. The children's noise was coming from the lounge

and when she was leaving the house with their father they didn't see them.

She stepped inside the car and drove out of the premises, she was leaving without telling her children she was leaving... Ngcebo wasn't speaking inside the car but he had his hand on his chest and his head laid back on the seat...

She took her phone from her bag and she dialled Dalingcebo's number. Ngcebo had been taken by the nurses and she was waiting impatiently taking a blame. All she could think about was how Ngcebo was angry with her and maybe he was having such a heart race because of her.

Dalingcebo: "Nandipha?"

Nandipha: "Yebo, I am calling to tell you that Ngcebo had been admitted to the hospital and I am waiting here." She told him and placed her hand on her eyes.

Dalingcebo: "You are not making sense."

Nandipha: "I had to bring him to the hospital because of his chaotic heart rhythm. I don't know what's going on because I have never felt his heart racing like that. I am just waiting for answers."

Dalingcebo: "Alright. I will come up there I will tell mom. A plane will be fast."

Nandipha: "Okay." She removed her phone from her ear and she pressed her teeth together without shading any tears. She looked at the time as she heard her tummy making the loud grumble.

"Have some." An Indian woman seated next to her handed her one of her sandwiches as she'd heard her stomach grumble.

Nandipha: "No, please-"

Indian woman: "You are surely hungry and I know you might be afraid to stand up as you're

waiting here.” She said to her and Nandipha nodded her head once. And she took the sandwich...

Nandipha: “Thank you. You are waiting for a loved one?”

Indian woman: “Yes, my father. He’s just been admitted and you?”

Nandipha: “Husband.” She replied and felt it would be inappropriate to ask for another sandwich from her. But she didn’t have to ask because the woman offered her another sandwich and she took it...

“Mrs Zulu?” The Doctor called Nandipha out and she stood on her feet. The Indian woman had left her a while ago to get to her father...

Nandipha: “What’s wrong with him?”

Doctor: “Let’s talk in private.” He showed her to follow him and Nandipha followed behind the Doctor looking at her phone for her brother’s

response. He'd asked him to go to her house after his classes because she didn't know when she was going to return home.

"Your husband will be alright we have sedated him after examining him just to give him a rest but you'll have to ensure that he takes his antiarrhythmic agent on time and doesn't skip any day. It seems he's under a lot of stress and -" the Doctor was broken by Nandipha's question.

Nandipha: "What's that you are talking about?"

Doctor: "You are not aware of your husband's heart condition?"

Nandipha: "What heart condition?"

Doctor: "Your husband has a heart disorder called arrhythmia. His type is one of a heart rate that's too fast and he needs his medication to keep his heart beating normally – Is everything alright?" he stood up from his chair and he

moved to the chair Nandipha was seated on. She was trying to pour water for herself when the Doctor saw she was kind of suffocating.

“I will go... see him!” She told the Doctor trying to stand on her feet but she didn’t get to stand on her own. She fainted on the Doctor’s arms and he had to move Nandipha to his examination table inside his office...

“Thank goodness you are awake!” Faith exclaimed and she smiled as Nandipha had opened her eyes. She was seated down looking at her as she was still unconscious in the Doctor’s office. But the different office...

Nandipha rose from the table and she looked at her mother with a short weak smile. “Mama, what happened?” She asked and removed her feet...

Faith: “You admitted Ngcebo here and you fainted when the Doctor was updating you



about his health my child.”

Nandipha: “I haven’t eaten since morning but I had some sandwiches from some lady in the waiting area. I am hungry.”

Faith: “It’s understandable. I will get you food and you’ll eat before seeing Ngcebo. Do you remember what happened?”

Nandipha: “Yes, it’s clear now. Ngcebo has a heart problem I didn’t know about. And that’s the reason he’s here.”

“Oh! She’s awake.” The Doctor who owned the office said walking through the office and she marched up to Nandipha and her mother.

Nandipha: “Yes, but you are not my husband’s Doctor.”

Doctor: “Don’t worry about him but you have other people to worry about. Do you have difficulties eating in the morning?”

Nandipha looked at her mother and the Doctor. “Yes, I eat around 12:30pm. Can I go see my husband? Mama, he’s awake right?” She asked and wore her shoes.

Faith: “Nandipha, you’ll see Ngcebo but you need to listen to the Doctor and eat then you can go see him.”

Nandipha: “Am I sick as well?” She looked at the Doctor with an impatient face because her heart was no longer with them but Ngcebo.

Doctor: “You are seven weeks pregnant and you’ll have to look after yourself Nandipha. You need to keep your blood pressure stable but I understand that it might have been that high because of your husband being admitted to the hospital. You’ll have two babies and please, look after your health. I have given your mother a prescription for tablets and she went to buy them.” she updated Nandipha all about her pregnancy reading through her report she would

look up at Nandipha shortly until she was done.

Nandipha looked at her mother with a blank emotionless face as she'd received the news she never expected at this time of the year.

"Let's go, mama." Nandipha said to her mother and took her bag that her mother had on her hands. Faith stood up.

Faith: "Did you even hear what the Doctor said to you?"

Nandipha: "Yes, I heard her. I will pay for your services." She said to the Doctor shortly and she moved out of the office. Her mother followed her behind.

Faith: "What's the matter now, Nandipha?"

Nandipha: "Nothing mama. Did Randall go to the girls?"

Faith: "Yes, he's there but you'll have to eat something first that's if you don't want to faint again. Seeing Ngcebo can wait." She said to

Nandipha holding her hand and pulled her away...

“I thought you left.” Ngcebo said to Nandipha, he was seeing her walk through the door after a long time of waiting for her. He’d been examined and he was stable now but the Doctor had told him he was going to keep him for a night or two... He was alone in the room since he woke up.

Nandipha: “You were sedated.”

Ngcebo: “Yes, but it’s been a while since I woke up.”

Nandipha: “How are you feeling?”

Ngcebo: “I am feeling a bit tired physically but I am fine now. You don’t have to worry.” He said to her and Nandipha dropped her head without saying anything to him about what he’d said. “Nandipha?” he called her name and reached for her hand. Nandipha looked at him.

Nandipha: "Yeah?"

Ngcebo: "The Doctor told me that he informed you about my heart disorder and I know that you are wondering why I didn't tell you but my brothers don't know either. I am not saying that should make you feel any better but-"

Nandipha: "How long you've had it?"

Ngcebo: "I was diagnosed when I was 21 years old."

Nandipha: "And nobody knows about it in your family?"

Ngcebo: "My parents know."

Nandipha: "Oh, I see."

Ngcebo: "I wanted to tell you about this but I never wanted you to live your life worrying about me if I have taken my medication or not. If I am fine or not. I should have told you and now, the Doctor thinks I should settle back to

the peacemaker device-" he stopped talking and looked at the door as it was opened.

Thembelihle walked inside the door followed by Dalingcebo. Ngcebo smiled as his mother walked up to her. "Please, don't lecture me." He said to his mother before she could even speak.

Thembelihle: "How can I not while you bother me like this?" She asked and opened her arms for Ngcebo they hugged each other...

Dalingcebo: "How are you?" he asked Nandipha standing next to the chair that Nandipha was seated on... It was 6pm as they have arrived in the hospital.

Nandipha: "I am fine and how are you?"

Dalingcebo: "I am relieved now that this one here is awake."

Nandipha: "Yeah, thank you for coming."

Dalingcebo: "You don't have to thank me... You wanted to visit the land of the dead again?"

What's eating you?" he asked Ngcebo as their mother had backed away from him and she was fixing Ngcebo's blankets and pillows. He moved from the position he was on to stand closer to Ngcebo.

Ngcebo laughed. "How can I go there and leave you here?" he asked giving Dalingcebo his hand and they shared a handshake and shoulder hug.

Dalingcebo: "I am not the dying type."

Ngcebo: "We don't know about that." He commented and they cracked...

Thembelihle: "Nandipha, you have to bring him a blanket not these sheets."

Ngcebo: "I am staying for a few nights."

Thembelihle: "It doesn't matter but you can't use these sheets."

"I will do that. I have to take this call." She said looking at Ngcebo and she stood up with her

phone inside her bag just playing her ringtone not that someone was calling her. She deliberately played the song while Ngcebo was busy talking with Dalingcebo and his mother fixing his sheets...

Ngcebo: "Don't talk on the phone for too long!" he shouted for her as she was leaving the room and she closed the door without replying to him.

Thembelihle: "I will call Thula and she will bring clean sheets and blankets because your wife is still here." She said taking her phone from her bag.

Ngcebo didn't comment but he answered Dalingcebo as he'd asked what was wrong with him. "...And the Doctor suggested that I settle back to the device but I really don't want that device." He closed his explanation to his brother. His mother was seated down after the call listening to him speak.



Thembelihle: “Your father and I told you this medication thing was not a good idea but you don’t listen, Ngcebo.”

Dalingcebo: “I actually can’t believe you’ve kept this a secret for so long.”

Ngcebo: “Don’t make a big deal out this because you are not a boy.”

Thembelihle: “Stop joking around Ngcebo and be serious, please!”

Dalingcebo: “Yeah, stop it and now, you should really stop taking medication because it seems the two of you forget about it.”

Ngcebo: “Nandipha didn’t know about it too.”

Dalingcebo: “Amen!”

Thembelihle: “And I have long told you that you should tell her but you never listened. But now, you’ll stop taking tablets.”

Ngcebo: “Why should I stop taking them

because she knows now?”

Dalingcebo: “Ngcebo, come on, you have a busy life and this thing of relying on tablets that you turn to forget is not a good idea.”

Thembelihle: “You’ll leave this hospital with that device not tablets because this is not the first time that you have done this mistake.”

Ngcebo: “Eish, okay, then, I will put it back on.”

Thembelihle sighed. “You really gave me a fright Ngcebo.” She told him.

Ngcebo: “I am sorry but I am fine now. And you, divorce proceedings and Qalokuhle’s custody?” he asked Dalingcebo moving from the topic about his heart problem. He didn’t want to dwell much on it... Thembelihle looked up at Dalingcebo and waited to hear him speak...

Dalingcebo: “I was calling you last night and you didn’t answer.”

Ngcebo: "I was busy and this morning I was occupied before being admitted."

Dalingcebo: "Nontobeko surprised me. We haven't finalised the divorce but next month on the 9th it would be finalised because she changed her mind and told her lawyer she didn't want Qalokuhle to be separated from her grandmother. But should she retire she will want her to live with her. The court took that into consideration and we will finalise everything next month."

Ngcebo: "Ha! Did she tell you why she changed her mind or did she tell the court why she was changing her mind?"

Dalingcebo: "She said to me she was doing it for Qalokuhle when I was thanking her to letting this rest and not taking the child. And to the court she said she'd seen she won't have enough time for her. They thought she was threatened into changing her mind but she

assured she wasn't."

Ngcebo: "That's a good thing then because this divorce had dragged for too long. And ey, I don't want to get divorced in my life kuyanyiwa mos." He commented and they laughed with his brother.

Thembelihle shook her head. "She did a good thing by changing her mind. And the way things were heading in that court she wasn't going to get Qalokuhle's custody. She was requesting the impossible from the beginning because the court always put the child's interest first." She said.

Dalingcebo: "I am just glad it will be over soon."

Thembelihle and Ngcebo: "YEAH!"

Thembelihle: "You should eat. Where's your wife? I think we will have to talk to the Doctor first before leaving. I will go back to KZN when you are home. Your brother's wife is in the hospital.

Dalingcebo go look for Nandipha.”

Ngcebo: “What’s wrong?” he asked his mother and he filled him in...

Nandipha was seated down on the ward benches with her eyes closed and her head stamped on the wall. She was trying to digest all the events of the day and how she’d been living with a man but she never knew he relied on medication to live a normal life with a normal heart rhythm. It felt like she’d been lied to the entire relationship and that made her wonder if Ngcebo had other things that he kept hidden from her. He didn’t trust her with his life even after they’ve gotten married he didn’t tell her anything.

“Yeah, neh! You can never be sure about a human being. You can think you know things about them but no, you know nothing. You are just an idiot that he says you are.” She mumbled to herself placing her hand on her

face. She exhaled and stood up.

Dalingcebo: "I have been looking for you around here."

Nandipha: "I am here. I think I will go home take the blankets-"

Dalingcebo: "Mama has asked Thula to bring them. It's food that he needs."

Nandipha: "I will go buy it-"

Dalingcebo: "Your mother in-law won't be pleased if you buy food but you should go home prepare something and come back with it."

She nodded once and turned to leave the hospital to get home. Her heart was already on the bed. She wanted to sleep after this long surprising day she'd had. She was feeling numb and her body was feeling numb...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

## S6 == EPISODE 10

“Randall, can you drive to the hospital and give Ngcebo food. I will stay over here and wrap up my cooking. And watch over the girls.”

Nandipha requested to her brother who was climbing down the stairs after leaving the children upstairs with Thula who was bathing them now.

Randall: “Alright, but are you fine? You don’t sound fine.”

Nandipha walked to the kitchen and Randall followed her behind. “No, I am not fine but don’t bother yourself about me.” She replied and gave him the bag with Ngcebo’s food. Randall took the bag and the separate lunchbox that Nandipha had made for him. “This one is yours. You’ll tell mom that I will come take those dresses when I get time.” She added knowing

that he wasn't going to come back to the house because he knew Ngcebo's family was around.

Randall: "Alright. I will call you when I get home."

Nandipha: "Okay, thank you for coming." She said walking Randall out of the house... And he hopped inside his mother's car, he drove out of the premises. Nandipha then headed back inside the house to finish up dinner that she was preparing. She played the music and she moved around forcing herself as she could feel that she was sleepy and tired...

"Mama, ubaba yena nje uthe uzolala nathi ebusku layikhaya." (Mom, dad said he'll be home tonight) Nongcebo told her mother what their father had promised... They were all seated on the blanket on the floor with their mother feeding them their food while she was eating hers. They were clean and dressed up on the pink night dresses and their mother had taken a



shower too.

Buhle: “Yes, mom but he’s not here.”

Nandipha: “He didn’t know that he was going to be held up somewhere but he’ll definitely come back home.” she told them what she saw best because she didn’t want to worry them by telling them their father was in the hospital.

They were going to sulk or even cry if they could hear that. “But your grandma MaSthole and Qalokuhle’s father will come here.” She told them what she was certain would happen unless they decide to go to Banele’s place but she doubted they would. They were going to come to the house.

“HAWU! NAMPELA?” (Really?) All the girls asked delightedly and Nandipha nodded with the same smile that they had on their faces.

Thando: “Uzofika nini pho ugogo wethu?”  
(When will she arrive?)

Nandipha: "I don't know but-"

"NANGOKE!" (That's her!) They all scream and got up from the floor, they giggled and ran off leaving their mother behind... Nandipha got up from the floor and she went to attend the gate.

Her brother was the one driving them to the house. Dalingcebo asked he drives them to Ngcebo's house when he was leaving the hospital because they didn't have their cars with them. They left Ngcebo in the hospital...

Nandipha looked at her brother as he was coming up to her with a lunchbox on his hand. Her daughters were by their grandmother's side. She'd gotten off the car and they went to her side not Dalingcebo because he had bags on his hands...

Nandipha: "You've eaten everything?"

Randall: "Yes, it was just meat Lauren I wasn't going to be cheesy about it."

Nandipha laughed and she took the lunchbox. "Are you going to campus tomorrow?" She asked and walked back with him to the car.

Randall: "No, the semester had just begun and there's nothing useful happening. You've registered for your last semester."

Nandipha: "Yes, and next year I am definitely graduating. And I hope you are graduating too don't tell me you'll study further full time."

Randall: "No, I will work and study part time and you'll be studying as well?"

Nandipha laughed. "Yeah, you know that six months I owe your mother." She replied and closed the door of the car.

Randall chuckled. "And she was wondering out loud while she was alone in the kitchen a few days ago. 'I wonder what excuses she'll come up with.'" He imitated their mother and they laughed.

Nandipha: "I will study because she's paying I am not. Drive safe and goodnight." She said stepping back and Randall said the words back. Nandipha moved back inside the house after Randall had driven out...

"Mama, you eat first or you'll shower? I will dish the food for you." Nandipha asked Thembelihle who was seated on the couch with the children around her.

Thembelihle: "I will eat first."

Nandipha turned to the kitchen's direction and she picked up her feet as she heard her phone ring inside the kitchen... Luckily, she got to the phone before it stopped ringing. "Yoh! Walking dead, you've been scarce." Nandipha greeted Palesa and she supported her phone with her shoulder while she was looking for the two plates inside the cupboards.

Palesa: "No, you've been scarce mam, akere

you are rolling with Mujo now. I am no longer important to you.”

Nandipha laughed. “Uyaphapha! I miss you though, we should meet up because I am done with Mujo now. And what’s happening that side?” She asked and marched to the dining area with the two plates and spoons.

Palesa: “When am I hearing the songs then?”

Nandipha: “You’ll hear the first one and Mr Rasta knows that I did the songs with Mujo but I don’t want us to dwell there.”

Palesa laughed. “I bet you are not the one who told him, right?” She asked.

Nandipha moved back to the kitchen. “No, he learnt from some guy in their guys’ get-together. And he roasted me like you predicted he would.” She told her taking the first pot away from the stove.

Palesa: “He was supposed to fork you but it’s

better that cat is out of the bag. And I am calling you tell you that I got someone who's willing to sell the house to you but she's not in Johannesburg."

Nandipha: "Tjo! Where's the house located?"

Palesa: "It's located somewhere in Pretoria East and do you want to hear the price of the house?" She asked and laughed.

Nandipha: "Okay, why are you laughing? Is it a hundred million?"

Palesa laughed. "No, mama but it's a reasonable price because if you were buying from the agent you were going to buy for more than that." She replied.

Nandipha: "It's how much? And how's she willing to take the money?"

Palesa: "They're leaving the country with her husband but you'll meet to discuss all that. And you'll have to see the house that's R 2 000 000."

Nandipha: “Hmm! Shit!”

Palesa: “It’s reasonable, Nandipha come on! It’s a beautiful house.”

Nandipha exhaled. “Yes, it’s reasonable and it would be much more if I can be able to pay half the price but where can I get so much money?” She asked.

Palesa: “Come on, you’ve sold three books and you’ll still get money from the Department of Education. You’ll get money from the songs and gigs you’ll do with Mujo for song promotion.”

Nandipha: “I hear you but I am not sure about the gigs. Can we meet on Friday and this weekend I am going to a Disney event with the children from KZN and please bring Phemelo along? We will have fun.”

Palesa: “Sharp! Let’s meet on Friday and we will talk but think about this deal tonight just calculate. Alright?”

Nandipha: "Alright, chomee. Kea leboga neh?"

Palesa: "Anytime." She said and they dropped the call. Nandipha then marched to the lounge thinking about the conversation that she just had with Palesa.

"I have set the table you can come and eat."

Nandipha informed Thembelihle and Dalingcebo who were seated together now with the children.

Thembelihle: "We will come."

Nandipha: "Buhle, you all come and finish your food. You were still eating." She reminded the girls and she took Ntokomalo into her arms.

She was seated on the single couch watching the TV as if everyone else wasn't with her.

Nandipha walked back to the kitchen with her.

"You'll finish your food, right?" She asked her and wiped her sweaty nose with her thumb.

Ntokomalo: "Yebo, mama. Cela no bisi mina ayi



juice.”

Nandipha: “But that juice is not sweat Ntoko.” She told her and sat back on the floor. She placed Ntokomalo before her plate.

Ntokomalo: “No, I don’t want it.”

Nandipha: “Okay, I will go take your milk. Eat your food.” She stood up and stopped walking as the others walked inside the dining room. Nandipha only left them seated before their plates. And she went to get Ntokomalo’s milk...

“Similo! Your name should always be in my mouth because you can’t behave. Everywhere, it’s your name that’s being called first. Stop it, man!” She shouted at her, she was inside the bathroom with them. They were lined up to have their teeth brushed before going to bed and Similo had left the line to play with the tap of their bathroom basin. She was turning the water on and off. They could reach the tap

except for Nongcebo, she was a little shorter.

Similo laughed and ran back to the line leaving the tap water running.

Nandipha: “Who’ll close the tap for you?”

Similo: “Thando, hamba!” (Thando, go!) She said to Thando as she was standing next to her on the line and pushed her forward. Thando screamed ‘No!’ and tried to balance but she fell on the floor.

“Hawu!” The other three sisters exclaimed and looked at Thando as she fell. Nandipha closed her eyes shortly knowing that when Thando get up from that floor she wasn’t going to let it slide that easily. Nandipha had Nongcebo before her and she had her toothbrush in her hand.

Buhle: “Thani sholi Mimi!” (Say sorry, Similo)

Similo shook her head and she looked at Thando getting up from the floor. Thando ran to Similo that short distance with a high speed and

full of anger that Similo had hit her. She slapped Similo's chest with both her hands and Similo cried... Nandipha let go of Nongcebo's toothbrush and she rushed to Thando who was still hitting her sister even when she was crying.

Nandipha pulled Thando away from Similo.

"Stop hitting her!" She exclaimed.

Thando: "UNIPHUSHILE NJE! WANASHO NOKUTHI SHOLI!" (She pushed me and she didn't even say sorry) She raised her voice for her mother.

Nandipha: "Similo say sorry to your sister." She told her as she was still crying with her tiny fists rubbing her eyes. Similo shook her head as crying as she was. "Similo will go and live alone with grandma then because she doesn't listen. She won't go to with us to Disney land." She threatened her and Similo cried louder, she ran out of the bathroom. Nandipha placed Thando down and she proceeded with brushing the

children's teeth...

Nandipha knocked on the guestroom with Dalingcebo after she'd searched for Similo in every room that was upstairs. She was certain that she wasn't going to climb down the stairs alone because it was dark downstairs.

"What's wrong?" Dalingcebo asked Nandipha showing his head on the door.

Nandipha: "I am looking for Similo I can't find her anywhere around here."

Dalingcebo: "She came here crying and she asked that I take her to her grandmother. I sent her down to her."

Nandipha: "Okay, thank you." she said and walked away after Dalingcebo had nodded his head. She walked to her bedroom wondering how she was going to cope being pregnant with these children... When she reached the bed. She threw her body on the bed and hoped she

wasn't going to oversleep...

"Are you angry with me?" Nandipha asked Similo who wasn't talking to her on a Thursday morning but she would only sulk for her and pout her lips. Nandipha luckily didn't overslept because she'd set an alarm to wake up early. She made breakfast before everyone could wake up and Thula had bathed the kids. But when she was feeding them Similo didn't want to be fed by her mother but her grandmother... She was washing the dishes now when Similo walked inside the kitchen with her bowl to give to her mother. "Children shouldn't be angry for too long, Mimi. Don't you know that?" She asked and took Similo's bowl from her hands.

Similo: "Howu, uthe mina anihambi nawe." (You said I won't go with you)

Nandipha: "Awukaze nje nawe uxolise kuisi wakho." (You didn't say sorry to your sister)

“You shouldn’t shout at her that much. I could hear you shout from the bedroom downstairs. She’s just a child.” Thembelihle joined in on the conversation that Nandipha was having with Similo. She placed her plate on the sink where Nandipha was washing the dishes.

Nandipha: “She was aggressive with Thando and she didn’t want to apologise.”

Thembelihle: “But did you reprimand Thando for hitting her? I didn’t hear you shout at her but I heard you shout at Similo. She told me that Thando hit her on the chest repeatedly.”

Nandipha: “I was only going to tell her she was wrong after Mimi had apologised to her because she’s the one who started the fight. Similo doesn’t listen and when she tells the story she tells half of it.”

Thembelihle: “But she’s a child shouting like that is unacceptable. Let’s go, Similo.” She gave

her hand to Similo and she left the kitchen with her.

Nandipha turned to the sink after they've disappeared from her sight. She finished up washing the dishes...

"That means he won't be taking any form of pills?" Nandipha asked the Doctor. She was inside the Doctor's office on a Thursday night. She'd come to the hospital to take Ngcebo because he was being discharged.

Doctor: "No, he has a device and it will do what the pills were doing." He replied showing Nandipha the door because he was done briefing her.

Nandipha went to the Doctor's office the minute she arrived in the hospital and she asked that the Doctor gives her a full brief on Ngcebo's heart disorder. She asked he tells her everything she needed to know and if there were any

habits Ngcebo needed to change. The Doctor explained everything to her and he explained about the device that Ngcebo had installed back. And he assured her that she got nothing to worry about because his arrhythmia wasn't dangerous like the others.

Nandipha: "Thank you, I understand now." she said and gave the Doctor her hand. They shared a handshake, she then left the Doctor for Ngcebo's room. She didn't trust that Ngcebo was going to tell her everything that she needed to know and so, she saw it fit that she gets all the truth about his condition from the Doctor. And now, she was relieved after speaking with the Doctor.

"Sawubona." Nandipha greeted Ngcebo placing her bag on the hospital bed she turned to the beside cupboard that had the dishes. She bonded them together and placed them inside the bag... Ngcebo was seated on the bed



fastening the buttons of his shirt.

Ngcebo: “Yebo, how are you?”

Nandipha: “I am fine and how are you?”

Ngcebo: “I am fine. I was expecting that you’ll come here in the morning when mom and the girls came here with my brother.”

Nandipha: “I had an emergency to attend-”

Ngcebo: “Emergency? Mujo was your emergency?”

Nandipha: “I had to drive to UNISA and I got back about two hours ago. Dalingcebo told me you are being discharged and so, I am here.”

She replied and packed the rest of the blankets and sheets that were on the bed.

Ngcebo: “Similo told me that you said you won’t go with her on Saturday and she’ll have to go live with her grandmother. Mama complained that you were shouting at her and she could

hear you from the bedroom downstairs.”

Nandipha: “Hawu, I shout at them when they do something wrong. And you do that too I don’t think you can actually ask about that because you know how Similo is.” She closed the bag of the blanket and sheets.

Ngcebo: “I know but shouting until you are heard from downstairs that’s another level of shouting Nandipha.”

Nandipha: “The house was quiet-” she stopped explaining further because she saw it was unnecessary that she was questioned about shouting at her daughter. And Ngcebo knew how Similo was but now he was...

Ngcebo: “I thought I should ask not that I am fighting you.”

Nandipha: “Let’s go, I am tired.” She said taking her bag into her shoulder and the blanket’s bag along with the bag with the dishes.

Ngcebo: "I will take these. I am not dying." he said and took the blanket's bag and a bag with a few of his things. They left the hospital...

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"Alcohol doesn't threaten your heart?"

Dalingcebo asked Ngcebo as they got off Ngcebo's black Porsche that Dalingcebo was driving. He'd parked the car at Rose bank Mall... It was Friday morning and they've left the house to have breakfast. They left Nandipha, the children and Thembelihle inside the house. Dalingcebo and Thembelihle were leaving Gauteng tonight and the brothers planned to spend the morning together.

Ngcebo: "Don't ask me those type of questions Dalingcebo. And that's a mocking question because we've been drinking since I don't know when." He replied and Dalingcebo chuckled, he looked around and he saw someone.

Dalingcebo: "It seems like you'll eat this breakfast alone."

Ngcebo: "What do you mean?" he asked and looked at the direction that Dalingcebo's head was turned to and he saw Palesa walking away from her car approaching the entrance of the mall with her hand holding Phemelo. "You can't be serious Dalingcebo!" He exclaimed.

Dalingcebo: "I am serious, Ngcebo. Don't go home because mama will ask questions about my whereabouts but I am following her." he said walking away from Ngcebo giving him no chance to respond to what he was saying.

Ngcebo: "MY KEYS!"

Dalingcebo: "I AM FAR, UBER!" He shouted back him and he ran to keep up because Palesa had already walked inside the mall. He walked around checking for a head with blonde braids. He didn't want to lose her sight and he was

quite worried as he wasn't seeing her on the mall hallways but he finally saw her walking out of the shop. He released a short relief sigh...

"Do you realise that you've made me run after you like a boy. Sawubona, boy!" Dalingcebo said to Palesa as she'd turned to face him now.

Dalingcebo had to hold her arm for her to give him her attention because he didn't want to shout her name amongst these people... He looked at Phemelo whom he'd just greeted and he bent down to lift him up.

Phemelo: "Hello, how are you?"

Dalingcebo: "I am fine, boy, and how are you?"

Phemelo: "I am fine. You're Ntokomalo's uncle and Buhle, and Similo, and Thando, and Nongcebo?" he asked recalling that he knew Dalingcebo.

Dalingcebo chuckled. "Yes, I am and I remember that you are Phemelo." He recalled

with a smile directed to Phemelo and he smiled back looking at his mom. Dalingcebo sent his eyes to Palesa who was walking beside him.

Palesa: "You are here? And why did you run?"

Dalingcebo: "I had to run because I had to get to you and Phemelo. I didn't want to call out your name. Imagine, me, screaming, Palesa!"

Palesa chuckled and realised she felt uncomfortable walking with him side by side like this. And he had her son in his arms. "Oh! I get you but you are here alone? You are not with your brother?" She asked.

Dalingcebo: "That one, he's home sick. He's been in the hospital and I just came here because I wanted some fresh. But I have precious ancestors, they knew I was going to see you if I come this way." He did that trick, a perfected lie meant to get her to smile or giggled.

But she chuckled and shook her head. “Do you realise that Nandipha is my friend and she’s a Zulu girl.” She looked at Dalingcebo shortly after she’d asked that question. She was taking Phemelo to Pizza n Vino for Pizza.

Dalingcebo: “Yeah, but how’s that connected to my words?”

Palesa: “We usually talk about most of the tricks you, Zulu guys use or say to get ladies to smile and she’d told me about that one.”

Dalingcebo seriously laughed as he wasn’t expecting what Palesa was saying to him just now. Palesa on the other side, she folded her lips as Dalingcebo was laughing she didn’t want to laugh with him.

Dalingcebo: “Ay, Nandipha is lying to you. I don’t know why she would say that because I have never even heard her husband approach a woman like that.”

Palesa: “Oh, so, Ngcebo still approaches women?” she asked and they took a table with three seats. But Dalingcebo didn’t put Phemelo on his own seat.

Dalingcebo chuckled. “No, no, now, he doesn’t but when we were growing up into boys I never heard and before Nandipha came along and got him whipped so bad I never heard him.” He replied looking at her and Palesa laughed. Dalingcebo smiled seeing her dimples show. “And I have never said that to anyone before.” He added.

Palesa: “You didn’t say it to your wife and I guess you weren’t whipped like Ngcebo.” She deliberately asked a personal question because she’d read about Dalingcebo’s divorce on the news blogs.

Dalingcebo sent his head down shortly. “Oh, my marriage is coming in now.” He commented and it made him feel rather relaxed and hopeful

as she was bringing in his marriage. That meant something to him not something that Palesa thought it would mean when she speaks about it...

Palesa: "It's a sensitive topic?" she asked and gave Phemelo her phone to play a game as they were waiting for their order. She saw her son wasn't talking now as she was busy speaking with Dalingcebo. He took the phone from his mother and he began playing the game while seated on Dalingcebo.

Dalingcebo: "Not really but I was actually whipped very bad that I wanted her to have all the happiness in the world. But it didn't work out."

Palesa: "It didn't work out because of the other woman?"

Dalingcebo: "No, not because of her. I am pretty sure your questions come from the articles that

had been leaked about the divorce.” He looked at her with a firm eye and Palesa didn’t remove her eyes from him.

Palesa: “I am that girl who reads everything. And I can see you won’t send out any comment to the public.” She replied indirectly.

Dalingcebo: “I can hand out my comment to you not the public.” He looked at her and waited for a response or a reaction but Palesa didn’t comment. She only pressed her eyes on the pizza that was placed before them. “You’ll put the phone down now and eat.” He said to Phemelo who wasn’t taking note of the food that his mother was giving to him. But only the phone.

Palesa looked at Phemelo knowing that he was going to refuse to give the phone to Dalingcebo but he didn’t refuse. He gave the phone to him.

Palesa: “You are also playing the game?” she

asked as Dalingcebo was tapping on her phone. She was expecting that he was going to give it to her.

Dalingcebo: “No, I am just exiting the game.” He replied and gave the phone to Palesa after he’d sent a ‘please call me’ to his number. “You are not working, today?” He asked taking a bite on the pizza that was his.

Palesa: “Yeah, I was supposed to meet up with Nandipha but she told me she’s busy. But I will see her tomorrow, your brother’s children are coming here.”

Dalingcebo: “Which brother? It’s only two of them who don’t have children.”

Palesa: “The Monarch.”

Dalingcebo: “Oh, I didn’t know about that. You live with your family?”

Palesa: “No, I live with this one here.”

He kept quiet and looked at her not really pleased that she was living alone. "Do you have a boyfriend?" He asked without looking at her.

Palesa laughed. "I won't answer that question." She said.

Dalingcebo: "I will take it as if you have one then."

Palesa: "If you want to believe that."

Dalingcebo: "I am still going to ensure that you remain by my side though as my girlfriend not your boyfriend's girlfriend. I don't intend to respect your boyfriend if you have one."

Palesa: "And what makes you think I will allow that?"

Dalingcebo chuckled and he looked at her. "I am not thinking I mean there's nothing that makes me think like that. But I know you'll allow me to be a part of your life." he replied and Palesa didn't comment. Dalingcebo then shifted his

focus from Palesa and he held a conversation with Phemelo which was quite difficult because Phemelo only understood the quintuplets' way of speaking not this grown IsiZulu that Dalingcebo was speaking. But Palesa would translate for her son when he couldn't hear him.

"I can see language will be a problem when I speak with Phemelo not with you because you can speak quite well. I must say." Dalingcebo commented to Palesa and he lifted Phemelo from his chair. Dalingcebo had paid the bill that Palesa didn't want him to pay but he overpowered her.

Palesa: "You were just seeing him today."

Dalingcebo: "Does Nandipha know your language?"

Palesa: "Yes, she does." She replied and that weird feeling hit her again as they walked side to side with Dalingcebo heading out to the

parking lot... And they had someone who'd seen them together...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 12

Nandipha squeezed her lower body onto the blue jeans and she closed her eyes shortly after she'd fastened the button. She grabbed the brown long sleeve baggy shirt and she placed it on her upper body. She wore her slippers and she walked out of the closet heading downstairs because Prince and Bongani had arrived in the house... Ngcebo and the girls were not back yet.

"Sanibona, we have the princes in the house."
Nandipha greeted Mlamuli's sons as they were

seated on the high chairs having food prepared by the maid.

Boys: “Unjani, mama ka Similo?”

Nandipha: “I am fine and how are you?”

Boys: “We are fine.”

Prince: “Where are the girls?”

Bongani: “Yes, the house is very quiet. They’re sleeping?”

Nandipha smiled and opened the deep freezer. “They drove to the airport with their father but I think others are sleeping. Your grandmother and Qalokuhle’s father, they were here.” She replied and she turned back to look at the boys because she didn’t know what she was supposed to cook for dinner.

Boys: “Oh!”

Nandipha: “What would want to have for dinner? I will cook what you want.”

Prince smiled and looked at Bongani, he jerked his head for him. Prince whispered to Bongani's ear. And Bongani sent back the whisper.

Prince: "Steam bread and mutton stew."

Bongani: "Don't put vegetables, please."

Nandipha laughed. "Thando won't like that dish without vegetables but when I dish food for you, I won't put the vegetables. How's that?" She asked Bongani.

Bongani: "Yes, thank you."

Nandipha then turned to the freezer for mutton and mixed vegetables. She decided using self-raising for steam bread was going to be much easier. She began cooking while Bongani and Prince were eating...

Bongani and Prince left Nandipha for the lounge when they were done with eating. She took their dishes and cleaned after them...

“Mama, nilambile.” (I am hungry) Thando told her mother standing behind her. They’ve just woken up with Ntokomalo and Thando headed to her mother while Ntokomalo was taken to the bathroom by Thula for a bath.

Nandipha turned to look at her. “You are wearing your panties only. Thando, you didn’t pee on your bed?” She asked seeing that Thando wasn’t dressed up. She marched closer to her and touched her.

Thando: “Anichamanga, mama.” (I didn’t)

Nandipha: “Good girl. I am cooking I will give you instant porridge because we will have dinner very soon. You were sleeping alone?” She asked, she looked around the kitchen and she saw the newspaper. She took the newspaper and she placed two sheets on the kitchen island. She then lifted Thando up and placed her on the newspaper on top of the kitchen island.

Thando: “Benilele, no Ntoko kodwa yena uyogeza manje. Uphi ubaba, no Mimi, no Buhlezi, no Nongcebo?” (I was sleeping with Ntokomalo but now, she’s bathing) She took her milk bottle from her mother’s hands.

Nandipha: “Alright. They went to the airport.” She replied taking her phone to check the time and it hit her that it was very late. They were supposed to be back. She dialled Ngcebo’s number and placed the phone on her ear. But she removed the phone when she heard the noise from the other side, the entrance of the house. She figured they were home...

“I was calling you just now.” Nandipha told Ngcebo as he walked inside the kitchen while Nandipha was feeding Thando instant porridge.

Ngcebo: “We drove to Nhlakanipho and you’ll have to go with him tomorrow.”

Nandipha: “Alright, I hope I will find a ticket for

him. I was supposed to think of him earlier but he didn't cross my mind."

Ngcebo: "You were not given enough time." He said to her and he looked at her shortly, Nandipha moved to the pots. Ngcebo turned his head to look at Thando. "Sawubona, nkosazana yami yakwa Zulu. Sawubona, nkosazana emnyama kodwa efana nomfazi wami omhlophe." He played with Thando tickling her cheeks and her tummy with his fingers. Thando laughed loudly and placed her hands on her tummy that her father was tickling harder.

Thando: "Baba!" she called him out and giggled loudly, she looked at him and Ngcebo had a smile on his face looking at his daughter.

Ngcebo: "Ngiyakubingelela nje." (I am greeting you)

Thando: "Uyanikitaza!" (You are tickling me)

Ngcebo: "No, I am greeting you."

Thando: “Baba?”

Ngcebo: “Hmm?”

Thando: “Yini, umfazi?” (What is umfazi?)

Ngcebo chuckled. “Umfazi umama wakho.” (It’s your mother) he replied and looked back at Nandipha. Ngcebo and Nandipha laughed.

Thando: “Niyahleka nje, baba.” (But you’re laughing)

Ngcebo: “Yes!” he said and tickled Thando once again.

Nandipha: “Thando was eating. The three sisters you were with are all awake?” she asked putting the bowl of porridge away because Thando had lost all concentration on the food. She was on her father.

Ngcebo: “Yes, they’re all awake and I sent them to have a bath because you were not going to be happy when you see them.”

Nandipha: "What did you give them?"

Ngcebo: "Nothing illegal." He replied and he slipped his hands under Thando's arms. He lifted her off the island. "Let's go, Thando, you should bath and dress up. Angifuni ugule ngoba uzokhala umfazi wami." (You'll be sick because my wife will cry) He said to his daughter and he left the kitchen to give Thando to Thula...

Nandipha finally finished cooking and she prepared the table...

"Where's your mind?" Ngcebo asked Nandipha, he joined her in bed at 10pm. All the children were sleeping... Nandipha was moistening her hands but her eyes were not on the hands.

Nandipha: "Why are you asking?"

Ngcebo: "I can see that you are distracted."

Nandipha: "It's nothing. I was just thinking randomly, nothing valuable that I can actually share." She looked at him as he laid his head on

her lap. Nandipha placed her hands on his forehead. Ngcebo closed his eyes.

Ngcebo: “How do you feel about having more babies?”

Nandipha: “I am not ready and I am not happy.” She replied honestly telling him what she was thinking now.

Ngcebo: “Hawu!” he looked at her and got up from her thighs he looked at her with his heart having a short pump because he didn’t expect this.

Nandipha: “I have just got my shape back and it’s not even fully back, Ngcebo and I am pregnant again. The house will be full than it already is. I thought having another baby meant when the girls are 5 years old maybe that time they would be in school. I would be able to concentrate on the new baby. I would have had time to myself and doing things I like.”

Ngcebo: “What do you think we should do then now because the babies are here? Nandipha, what do you want? Huh?”

Nandipha: “I am sharing my worries with you I am not saying to you shout at me as you are doing right now. If you won’t have an open mind and talk to me then we can just sleep.”

Ngcebo sighed. “I am sorry. Look, my fohloza, I know this is not what you wanted and I didn’t expect it because I knew you were not ready for it. But now, there’s nothing we can do to change it. Once you give birth, we will send the girls to day care because it will be impossible to have so many babies under your care from morning till night. We can’t ask mama to take some of them because you know they can’t go there.” Ngcebo said.

Nandipha: “No, I don’t want them to go anywhere. I won’t even take them to mama because I want to raise them myself.”

Ngcebo: "There's nothing wrong with accepting help or asking for it."

Nandipha: "No, Ngcebo, I don't want that. I want them here with us."

Ngcebo: "Alright then, we will make this work and we won't repeat the mistakes we did the last time. If something is bothering you, just tell me. Remember how having the girls almost ended our relationship."

Nandipha: "I will speak to you and don't shut me out even if you feel like you are having money strains, I would appreciate you telling me the right way. I will also work next year even though I will be working from home which won't be the same. But I really want to be home with them."

Ngcebo: "It's okay. I don't want to hurt your feelings like I did before. Come." He removed the covers and Nandipha got off the bed. He laid down and Nandipha joined him laying her

head on his chest.

Nandipha: “And work, your work stress? Let’s talk about that.”

Ngcebo: “I spoke with my manager on Thursday and we have found a solution. He came to see me in the hospital because we had a schedule. He thinks the problem is not with time balance but it’s how I haven’t wrap around the change. My mind has been all over the place about work.”

Nandipha: “But how’s it going with the line?”

Ngcebo: “It’s heading on the right direction. We will have some good money.” He said pulling her ears and Nandipha laughed.

Nandipha: “As if it will be spent on us. When was the last time you bought me a gift?” She asked and looked at him as Ngcebo was laughing. “I asked.”

Ngcebo: “I don’t remember when, babe. But I

bought the frame I broke.”

Nandipha: “That’s not a gift!”

Ngcebo: “I will get you gifts but I also don’t remember when you last bought me a gift. Let’s sleep now I am sleepy.”

Nandipha: “Ngiyakuthanda Rasta.”

Ngcebo: “Ngiyakuthanda nami Rastakazi. Let’s have a prayer.” He suggested and they sat up straight to pray...

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“I wasn’t expecting you’ll come. Ubaba (Dalisu) and our king were here yesterday.” Danielle told Thembelihle who was standing next to her hospital bed on a Saturday morning...

Thembelihle and aunt Nomkhosi had just got to the hospital to check on Danielle. They’ve greeted each other and aunt Nomkhosi was seated on the chair next to the bed.

Thembelihle: "I was going to come see you on Thursday but I had to rush to Johannesburg. Have this, I cooked it for you. It's very healthy, it will give you energy. I passed by the hotel to warm it up because you should have it hot." she placed the soup on Danielle's hands.

Danielle took the soup that was on the Tupperware lunchbox. "Thank you, mama. But what was happening in Johannesburg? Is everything alright?" She asked and took the spoon that was on the utensils.

Aunt Nomkhosi: "Ayi, MaNkosi, don't have the soup using a spoon but rather drink it hot. You are an adult not a child."

Thembelihle: "Awu, aunt let her have it the way she wants."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "It will turn cold MaSthole."

Danielle smiled. "It's okay, I will have it the way you say, aunt." She said and drank the soup like

aunt Nomkhosi had suggested.

Thembelihle: “Ngcebo was in the hospital and that was the only reason I had to go to Johannesburg. I flew with Dalingcebo.”

Danielle: “Hawu, how’s he now? He’s fine?”

Thembelihle: “Yes, he’s alright and you, how are you? Why did you hide such a thing from us? We are your family.”

Aunt Nomkhosi: “And even if you didn’t tell us but your husband, MaNkosi?”

Danielle: “I didn’t want him to invest all focus on me and neglect the kids.”

Thembelihle: “That was good of you but you were supposed to tell him and when you see he’s lacking focus on the kids then tell him.”

Danielle: “It’s really difficult to convince Pearl’s father otherwise, mama. He normally does things his way and wouldn’t listen when he has

made up his mind. I didn't want to be in that situation."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "Ayi, a wife shouldn't hold on to that about her husband but you should know how to make him do the right thing."

Thembelihle: "Aunt is right. These men are stubborn but you should know how to soften him just like you do with your Pearl when she's being stubborn."

Danielle looked down and folded her lips. "I will remember that next time." Danielle said to the two women with her.

Thembelihle: "Does that mean you'll come back home?"

"You don't know, mama?" Danielle looked at Thembelihle and she smiled.

Thembelihle: "I don't know about what?"

Danielle: "Happiness came here to see me on

Wednesday, she was with her children and she told me that she will come back home if I come back.”

“HHAYBO!” Thembelihle surprised and she looked at aunt Nomkhosi, she wasn’t told about this. And even when she called Mnotho to check on him on Thursday, Mnotho didn’t tell her that Happiness had said this. She got home Friday night and she was with her grandchildren, Qalokuhle and Siphosami and she spent the rest of the night with her husband only to wake up on Saturday and drive to Durban with aunt Nomkhosi.

Aunt Nomkhosi: “We didn’t know about this.”

Danielle: “Yes, she said as I am sick we will live together in her house with our four children and husband. They will look after me until I am fine, then I will go back to my house and she’ll remain to her house.”

Thembelihle: “Hawu! Hawu! Hawu!”

Aunt Nomkhosi: “That’s the most precious and selfless thing I have heard, uMaMthimkhulu, bakithi.”

Danielle: “I couldn’t believe her.”

Thembelihle: “I don’t even know what to say. Where’s she?”

Danielle: “They haven’t come here this morning but they’ve been busy with the Doctors. We are going home, today.”

Thembelihle closed her eyes shortly and held aunt Nomkhosi’s hand. Thembelihle requested that they pray. Aunt Nomkhosi then held Danielle’s hand and the three of them prayed... Thembelihle felt the joy deep within her heart and she was in awe of Happiness’s selflessness. She couldn’t believe she’d promised Danielle such a thing and there was no doubt in her heart about Happiness fulfilling

her promise. She knew that she was going to do what she'd promised. She was certain that Happiness was going to stand by her word without giving up. She was a woman unlike others and Thembelihle was certain that she wasn't just a blessing to Mnotho but to the entire family and the entire kingdom... She was going to ensure that she prays for her because Happiness was going to need the strength. She was going to need the strength because looking after a sick person had never been a walk on the park. She was going to pump her daughter in-law with prayer and Danielle was going to beat this tumour...

She had her handbag on her shoulder and both her children were in Mnotho's arms. They didn't want to walk on their feet but they wanted to be up in their father's arms... It was a Saturday and today, they were heading back home. They've been in the hotel since Wednesday and they've



finalised everything in two days for Danielle to go back home and proceed with treatment.

Happiness: “We will have to drive back to Danielle’s home? Pearl is over there and we shouldn’t stay another day in Durban.”

Mnotho: “Her grandmother said they will be here when we leave.”

Happiness: “We didn’t talk about who’ll drive her car because she can’t possibly drive the car on her own. She’s not that strong in my eyes.”

Mnotho: “You told me to organise someone in the morning. Don’t you remember?” He looked at her, they were walking to Danielle’s ward.

Happiness: “I did?”

Mnotho: “Yes, why does it seems like you are already stressed and we haven’t even spent a month with MaNkosi as a sick woman.”

Happiness: “What the Doctor told us and

showed us yesterday, it really got to me and I am really hoping that she won't reach those worst stages."

Mnotho: "She won't and if she wasn't afraid she was going to have to do surgery. It's the best thing I see fit, MaMthimkhulu."

Happiness felt her heart jerk as Mnotho randomly called her like that. It dug the old times when he would call her like that and she would feel like his real wife even though she wasn't. She knew she fell under those Zulu women who did love being called by pet names by their partners but when they call them by their maiden names. Something different awakened within them. It tingled their heart but today, Happiness's heart only jerked, just once!

Happiness: "We can't force her to do that but she must run with her choice and we will support her."

Mnotho: "You are right and I am hoping that when it gets tough you won't keep quiet and be someone who has it all pulled together."

Happiness: "How can I possibly break in front of a sick person?" She looked at him shortly as Mnotho was saying these words to her.

Mnotho: "You'll can break to me. I won't tell her you are breaking." He said to her and he sent his eyes on her direction but Happiness didn't raise a comment. She kept her eyes forward. "Or you can break to Nkosazana or mama because you are close with them. I really don't want you to carry burdens and so, you'll have to share it if you feel them." he added as she wasn't raising a commenting to offloading to him.

Happiness: "I will do that." She promised... They reached Danielle's hospital room and she was dressed up with her mother, siblings and daughter in the room with her. Happiness and

Mnotho greeted the family.

Nonjabulo: “Baba, there’s Pearl! Put us down now.”

Njabulo: “Yes! Yes!”

Mnotho: “You don’t want to be in my arms now because there’s Pearl?”

Pearl: “DADDY!” She patted her father’s thigh repeatedly as he wasn’t putting her siblings down. She’d left her grandmother’s side the minute she saw Nonjabulo and Njabulo...

Mnotho placed the children down and they got to greet each other... Mnotho and Happiness greeted Danielle and the family.

Sheila: “It’s time to go now? Your mother was here, Mnotho. But I only met her on the door when she was leaving. She said she’s driving back home.”

Mnotho: “She didn’t tell me that she’ll be coming.” He looked at Happiness and his eyes

asked her the question he was hoping he wouldn't ask loud.

Happiness: "She didn't tell me she'll be coming either. And it's been a while since I spoke with her." she replied to his question.

Danielle: "I have submitted everything and what we need to do is leave."

Junior: "You'll call us when you get home and please, don't hide things."

Danielle: "Junior!"

Sheila and her children: "YES!"

Mnotho: "I will ensure that we tell you everything about her progress."

Happiness: "And you can come visit her. I am sure that's something she will really need, something we will all need."

Sheila: "You are right, Happiness. We will do that."

Hannah: "You really have a good heart and thank you for doing this for our sister. God will bless you."

Siblings: "Yes, thank you."

Happiness: "You don't have to thank me but let's get out of this place."

Mnotho: "Yes!" he took Danielle's bag that was on the bed and Happiness placed Danielle's handbag on her lap as she was on the wheelchair. Junior then pushed the wheelchair and they all left the hospital with the nurse who was going to take the wheelchair once Danielle was in the car...

"The house is clean. I was worried about cleaning it." Happiness commented looking around her house that was shingly clean. She had two suitcases in her hands, she was the one who opened the house. Mnotho was still outside unbuckling the children off their seats.

They've just arrived KwaNongoma.

Happiness placed Danielle's suitcases inside the guestroom that was cleaned and had a fresh smell. Happiness was certain that Nkosazana might have been the one who organised someone to clean the house. She moved out of the room and she met up with Mnotho who had Nonjabulo and Pearl in his arms. They were dead sleeping and Njabulo was also sleeping back in the car.

Mnotho: "They'll sleep alone?"

Happiness: "I think the three of us will have to discuss sleeping arrangements and I will have to call mama, to tell her that we are here.

Siphosami should come and be with us."

Mnotho: "I will put them in your room for now then. You can take Njabulo."

Happiness: "No, you'll take him."

Mnotho: "Hawu! What about working together?"

Happiness: “No, carrying heavy children is a man’s job.” She said and walked away from him pretty fast. Mnotho was looking at her as she walked away, he chuckled and turned to Happiness’s bedroom to put the children on the bed...

“Why don’t you decide how we should sleep because you are the owner of the house and you know it better?” Danielle asked Happiness, she was looking at her. Happiness and Danielle were seated in one couch and Mnotho was seated on the single couch. They were discussing sleeping arrangements...

Mnotho: “I thought I was the husband and I should decide. Why am I not given that chance?” He looked at Danielle and she laughed, he looked at Happiness and she was shaking her head without laughing.

Happiness: “The wife runs the house and I know my house.” She said looking at Mnotho with a



firm eye... Mnotho folded his lips and he didn't say anything but if it was the two of them he would have long teased her using her words. But now, now was not the time for that. "I will sleep with the girls and the boys will share Njabulo's room. And you two can share the guestroom." She said.

Danielle: "No, that would be inappropriate. Pearl will sleep with me and their father will sleep alone or with the boys. I don't think it's fair that he sleeps in my room while we are in our house."

Happiness looked at Mnotho and he had his head laid back on the couch with his eyes closed. Happiness realised she didn't think about sleeping arrangements when she decided this and maybe she was supposed to say Mnotho was going to sleep in Danielle's house. But... what harm was it going to do? She asked herself looking at Mnotho and she wondered

what was inside his mind now because he wasn't speaking.

"You are comfortable with that, Mnotho?"

Happiness asked out loud and Mnotho opened his eyes, he looked at them.

Mnotho: "Yes, I am comfortable with it. I will sleep with the boys in the second guestroom."

He replied but he wondered if this really meant he wasn't going to sleep with any of them until Danielle recovers. It was out of question for Happiness because he still had to work to win her and reach that stage of sharing a bed with her. But Danielle? They weren't in that state of not sharing a bed. Hey, look at him now, his nature is doing him otherwise! This was not the time to think like this but he was supposed to be grateful they were all under the same roof...

Happiness: "Alright, that's sorted. I will go pack the groceries. I think you have to shower and I will cook." She said and walked to the kitchen

leaving them...

Mnotho: "Let's take you to the bathroom."

Danielle: "No, hey, this man! I can walk and you sit!"

Mnotho: "I am being detected over here."

Danielle: "Enjoy it." She giggled and got up from the couch on her own. She slowly walked away from the lounge... Mnotho looked at her as she walked away and he hoped she was going to live...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 11

She sat down on her bed with her bag on a Friday afternoon. She'd just put the girls to sleep for the day but Thando wasn't asleep. She was downstairs with her grandmother.

Dalingcebo and Ngcebo were not back yet.

Nandipha opened her bag and she took out her scan picture. She looked at it quietly. "I really didn't expect that I'll be carrying you, two this time of the year. I knew, that your father was going to want another baby and I was certain that we will have one baby because we were going to go to the clinic this time around. But hey, sometimes when you plan God would have long planned. I was told I have the two of you inside me. I can't say I was happy but I was worried I am still worried. You are here now and as your mother I will protect you two until you land into my hands. You'll join our medium crazy family." She spoke on her own speaking to the babies she laughed when she was done. She saw the need to speak because she hadn't really show any reactions to her pregnancy. And she didn't know which emotions to reflect, she couldn't strongly say she was happy and she

couldn't strongly say she was angry. But she was worried if she was going to cope with being pregnant and looking after her girls. But she was certain about one thing, Ngcebo was going to be happy... Nandipha placed the picture back on the bag and she took her phone that was on the bed. She answered the phone call.

Nandipha: "Hello, Pal."

Palesa: "How are you?"

Nandipha: "I am exhausted and how are you?"

Palesa: "What have you been doing? I am fine."

Nandipha: "I can't even tell you but I really think my mother in-law has a serious problem with me. She's all up in everything I do even the way I speak with my children and Ngcebo. We were talking inside the kitchen with Ngcebo and she walks in, we didn't stop talking. She budes in, on the conversation and tell me I shouldn't speak like that with my husband. Hhaybo! I

don't know what's her problem for real. I have been going up and down."

Palesa: "That's disappointing! But you had a good relationship before."

Nandipha: "Yes, but she suddenly changed out of nowhere since that night you were here and up to date. I don't even waste my time calling her."

Palesa: "Why don't you ask her what's wrong? You've never had a difficulty speaking to her before and what can stop you now?"

Nandipha: "'I have never' that's the past Palesa. Anyway, enough, what's happening? I am sorry that I ditched you today."

Palesa: "You ditched and sent your brother in-law up in my ass."

Nandipha laughed. "Wait, what do you mean by that now?" she asked.

Palesa: “Phemelo and I, went out for breakfast, just pizza and he was there before us telling me he’s been running after me because he didn’t want to scream my name. I was so uncomfortable walking with him and he had my son in his arms. And had breakfast with us.”

Nandipha: “Who’s that brother in-law, Banele?”

Palesa: “The twin brother, Dalingcebo!”

Nandipha laughed and placed her hand on her eyes. “You are kidding and where was his twin brother because they left together for breakfast?”

Palesa laughed. “Jesus! He said Ngcebo is home sick. He lied!”

Nandipha: “And what were you talking about? Is he into you?”

Palesa: “Oh! Yes, and I am telling you this because I can see that he’s actually serious about this. I thought he was just a guy doing

what guys do.”

Nandipha: “Wait, he’s been approaching you and you didn’t tell me?”

Palesa: “Girl, please! I am telling you that I didn’t think he was serious. He first saw me in your house and when they were there and I was there for a sleepover. And your mother in-law saw us and ask if I knew he was married to your sister. She asked me who I was and what I was doing in your house. And he asked for my number but I didn’t give it to him. He also did say a few words when I was in your house in KZN.”

Nandipha: “Hhaybo! Dalingcebo! Do you like him?”

Palesa: “What? I don’t know, brah. He was married to your sister and he cheated, got a woman pregnant.”

Nandipha: “Don’t count that in, I asked do you



like him?”

Palesa: “Did you know liked Ngcebo after talking to him once or twice?”

Nandipha laughed. “When he first said ‘Sawubona’ I instantly liked him and when he said ‘Can I hug you Miss Zondi’ I was deep in love. Awu, when he asked to buy me perfume, we were married, girl.” She narrated and they laughed with Palesa.

Palesa: “I don’t think I can even like him girl. I don’t want to even try.”

Nandipha: “I understand really but do you want some warning or what can I call it, something that’ll you should expect since you have a Zulu guy on your back? As you are telling me you won’t like him.”

Palesa: “What is it now?”

Nandipha: “If he’s really ‘that’ Zulu man like most of them, he’ll tell you that you won’t stand

in his way of being his girlfriend. You'll find yourself being his girlfriend without planning it but if there's that something you like in him."

Palesa laughed. "Never! Ngcebo did that to you?"

Nandipha: "No, he didn't. Ah! What did he say? He said he'll buy me perfume and he would like to smell it on me over and over again."

Palesa laughed. "That's the same thing, akere?"

Nandipha giggled. "Yeah, you are right. You'll see what to do."

Palesa: "Ey. We will see each other tomorrow. When are the boys coming?"

Nandipha: "Their mother said the driver long left KZN with them."

Palesa: "Alright, we will talk on WhatsApp."

"Sharp, mngani." She said and turned her head to look at the door as it was opened. Ngcebo

walked inside the room and Nandipha removed the phone from her ear. She placed the phone on the bed and her bag where it was.

Ngcebo: "Who's that on the phone that you stopped talking to in my presence?" he asked and went down to remove his sneakers...

Nandipha: "Awu. I was done talking."

Ngcebo: "I asked who were you talking to?"

Nandipha: "Palesa, and when Dalingcebo was busy with Palesa. Where were you because I didn't hear your name being mentioned?"

Ngcebo: "Me?"

Nandipha: "Yes, you, where were you?"

Ngcebo: "I was eating."

Nandipha: "That's incomplete. Where were you and who was eating with you?" she asked looking at him and didn't feel complete that he wasn't answering her straight forwardly and

completely. She grabbed her bag waiting for an answer.

Ngcebo: "I was eating alone and catching up with my phone until Dalingcebo got back from Palesa. What's up with the questions and where are you going with your bag?"

Nandipha: "I am going to mama's house. I want to take the dresses that she bought for me. I want to wear one of them tomorrow. I should start wearing them now. The girls are sleeping now and when Prince and Bongani arrive here I won't get time to leave." she replied and took her phone from the bed.

Ngcebo: "Let me drive you so that you won't stay for long over there."

Nandipha: "No, I won't stay. Mom is at work."

Ngcebo: "No, I am going with you."

Nandipha: "I will just ask Randall to bring them to me then." She changed her mind because

she didn't want to drive with him. It was better to drive alone because she was going to spend a few minutes with her brother because he was home. But with Ngcebo around, she wasn't going to have time to even drink water or eat some food from the kitchen... She placed the bag down and she laid her body on the bed. Ngcebo was looking at her moves.

Ngcebo: "You've been asking me weird questions lately, like, do I miss fucking around, who was I eating with? What did you hear about me? Or who planted this idea in your head? It's like you want to ask me if I am cheating." he asked sitting on the bed next to Nandipha and he placed his hand on her head. He massaged his fingers deep onto her scalp.

Nandipha: "I heard nothing about you, Ngcebo."

Ngcebo: "You never ask me such questions, Nandipha. Who planted this idea in your head? I am pretty sure someone must have."

Nandipha: "I was talking to Duma but we were talking just general about him as a public figure around women and he questioned me if I think you are just faithful to me and me, alone?"

Ngcebo: "Would you forgive me if I can cheat on you? Not just forgive me, but would you still be with me after that?"

Nandipha: "No, I wouldn't."

Ngcebo: "I've hit you once and you saw me with Miranda once, you left me like what we had was just nothing. And I had to know how was life without you. Do you think I want that again?"

Nandipha: "No, but you can hide it."

Ngcebo: "I am a public figure, what if I sleep with someone who'll make it public that, her and I are a thing? I can't take that risk."

Nandipha: "Please, don't do like the last time when there's a downgrade in our sex life just tell me. Don't go get drunk and come back to tell

me I am cold.”

Ngcebo: “I won’t do that again and if there’s a need for us to increase the number of sex toys we have, you can tell me. I wouldn’t mind.”

Nandipha giggled. “Oh! But when I was playing with my dreadlocks on you. You became all defensive and told me about power while I was just playing.”

Ngcebo laughed and pulled her right ear.

Nandipha smiled. “I can only play with your locks anyhow and this conversation is turning me on.” He confessed.

Nandipha: “Don’t even start because they’ll disturb us halfway when you must drive them to the airport. I don’t want that.”

Ngcebo: “We have quickies for a reason. And I can see that you’re showing no compassion about my heart disorder. Is it because I didn’t tell you about it and that’s your way of showing

you are still angry? You were not even there when I had to make a choice of changing the treatment type.”

Nandipha: “How can you decide to shut me out from this and expect me to have a say in something that you didn’t want me to have a say in? I knew nothing about it because you didn’t want me to know.”

Ngcebo: “So, I didn’t know about the songs with Mujo because you didn’t want me to know? That’s what you are saying?”

Nandipha: “Why are you involving Mujo because we are talking about your heart disorder and these are two different things. This was the matter of life and death for you, what if we were somewhere where around the world and something happens to you. And I won’t even know what to do. Did you ever think about that or you thought it was good that you keep me in the dark?”



Ngcebo: "I am sorry, Rastakazi but understand I didn't want you to worry about me all the time. Even when I am not home or out drinking."

Nandipha: "If I don't worry about you, Ngcebo who should worry about you? You share your life with me but I didn't know about this even after being your wife. I was supposed to be told after getting married if you didn't want to tell me as your fiancée. And you always want me to remain the same even after you've said things that hurt me and things that offend me. Even when I am wrong you don't tell me you are angry without insulting me or hurting me."

Ngcebo: "I am sorry. Mama' Zulu. I talk shit when I am angry." He said to her and placed his leg on top of Nandipha's leg. He pulled her closer to him. "But don't hold grudges for me. Your sharp mouth is not attractive when it isn't talking like it usually does." He added.

Nandipha laughed and tried to tickle him around

his ears but Ngcebo didn't give her a chance. He held her left wrist and deepened her lips into her neck. Nandipha's right hand held his shirt. He stopped.

Nandipha: "Do you really think doing songs with Mujo will hurt your brand?" she asked looking at him straight in the eye.

Ngcebo: "I don't know we will see when the songs come out."

Nandipha: "You are still angry with me. I am sorry."

Ngcebo: "You fooled me big time and don't expect me to be happy. If I have to issue a statement I will obviously lie and say I knew just to protect you and my brand, so I wouldn't look like a fool."

Nandipha: "Please, don't speak like that I won't do the video then and I won't do gigs with him. It will end on the songs."

Ngcebo: "You wanted to hurt me for something that I did?"

Nandipha: "No, but I didn't know the beef was deeper than music. And I still don't know can you tell me?"

Ngcebo: "No, there's nothing to tell. If you wanted to hurt me, you did then Nandipha because you refused to sing with me but did sing with my enemy."

Nandipha: "In my mind I had you locking me up and refusing. And Ngcebo you never pressed me seriously with the matter of singing with you."

"Let's stop talking about this. I am not over it yet. I want to have some good sex with you. I had so much fun on Tuesday." He said unfastening her dress.

Nandipha: "They will disturb us."

Ngcebo: "They won't. I will spoon you nice and

slow. I am the hen and you are the chicken.” He said removing his clothes and Nandipha laughed at him senselessly. “What’s funny now?” he asked.

Nandipha: “I can’t ignore this today because it’s not the first time you’ve said this and I don’t want you to say it in the presence of people but I am the hen.”

Ngcebo: “No, how can you be the hen?”

Nandipha: “You’re the rooster/cock and I am the hen.”

Ngcebo laughed with his eyes closed and his body convulsed. “Oh! Iqhude! Neskhekhekazi! Ah!” He recited after her.

Nandipha: “You must go and ask for your change in high school, they played you very bad, Rasta.” She said still laughing and she turned to give Ngcebo her back as they were both naked.

Ngcebo: “Let’s make you moan because you

won't keep quiet about this." he said placing his hand on her breast and she allowed her body to relax... Ngcebo had Nandipha's hand into his hand as he was thrusting on her slowly while they were discussing nothing but what they were doing. "You don't want me to pump you harder?" he asked burying his face on her neck.

Nandipha: "Hmm... No, I want it this slow-" she replied and there was a knock on the door.

Ngcebo and Nandipha didn't respond to the knock but they proceeded with what they were doing without Ngcebo changing his pace.

"Ngcebo-" Thembelihle knocked again on Ngcebo's door and she couldn't speak any further as Ngcebo spoke from inside of the room.

Ngcebo: "Yes, mama! Please, don't come in!" he stopped her quickly because he didn't trust that she wasn't going to open the door.

Thembelihle: “We should leave now and some of the girls are awake.”

Ngcebo: “I am coming!” he raised his voice and when he heard his mother’s footsteps walking away Ngcebo tightened his thrusts and he gave them fast.

Nandipha: “Not... fast like... this!”

Ngcebo: “I should finish up and get up unless if you want me to leave you hanging.” He informed her and loosened up his pace until they were done... “Please, tell Thula to watch over the girls and she can wake me when Bongani and Prince are here. I want to sleep.” She told Ngcebo on her lazy voice while she was pulling the covers. She didn’t get up to get dressed but she was still naked while Ngcebo was getting back on his clothes after cleaning himself inside the bathroom.

Ngcebo: “You’re not driving with us to the

airport? We will go with the girls who are awake and it's still early that you can sleep Nandipha."

Nandipha: "There's no need... for me to drive... with you. I have been going... up and down since morning... and a pregnant woman should rest. Yes, I am pregnant, Rasta and I need to rest." She closed her heavily sleepy eyes.

Ngcebo: "What did you say?" he asked and placed his knees on the bed, he held Nandipha's shoulders and her eyes were closed. "You can't be sleeping in such a short time. Wake up!" He added.

"Baba! Uthi ugogo shiyhamba ishikhathi!" (Dad, granny says, time isn't standing still) Similo shouted for her father and she was knocking on the door while she was passing the message.

Ngcebo: "I am coming! Their flight is not even minutes away. Tell her, I am coming! And stop knocking." he raised his voice for his daughter

that was still knocking at the door even after she'd told her father what her granny said.

Similo: "Yebo." Her footsteps ran away...

"You are really pregnant or it's one of your jokes?" Ngcebo asked Nandipha who was looking at him with sleepy eyes. He could see she was seriously tired but he wasn't about to leave without knowing if she was joking or not.

Nandipha: "Yes, Ngcebo, I am pregnant. I was told the day you were admitted in the hospital. Rasta, go, you are keeping your mother waiting."

Ngcebo: "Wait, why didn't you tell me? I am going to be a father again. How far are you? And babe-" he asked and cuddled her tight into his arms. He kissed the visible flesh of her cheek and he laughed as Nandipha was trying to broke free from him. She was irritated now that he wasn't leaving...

Nandipha: "Ngcebo!"



Ngcebo: “Okay, I will go now but when I come back we will talk and we will tell the girls that they’ll have a sibling.”

Nandipha stood up from the bed and she grabbed the bed cover to cover her naked body. “We can’t tell the girls first that they’ll have siblings but we have to tell Lethukuthula before anyone else and that way he’ll protect his siblings and watch over them. Mama knows because she was in the hospital. But now, Ngcebo go. My big mouth wasn’t supposed to tell you now but when you come back.” She told Ngcebo opening the door for him.

Ngcebo: “Siblings? How many of them?”

“HHAYSUKA! NGCEBO, MAN!” They heard Thembelihle’s voice shout coming from downstairs... And Nandipha gave Ngcebo a dead stare.

Ngcebo: “How many? I won’t go.”

Nandipha: “Two, Ngcebo, go, please!”

Ngcebo smiled and held Nandipha into a hug instead of leaving. He laughed while hugging her. “Sorry, man, you planned we would go to the clinic for egg fertilisation but it didn’t happen. I swear we won’t have other babies after these two. They’re enough now and we will go tell Lethukuthula first.” Ngcebo spoke to Nandipha while holding her as if he had all the time in the world.

Nandipha: “Okay! Okay!” She repeated pushing him back and he ran out of the bedroom.

Nandipha sighed and closed the door. “Please, dear God, let Bongani and Prince get here after hours of my sleep.” She said a short prayer and she laid her body on the bed...

“I could slap you right now. I have been waiting for you, here.” Thembelihle shouted at Ngcebo and she got up from the couch as he was before her.

Ngcebo: "You can't slap a man in his house, mama. Let's go. Where's Dalingcebo? My girls, let's follow, daddy." He announced, the girls, Buhle, Similo and Nongcebo get up from the floor. He wondered looking at his girls, if these two babies would be girls or boys. Oh! God, wouldn't do that to him! But then girls or boys, they were from God! That was a blessing!

Thembelihle: "We are leaving with them? Where's their mother? She won't even say goodbye to us?" she asked and gave her hands to Buhle and Similo. Nongcebo was already by her father's side. They walked out of the house.

Ngcebo: "I found her sleeping. I was busy after taking a shower when you came into our room. I didn't want to wake Nandipha for the airport drive." He replied and spotted Dalingcebo speaking on the phone by the gate.

Thembelihle: "I thought you were going to fly down with me to see your brother's wife who's

in the hospital.”

Ngcebo: “I called bhuti Mnotho last night I can’t go to KZN.” He said and removed the bags from the Maserati he put them on the viano...

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Happiness turned with her bag after she’d excused herself. She wanted to call Mnotho. She was worried now because he wasn’t coming back with the children and it’d been long since he left... Nkosazana left the hospital an hour ago and she left Danielle with her mother and sisters. She’d spoken to Danielle’s mother and she was also doubting what Happiness had promised to do but Danielle assured her mother that the queen gave her, her word that she could trust her. And she referenced that they’ve brought food for her when she had a wound from being shot and couldn’t do things herself...

Happiness sighed as she met up with Mnotho at the exit of the hospital. She was calling him and he wasn't answering his phone. She looked around him standing before him to stop him from passing her and she didn't see her children with Mnotho. "Where are my children?" She asked Mnotho.

Mnotho: "They're in my car. I will go open the car for you." he replied and turned his back on Happiness. He walked out of the hospital and Happiness followed Mnotho behind...

"I have spoken to Ntandokazi and she agreed that we will go back home. And we will stay together in my house. We will have to look after her along with the children and she'll recover. We will have to find a way for her to receive her treatment while she's at home even if it will be expensive." Happiness told Mnotho who had turned from putting Nonjabulo on her car seat in Happiness's car. Njabulo was already inside

the seat. Mnotho didn't have the space to leave because Happiness was just standing behind him.

Mnotho laughed in disbelief as his ears accepted the words that Happiness was saying to him. "It's one of your jokes again. You've seen that I am hurt and down Happiness you don't have to keep kicking me with playing games with me and selling me fairy-tales." Mnotho said to Happiness.

Happiness sighed. "I am not playing a game here but I am being serious. I don't want to keep living in the past and its hurt and anger. I don't want to keep chaining myself with this hate and anger. I forgive you for everything."

Mnotho looked at Happiness and because of the streets lights he could see her face. His gaze concentrated on her and he really couldn't believe that Happiness would do such a thing for him. "You are really not joking?" He asked

and he tightened his two hands into fists because his heart was in actual awe for this woman standing before her. It was not because she was forgiving him but it was because of what she'd just told him about looking after Danielle. Who would do that after everything that he'd done to her?

Happiness: "No, I am not playing a game with you and you can go inside the hospital and ask Ntandokazi or call Nkosazana."

Mnotho: "Can I hug you?" he requested on a soft murmur. He didn't want to hug her without asking for her permission. He didn't know and didn't want to see how she was going to react if he could just hug her.

Happiness looked at Mnotho and she nodded her softly. "Yes, you can hug me." She said the words accompanying the nod.

Mnotho opened his arms and he embraced

Happiness into a hug, she didn't hold him for a few seconds but Mnotho didn't let go even though he didn't feel her arms around him. He held on to her until he felt her arms around him.

Mnotho: "Thank you so much and I owe all my life to you." he said to her but inside his heart he proceeded with making promises that he was going to ensure she was happy. And this time they were going to be living together he was going to ensure that she doesn't wish to head back in her father's house but she was going to live with him forever. He testified it to himself that his ancestors had brought him not just Happiness as her name but they've brought him great fortune. She had a different heart from all the women he'd met.

Happiness: "I am also sorry that your uncle died and everything happened in your wedding because Lonwabo was doing it because of me."

Mnotho: "There wasn't going to be him if I didn't

hurt you. You don't have to apologise because I have hurt you more than you did."

Happiness nodded shortly. "I don't know if I should drive KwaNongoma with the children now or I should stay in Durban for the night. Or you'll need me when you discuss the home treatment plan for Ntandokazi." She wondered.

Mnotho: "Don't drive home now but you can go book into mama's hotel. I have already booked a room for myself. We will have to listen to the Doctor together because we will be together when looking after her."

Happiness: "Okay, I am tired and I want to go rest. You'll make the appointment today so that we won't be delayed tomorrow."

Mnotho: "Alright, drive safe."

Happiness nodded and she moved to the driver's seat, she started the engine of her car. And she drove off with her sleeping children...

Mnotho jogged inside the hospital with a peaceful heart. It was like there was a different breeze around him, a different breeze in his heart. And his hope was strengthened that Danielle was going to live...

She looked at him and she didn't smile, she looked at her mother and sisters who were already on their feet leaving her for the night...

Danielle: "I will see you tomorrow?"

Sheila: "How can you even ask me that question? Yes, I will come back."

Danielle: "Please, bring Pearl tomorrow."

Sheila: "I will bring her." she promised and looked at Mnotho who was looking at Danielle. She called his name and Mnotho looked at her. "I won't shout at you for breaking my daughter's heart once again because your first wife has cleared everything for me. And I will let her go back KwaNongoma because she wants to go

back and it was said that your wife can be trusted.” Sheila said to Mnotho. Danielle had told her mother everything that happened as she was back home now. And Sheila was very angry but she promised herself she was going to speak to Mnotho in person. Now, there was no need for her to speak anything to Mnotho because she had hope everything was going to work out.

Mnotho: “I am sorry.”

Sheila nodded once and she hugged Danielle. She then left the hospital with her two daughters leaving Danielle with Mnotho...

Mnotho: “Please, don’t be angry with me, MaNkosi.”

Danielle: “You say you love me but it’s always easy for you to leave me. It’s always easy for you to break up with me but you love me.”

Mnotho: “MaNkosi-”

Danielle: "But you always tell me about leaving each other with unfinished feelings. You tell me something that you don't do. Or what? You were going to make me your mistress because-"

Mnotho: "No! Please, don't speak like that. I was under pressure to do right and I ended up hurting you. I am really sorry sthandwa sami but you know what? We will fight this as a family and you'll recover."

Danielle: "If I don't?"

Mnotho: "There'll be no 'ifs' Ntandokazi because you'll not die and leave us here. But you will live and we will be happy."

Danielle: "I don't know if I will ever be able to repay Happiness."

Mnotho smiled and he held Ntandokazi's hands. "It's only God who actually repays good by good not us. But all I will want is for us all to live in peace and that means I will want her to remarry

me.” He told her.

Danielle: “We will live in peace. She has given me hope that had died.”

Mnotho held Ntandokazi’s face and she smiled at his eyes that were staring at her. He gave her a brief kiss. “Don’t you ever hide such things from me because when I said in sickness and in health. I meant it.” He said.

Danielle: “I won’t. And don’t leave until I am asleep.” she closed her eyes and made herself comfortable inside his arms...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 14

“You are not working tonight?” Mntwana asked Simthande as they stepped off the shower together... It’d been a few days since Nikhona

came back into Simthande's life and Mntwana was still bothered by what she did. He'd decided that before going out with the guys he was going to ask her.

Simthande: "I am working."

Mntwana: "You'll request an Uber because I won't be able to fetch you."

Simthande: "What do you mean by that?"

Mntwana: "I am going out with the guys I told you."

Simthande: "You can't go to the Fiction. I didn't even comment on that."

Mntwana: "Why not?" he asked and lifted his phone from the dressing table after he'd dried his wet body. They were inside the bedroom. "I am going out with the guys and I don't see anything wrong with that." He added and moved to the wardrobe. He'd planned to have fun with the guys on a Friday night because it'd been a

while since he last went out with them.

Simthande: “Why would you go out without me?”

Mntwana: “Those are your insecurities talking and please, don’t even try to stop me because I will be with my friends.” He told her and he chuckled looking at his phone, he wasn’t really chuckling but he was pretending because this was the only way that he could ask her about her and Nikhona.

Simthande: “What’s there on your phone to titter about?”

Mntwana moved to Simthande’s direction and he looked at her ‘fine butts’ and he was forced to smile. Simthande wasn’t looking at him but she was focused on applying her make up for her day with her sister.

Mntwana stood behind Simthande. “Do sisters really do this thing of testing their sister’s

partners. My friend just texted me that he'd failed a test from his girlfriend's sister. He thought the sister was really into him but she wasn't into him she was just testing him." He asked her holding her waist and he rubbed himself on her butt cheek and he heard a giggle from Simthande.

Simthande: "Your question goes with rubbing your dick on my ass?"

Mntwana: "I am asking a question." He responded and laid his lips on her neck and Simthande held the back of his neck to stop him. "What are you doing now because I am trying to penetrate your emotions?" He asked.

Simthande: "No, I am going out with my sister and I don't want to be late and you shouldn't be late for work. And to answer your first question, my sister and I use to do that to our boyfriends. We would test them just to see how strong and serious they were, about us."

Mntwana: "That's ridiculous but now can we just have some snack of two minutes? I will make it very fast."

Simthande: "You know that you don't last two minutes and last night you went on and on until I was actually tired."

Mntwana: "That was expected because we had quite a number of rounds but I can't get enough of you. Can we really have a quickie?"

Simthande: "No, I am getting dressed and you should do the same." She said and moved away from him telling herself she wasn't about to give him her vagina whenever he wanted it. He was supposed to know that even though she wasn't going to tell him upfront but he was going to know that she could say 'No' whenever she wanted to say 'No'

Mntwana: "You are not being fair." He said feeling relieved that Nikhona was just playing a

game with him. He was relieved that meant Nikhona wasn't going to break Simthande's heart again. He didn't need to worry.

Simthande: "I am being fair, babe. What did your friend's girlfriend do?"

Mntwana laughed and narrated his lie. "She forgave him because you know as a guy, he blackmailed her by saying he wanted to teach her sister a lesson not that he was going to sleep with her."

Simthande laughed. "No, ways and she believed that?" She asked.

Mntwana: "Yes, and they're together. You won't come back here? I can see that you are packing a bag."

Simthande: "I will go to work straight from my sister. Let's go." She placed her bag on her shoulder and she took his office bag. She gave it to Mntwana. "Can we go on a holiday

beginning of December?” She requested what had been on her wishes. She’d wished to go on a holiday with him.

Mntwana: “I normally go home in December and this year my brother is getting married. I will really need to go home.” he told her and they stepped inside the car, Mntwana taking the driver seat.

Simthande: “That means I will be alone here.”

Mntwana: “No, because you have your sister now and you two can come to the wedding. You’ll book into mama’s lodge because I don’t have a house back home. It will be very fun.”

Simthande: “But we can go for a week on a holiday. I know that you won’t just go home by 1 December. Can you think about it?”

Mntwana: “Where do you want to go?”

Simthande: “Zimbabwe!” she replied quickly.

Mntwana: “Whoa! Do you have an ex-lover that you want to follow in Zimbabwe? Why would you reply that quickly?”

Simthande giggled. “No, I have always wanted to visit the country.” She told him and looked at him as they’ve reached the hotel where her sister was.

Mntwana: “I will think about it and you have a good day.” He said and they said a goodbye kiss... Simthande stepped out of the car...

Mntwana and his friends stepped inside the shimmy beach club. They changed last minute with his friends that they were no longer going to the club they have decided on. They were planning on having an absolute ‘guys’ night’ with no women on the VIP section that they’ve planned on occupying... The alcohol was served to them the way they’ve ordered it. They were already talking and laughing, having a good time together while they watched people dance.

“We can have a good time but I won’t go home alone.” Avela a Xhosa guy, one of Mntwana’s friends commented to his friends as he’d seen a beauty. All the three friends looked at him as he was doing what he did best.

“But that wasn’t the plan. Why do you always change our plans because I know for sure that Mntwana will want to follow your footsteps now?” Mark, a coloured guy asked and the other three laughed... They were four guys not really friends like close friends but they worked together in the business industry. They shared things together and fun but Mntwana shared most of his personal life with his brother, Ngcebo.

“Mntwana lives with his girl and that means he has a girl he’s going home to.” Buzwe a Zulu guy, he reminded the other three and they laughed.

Mark: “How’s staying with a woman because all

I know is that you don't want to get married but now you are cohabiting."

Mntwana chuckled. "It's fun and good because I don't have to actually make plans to have sex with her and I think I am beginning to love her not just like."

The guys whistled. "You are just staying with her because of sex not because you love her don't confuse yourself." Avela told Mntwana what he thought.

Mntwana: "It's not like that and look, I really want a serious relationship with her and she lived with me because she didn't have a place to stay."

Buzwe: "If you want a serious relationship with her get her a place where she'll live alone because cohabiting will definitely destroy your relationship."

Mntwana: "How so?"

Avela: “She’ll be all up in your face like your wife and you’ll regret it but if you can have your own space and give her the space she deserves then you’ll be good. You know women can be too much.”

Mark: “You got to take their advices because I agree with them and you know when I agree with something, it always right. And it’s not like you can’t afford to pay for her. She already has funds for her studies next year and as a student she’ll need her space.” He said and they laughed.

Mntwana: “I will talk to her then because I think you have a point. I can’t believe you are giving me sound advices!” he looked at them and they cracked.

Buzwe: “I am taking someone home tonight as well. Mark?”

Mark: “Nah, I will call my girl. I am not in a mood

for someone else.”

Mntwana: “Don’t even ask me.” he said and they all laughed chanting ‘we weren’t’ The guys decided on less talking about girls... What they planned on didn’t happen because they had some beautiful women occupying their space. And they were compelled to share their space with them...

“I will drive you to your place and we’ll have your car follow us. Buzwe will drive the car.”

Mntwana told the caramel tall and thin woman who’d been with them on the VIP section. She wasn’t entirely drunk but she was high from smoking weed with Mntwana and Buzwe by the beach. The three of them left the club for some cool breeze. Mntwana came up with the idea and the woman followed him. Buzwe tagged along because he was running away from some girl that he’d thought he would take home.

Buzwe: “I will?” he asked as he wasn’t expecting

what he was saying.

Mntwana: “Yes, you’ll be a gentlemen and follow us. I will drive you back to your car.” He responded and pulled the woman by her hand.

Neliswa was her name. “You really don’t have to drive me because I am not drunk I just think my head is airy.” She commented as she could hear the two men deciding on driving her to her house.

Mntwana chuckled and opened the passenger door for her. Neliswa stepped inside the car and Mntwana took her car keys, he gave them to Buzwe...

“You better not keep me waiting.” Buzwe said to Mntwana who was walking Neliswa inside her cosy grey coloured mansion located in the Northern Suburbs. Buzwe was walking back to Mntwana’s car after packing Neliswa’s car inside the garage of her mansion.

Mntwana: "I won't be long." He shouted for him and closed the main door of the house that looked stylish and feminine showing she lived alone. Mntwana looked at her as she was laughing he decided that he was going to carry her to any room that he saw as a bedroom. The mansion wasn't a double story. He carried her into his arms and he walked around the house asking her about the master bedroom and he finally found it.

"You have strong arms." She commented as Mntwana was laying her down on her king size bed covered in white. She held Mntwana's arms and looked into his eyes. "It gets lonely here and would you spend the night with me?" she requested on a polite voice and hooked her leg on his waist.

Mntwana: "You are high and I think you need to sleep." He informed her and tried to let her hands loose but she didn't let go of his arms.

She instead pulled Mntwana's face inviting it closer to hers. Mntwana didn't toughen up but he relaxed and he allowed her to kiss him. He kissed her full pink pasted lips back without giving it a thought. They shared a teasing kiss that had a number of pausing and Mntwana was conscious of what was happening. Neliswa was conscious of what was happening.

Neliswa: "You don't mind, do you?" she asked without looking at him but she was hoping that he would agree because she was horny from the kiss.

Mntwana: "Do you have condoms?"

Neliswa: "Yes, I have them and I don't know if you are comfortable with tongue kissing?" she asked looking at him now and Mntwana didn't answer her but he smashed his lips on her lips. He knew his friend was waiting for him but he couldn't say 'no' to this woman because she looked appetising.

Mntwana unzipped Neliswa's pink leather jacket and his eyes set on her small sized breast that were on a black bra. He smiled as she wasn't wearing any shirt beneath the jacket. They undressed one another without any rush.

Neliswa: "Do you remember your friend?"

Mntwana: "Yes, I remember him and he has my car keys. If he's clever he'll figure out what's happening. He'll either request Uber or drive my car."

"That's fine, then." She said and turned her head to bedside drawer she stretched her arm and opened it to look for condoms. "Here." She gave them to him and Mntwana took the condoms from her.

Mntwana: "You normally do this?" he asked putting it on.

Neliswa: "Do you normally agree when they ask you to? Do you normally put women on their

beds?" she answered him with a question.

Mntwana: "You tempted me with your eyes."

Neliswa: "I didn't force you."

Mntwana separated her legs looking at her face and he rubbed himself on her entrance. He wasn't about to exercise all his foreplay on her. He could see that she was just a woman who was dying from salt. He looked at her as she closed her eyes giving his ears a different kind of moans. In his ears it sounded like she wasn't responding to a sex pleasure but some rhythm. Mntwana smiled and rushed to enter her because he wanted to hear her when he was inside her. He lifted her single leg and he placed it on her upper body. Slowly and gentle he thrust inside her and he looked at her hands as they grasped on her bedsheets.

Mntwana groaned as he was inside her and he folded her leg laying it at the back on her thigh.

His upper body laid on hers but his left hand holding the folded leg, he began thrusting on a smooth pace and his eyes looked at her.

Mntwana: "Can you open your eyes?" he requested on a thick, heavy voice but Neliswa didn't open her eyes. Mntwana stopped thrusting on her.

She opened her eyes. "What's... wrong?" She asked panting she sucked her lower lip looking at Mntwana's wet chest but he wasn't give her hard thrusts.

Mntwana: "I said open your eyes."

Neliswa: "Why? Are you intending on falling in love with me?"

Mntwana chuckled. "They told you like that?" He asked.

Neliswa: "Don't you know that, it's easier to fall in love with someone when you gaze into their eyes while having sex especially slow motion

sex?”

Mntwana: “It had happened to you, before?”

Neliswa: “Yes, and allow me to close my eyes because this will be a one-night thing. I am sure you won’t come back the next day.”

Mntwana: “And if I want to come back?”

Neliswa: “I won’t open my eyes still. And please, make me feel good like you were doing. I love it.” She requested pulling his neck to kiss him but he didn’t agree that she kisses him. “What’s wrong?” she asked.

Mntwana: “I want to hear your voice.” He told her and proceeded with his slow thrust. Neliswa began moaning as she felt good again...

Mntwana pulled the other leg and within a second he had both her legs folded before her and he thrust onto a tight harder and he groaned deeply feeling excited inside her.

“EH! EH! EH! EH!” Neliswa rhythmically moaned

louder as she felt her walls close in around him sharply but he stopped. She opened her eyes and she saw a smile from his face. But she didn't ask anything this time around. She didn't know what he was doing now and she didn't want to keep asking. She closed her eyes again as he began thrusting once more... Mntwana rubbed his thumb on Neliswa's clitoris while he was busy thrusting harder. He wanted to give her an intense climax just to hear cum...

Neliswa screamed louder and she let all the pressure of her climax release. She vibrated as she gave an explosion of a squirt. Just like a kitten she cried letting her emotions rest and she heard Mntwana chuckle proudly... She kept her eyes closed.

Mntwana: "How long has it been?" he asked moving away from her and he searched for a towel around her room.

Neliswa: "How long has it been, what?" she

asked looking at her wet bed and she smiled as she couldn't remember when last did a man make her feel this good. She was laying on her bed still with her legs vibrating and him walking around the room looking for something. She admired his body.

Mntwana: "You, without having sex? You looked so vulnerable and that was just my lowest performance." He said sitting on the bed as he'd looked for a towel that wasn't around the room.

Neliswa laughed. "You are trying to make fun of me because you can have sex whenever you want?" She asked and sat up now.

Mntwana: "No, I was asking."

Neliswa: "It's been a while. I think I should change the bed and you can go check on your friend. If he's still here I will expect that you won't come back."

Mntwana: "And you'll expect me to come back if he's not here." Neliswa nodded and got up from the bed. She removed the bedcovers looking at him. "If I may ask, though!" Mntwana added.

Neliswa: "Yes."

Mntwana: "How old are you? I know you might not like-"

Neliswa: "I am 30 years old and you are?"

Mntwana laughed and didn't answer her because he couldn't believe that she was actually 30 years old. And his guess was, she was lying. "You are joking."

Neliswa marched to her bag and she took out her ID, she threw it at him. And Mntwana confirmed that this woman before him was 30 years.

Neliswa: "How old are you?"

Mntwana: "What do you think?"

Neliswa: "I can't judge you by your looks and body structure because everyone tells me that I am lying if I tell them I am 30 years. The public thinks I am lying as well and that means I can't tell by looking at you."

Mntwana: "I am 29 years and by public what do you mean?"

Neliswa: "You also don't look 29 years and by public I mean people. I am known by the modelling agency that I run and I co-own a number of hotels."

Mntwana: "Oh! No wonder your body-"

Neliswa: "No, don't say that because I am naturally slim and I don't even eat like models should eat. And yet I am a model. Please, your friend." She encouraged and took the ID from him. Mntwana nodded...

Neliswa placed her pink silk short gown on her body after changing her bed. And she walked

around the room hoping Mntwana was going to come back. She wanted to have a good time with him and forget about her mother's cries.

"He's gone!" He lied to Neliswa appearing from her bedroom. He found Buzwe sleeping inside his car and he asked him to drive with his car and his things to his place. He was going to take it in the morning. He left...

Neliswa smiled and she rushed to Mntwana removing the gown from her body. Mntwana was looking at her body with a strong preying eye. She jumped on him and they shared a kiss...

"I can call my driver to drive you to your place." She said to Mntwana giving him a jungle oat bar. It was a Saturday morning. Mntwana was leaving.

Mntwana: "I want your number not your driver."

Neliswa looked at him as he said that to her. "I

thought your friend left with your phone.” She said to him without showing that she didn’t expect that he would ask for her cell phone number.

Mntwana: “There are pen and papers.” Neliswa then turned to the kitchen draw that had the pen and the paper. She then wrote her number for Mntwana. “You can also drive me to Buzwe’s place. Thank you for the number. I will call you and if it’s not working I will drive to your house because I know the address.” he said looking at the number.

Neliswa shook her head. “Let me drive you then.” She marched to the door. She was on blue tracksuits. And Mntwana was on his clothes...

Mntwana’s conscious reminded him that he had a girlfriend and who was insecure. He was remembering this now because he was on the alleviator taking him to his apartment. He

hoped that maybe she was sleeping...

He opened the door to his apartment and his eyes laid on Nikhona seated on the couch and food was on the coffee table with a bottle of wine and glasses. Music was playing in the apartment but he couldn't see Simthande.

Mntwana: "Hey, where's my girlfriend?"

Nikhona: "How are you?"

Mntwana: "Yes, yes, I am alive. Where's my girlfriend?"

Nikhona: "She went out to buy some weed because her and I decided we are having a party in your absence. Where did you sleep last night? I was here."

Mntwana: "Oh! You are still searching me for sisters' rules?"

Nikhona smiled. "I bet you were with a younger woman who's your age. Not my sister who's

actually five years older than you.” She said with a smug smile.

Mntwana tormented his jaw and he wondered how did she see his age. She couldn't have just guessed because a person's age was not something you can guess. He didn't say anything to her but he moved to the bedroom way.

Nikhona: “I want something that you have and if you don't give it to me. I will definitely tell my sister that you 21 years old and you've been lying about being 27 years. And believe me she'll be furious with you and you'll kiss your relationship goodbye because she doesn't like liars. And dating young men is not something that she likes.” She blackmailed Mntwana as she saw he was walking away from her without saying a word now that she knew his age.

Mntwana: “What do you want?” he looked back at her and he masked his anger with keeping

his eyes still on her.

Nikhona: "I will call you."

Mntwana turned to his bedroom as he heard the front door turning. He clicked his tongue realising that Nikhona might have meant it when she wanted him to sleep with her. Maybe she wasn't testing him...

"My sister is here and that means you can't leave for the bathroom with a towel wrapped around your waist but wear your gown."

Simthande told Mntwana as they met up on the door. Mntwana was leaving for the bathroom.

Mntwana: "Your sister slept here?" he asked pulling her to by her hand. He was angry that this woman came to be trouble in his life.

Simthande: "Yes, she was in the club and we drove here. I expected that you might not come back here. And when I called in the morning, Buzwe answered your phone and said you were

sleeping his house.”

Mntwana: “Oh. Did you miss me?” he asked kissing her and moved with her to the door while kissing her. Simthande was holding his arms.

Simthande giggled after the kiss. “No, I was with my sister. And you need to shower I will give you breakfast.” She said opening the door.

Mntwana: “Alright, there’s something I want us to talk about.” He told her as they parted ways and Simthande chanted ‘Okay’ Mntwana jogged to the bathroom feeling less worried that she didn’t miss him...

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“Sawubona, we ntombi.” Thembelihle greeted Happiness who was standing before the stove on a Monday. She was cooking lunch. Mnotho was at work and the three young children were in the house while Siphosami was at school.

Happiness looked back and smiled. She marched up to Thembelihle. “Sawubona, mama unjani?” She asked and hugged Thembelihle.

Thembelihle: “I am fine and I am happy that you are here. I am actually overwhelmed by all this and I feel awe of your heart.”

Happiness: “You are talking about what I have decided to do for MaNkosi?” she asked turning on the kettle and Thembelihle sat down on the chair.

Thembelihle: “Yes, I passed by the lounge and she’s with the children. She doesn’t look very much healthy and strong. Are you sure you can do this?”

Happiness: “I have promised and I can’t go back on my word.”

Thembelihle: “It’s been two mornings with her and how are they?”

Happiness: “This is her first cycle of the

treatment and the side effects are not really good mama. Last night she snapped at the children for no reason.”

Thembelihle: “But did you and Mnotho tell the children about her condition?”

Happiness: “What do you mean?”

Thembelihle: “You have to sit the children down and make them understand that she’ll do this and that’s because she’s sick. If you don’t tell them they might resent her and that’s not wanted.”

Happiness: “But we don’t want to stress them.”

Thembelihle: “You won’t stress them because you’ll tell them that you need to look after her, all of you. And even with staying here together this is something that they’re not used to and you were supposed to tell them that it’s temporary. Children should be informed of things happening around them so that if they

have to deal with change their memory will pick up that they were informed. They have feelings too and you know that.”

Happiness: “Yes, you are right mama and thank you for that. I will talk to their father and we will have to tell them tonight.”

Thembelihle: “That’s good and your father what did he say? Should I worry?”

Happiness: “Don’t worry about him.”

Thembelihle: “When you feel that you are weak and need help. Don’t hesitate to pick up your phone and call me. Or call Nkosazana, we are behind you.”

Happiness: “Thank you, mama. I will do that.”

Thembelihle: “God will bless you abundantly and you’ll be happy. I give my blessings to you my child.”

Happiness: “Thank you. I receive.” she smiled

and placed the tray of food before Thembelihle with a heart full of joy as she'd received blessings from Thembelihle. She didn't want to go back her words even though she'd been told that it was going to be a long way for her with a sick person...

"I think they took that a little well than I thought." Mnotho said to Happiness and he gave her a cup of coffee that he'd made. Happiness and him had spoken to the children telling them that Danielle was sick. Pearl cried when they were told about that but Happiness hushed her down. They spoke to the children as Thembelihle had advised them.

Happiness: "Thank you. Yes, they promised they will be on good behaviour and I am really hoping that they will understand." She took the coffee from him and Mnotho sat next to her on the couch... Danielle was sleeping in the bedroom and Pearl was sleeping with her.

Mnotho: "Yes. I have been meaning to ask you about something."

Happiness: "What?"

Mnotho: "When MaNkosi recovers, what will happen? I wish, no, I want you to stay here with the children. I don't want you to go back to your father's house. MaMthimkhulu, please, stop pushing me away because I want us to be together. I want you back as my wife."

Happiness looked at Mnotho and she remembered that she'd promised Danielle she was going to stay but she didn't tell that to Mnotho. She removed her eyes from Mnotho and looked at her coffee. "Can we talk about this after she has recovered? It's not right to speak about this while she's still sick. And even if I say I want us to fix what we almost had I don't think we can fix it while she's here and she's sick." She said to Mnotho looking at him.

Mnotho nodded with a short smile. "I appreciate that response because it's not telling me to go to hell and I am not prepared to go there." He commented and he looked at her as she laughed at his comment.

Happiness: "I will have my coffee in my room." she said and stood up to leave him because she was feeling awkward now because he was looking at her strangely. He was looking at her the way he'd never before...

Happiness opened Danielle's room to check if they were sleeping with Pearl. "Hawu, you are not sleeping?" Happiness asked as she saw Danielle seated on her butts with a sketch pad and pencil on her hand.

Danielle: "Yes, I am designing a dress for Nandipha. She asked that I design the dress she'll wear on the event she'll attend with Ngcebo."

Happiness: "You should be resting not working. Do you think that it's a good idea that you work while you are sick?"

Danielle: "Yes, I want to make this dress for her. What if this is the last dress I will ever get to design? I want to make it."

Happiness: "You see? You are making this dress for wrong reasons. There are number of designers in Johannesburg, why did Nandipha ask you to make a dress for her while she knows you are sick? You won't focus on your health now but you'll focus on making this dress because it should be perfect as you believe it would be the last dress you'll make."

Danielle: "I have already agreed to make the dress for her I can't turn her down and I want to make this dress Happiness."

Happiness: "I will call her and tell her that you can't be doing any work."



Danielle: "Come on, I am not a child."

"The Doctor said it's important that you get enough rest and that's what you need." She said taking the sketch pad from her hands and she placed it on her wardrobe. "Please, get some rest." She insisted... Danielle laid down and Happiness left the bedroom after switching off the main lights...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 13

"Hawu, mama! Mama!" Similo screamed at her mother because she didn't want to listen to what she was telling her to do.

Nandipha: "Climb down the stairs! We are going home." she shouted at her and pointed the stairs. Similo squalled and turned to climb

down the stairs as her mother had instructed... It was a Sunday morning and all the children were dressed up and ready to drive down to KZN. Nhlakanipho had left the house, his mother arrived early in the morning to take him.

“Why is she crying now?” Ngcebo asked placing the pillows on the bed. He’d just finished making the bed. He was dressed and ready to drive home.

Nandipha: “She wants to watch imvelo and I am telling her that we can’t watch it today because we are driving down to KZN.” She replied and sat on the dressing chair to fix her head for the road.

Ngcebo: “What’s that?”

Nandipha: “It’s a show that I have recently started making them watch every Sunday after church when we did go to church. It broadcasts at 11:30am.”

Ngcebo: "What is it about?"

Nandipha stood up and she took off her clothes. "It's about different South African tribes, their cultures, traditions and customs. Last Sunday you were not here and they were talking about 'ingoma' and Similo went all crazy over that. I think she loves the show more than the other sisters and now, she wants to watch it. But we should be on the road."

Ngcebo: "But what if they don't talk about ingoma this time? And does she know that they talk about other cultures and customs as well?"

Nandipha: "Yes, they know and they always ask when it's a different tribe and I explain it to them when they ask."

Ngcebo: "It's a 30 minutes show?"

Nandipha: "Yes."

Ngcebo: "There's no problem then let's allow them to watch it and we will go after the show"

had ended.”

Nandipha: “Alright then I will get dressed after telling them.”

Ngcebo: “I am already going down you can go get dressed.” He said marching to the door and Nandipha marched to the closet to get dressed... They were going to KZN for a sole reason to speak to their child’s spirit and inform him that they were having two babies. Nandipha had hopes that Ngcebo wasn’t going to insist they spend more days in KZN because she didn’t like it there. She knew her children enjoyed it more when they were in that house and the yard but she really didn’t...

Nandipha was dressed up in a long black and white dress. She moved to the bedroom to her phone that was ringing. “I’m falling harder, harder, harder. Harder than before...” The little crazy woman in her danced and sang with her ringtone instead of answering the phone call.

“Eh! Eh! Eh! Eh! Eh” she danced with her hands in the air as the ringtone went on. She stopped and laughed only when her phone had stopped ringing. She sighed and sat on her bed. She then called Duma back. She didn’t wait longer...

Duma: “Are you busy?”

Nandipha laughed. “No, I was dancing to the ringtone. What’s up?” She asked and moved back to the closet for her shoes and bag.

Duma: “You and your crazy mind. I come with not so good news.”

Nandipha: “What happened?”

Duma: “You better log online and read the article from Isolezwe and Ilanga langesonto about Palesa and your brother in-law. And check Twitter trends.”

Nandipha: “Ah! Duma. I am having a slowdown and I haven’t read shit.”

Duma: “It something you can’t ignore because your name and husband’s name is there and especially on Twitter yours is trending.”

Nandipha sighed and commented. “Thanks, bro. I will check it out.” She promised and removed her phone after Duma had said goodbye. She placed her bag on her shoulder and she moved out of the closet planning she was going to read the article in the car...

“Nongcebo, can I sit on your father’s lap?”

Nandipha requested looking at Nongcebo who was seated on Ngcebo’s lap while they were watching TV. All the four girls were seated on one couch and Mlamuli’s sons were seated together. They were watching ‘Imvelo’

Nongcebo looked at her mother and facial expression changed into a frown. “Hmm! Hmm! Mama.” She refused bluntly and placed her head on her father’s chest holding his shirt, Nongcebo closed her eyes. The other children

laughed.

Nandipha: “You’ve had your chance let your mother have hers.”

Nongcebo: “No!”

Nandipha: “Hawu-”

Similo: “MAMA, UMSHINDO SHIYABUKA!” (Stop making noise mom. We are watching.) she screamed for her mother and she looked at her with a sulk.

Nandipha: “Okay, okay, I won’t sit here with you. I will be in the car, babe.” She said looking at Ngcebo and she left the house after Ngcebo had nodded...

“Thank you, Nandipha. Now, I won’t have them on my back all the time.” Nkosazana said to Nandipha... It was 8h30 at night and Nandipha had just dropped Mlamuli’s boys by Nkosazana’s palace.

Nandipha: “It was fun being with them and hey, they’re well mannered. They were out there helping me with these five rats I have. I had fun, really.”

Nkosazana: “Thank you, we try raising them right. Are you here for long or?”

Nandipha: “No, we won’t stay long and I am hoping he doesn’t change his mind because you know, we all gotta work.”

Nkosazana: “Yes, you are right. I am not even sure if I will see you again. We hardly see you even when you are here. You are like that distant relative.”

Nandipha laughed. “Life happened. I have to go now, ndlovukazi. I left them crying in the car they’re restless and hungry. Ngcebo said he’ll see his brother tomorrow. I am really not sure if I will see you.” she told her and she hoped she wouldn’t bring anything about the article



because she was in no mood to speak about it. She didn't even want to think about it even though it'd been inside her head since she read it. She was furious about it because the reports were lies and the public had believed them. And that Belinda woman had to drag her name on Twitter for shit!

Nkosazana: "Okay, but do you have food for them or you still have to cook?"

Nandipha: "We bought takeaways." She replied and she turned to leave the palace after Nkosazana had nodded her head.

She stepped inside the viano and the children were still crying. Thula was inside the vehicle with them. "We will get home just now. Please, calm down." Nandipha tried to reason with her children but they didn't listen. She sighed and looked at Ngcebo. He was quiet as if he couldn't hear the children crying inside the viano. He'd been quiet the minute he heard

about the article and when they took their break on the road he took his time to read it because he was the one driving. He was angry about the article and he hadn't commented about it to Nandipha... Nandipha closed her eyes and tried to be patient even though the noise of her children was irritating her to the core...

"Mama, niyazela mina." (Mama, I am sleepy) Ntokomalo told her mother who was taking their dishes after they've had their dinner. They were no longer crying and they stopped crying the minute food was placed before them.

Nandipha: "I can see that but I need to bath you. Stand up." She said to them and they all stood up from the blanket. Ntokomalo began crying. "There's absolutely no reason for you to cry." She said marching to the sink.

Ngcebo: "Don't you think you should just put them to bed?" he asked looking at Nandipha, he was seated on the table having his food and

Nandipha had been seated on the floor with the girls feeding them. They've dropped Thula by her home and back home in Sandton, the maid was left behind.

Nandipha: "No, they'll wake up at night and cry scratching their bodies. They will have to bath. I can't let them sleep."

Ngcebo: "I am afraid I won't be able to help you with that then." He informed her and looked at the food that was before him.

Nandipha didn't say anything but she placed the dishes on the sink, she washed them because she was certain he wasn't going to wash them. "Go to the bathroom I will find you there and Buhle, help your sisters take off their clothes. Okay?" Nandipha told her children, she looked at Buhle.

Buhle: "Yebo, mama. Ashambe." (Yes, let's go) she told them and led them forward. They all

followed her with Similo walking behind Ntokomalo.

Similo: “Ntoko, thula nawe! Ushudlile nje!”  
(Ntokomalo, stop crying!)

Ntokomalo: “Fun’ ukulala mina” (I want to sleep)

Thando: “Thiwa sholala sheshigezile!” (We will sleep after bathing)

Nongcebo: “Nami, nifuna ukulala ehe! Ashambe shocela ubaba yena uzovuma. Neke anqabe njengo mama. Ashambe Ntoko.” (I am also sleepy. Let’s go ask dad he will agree he won’t disagree like mom.)

Buhle: “E.e! Unayi shogeza! Zothetha kakhulu umama.” (No, don’t go because we have to bath and mom, will shout.) She said pushing the bathroom door that wasn’t closed shut.

Nongcebo joined Ntokomalo in crying because they were not getting what they wanted. Buhle, Similo and Thando took off their clothes and

tore off the diapers they had on while Ntokomalo and Nongcebo were crying without taking off their clothes.

Thando: “Buhlezi! Mama, uthe bakhumule!”  
(Mom said undress them)

Similo: “Ehe, mina neke nje nibakhumule abakhalayo!” (Yes, I won’t undress those who are crying) she said folding her arms on her chest.

Buhle slowly walked to Ntokomalo and she tried to take off her black vest but Ntokomalo shook her head pushing Buhle’s hands from her.

Similo: “Huh! Uzongena umama!” (Mom, will come in)

Buhle: “Khumula phela!” she tried to convince her but Ntokomalo kept shaking her head. Buhle looked at Similo and Thando who were not helping her. “Abafuni!” She said quickly as she saw her mother enter through the door.

Nandipha didn't say anything but she marched to the tub and she ran the water for them. "No splashing water." She said to Similo, Thando and Buhle as she placed them on a single tub. They nodded and she turned to undress Nongcebo and Ntokomalo. She placed them on a single big bath plastic basin and began with bathing them because they were already sleepy...

Ngcebo looked at his phone as it rang and he let it ring without answering it. Dalingcebo was calling him and he didn't want to answer his phone call. He knew he was going to speak about the article and he didn't want that. He grabbed his phone and he placed it on silent mode. He closed his eyes and pulled the bed covers to cover his body. It was best that he sleeps...

"Ngizokushiya ungalele ke mina Thando." (I will leave you awake.) Nandipha told Thando who

was awake and her four sisters were sleeping.

Thando shook her head. “Nizokhala nje mina kakhulu.” (I will cry louder) she told her mother softly and she held her feet that were up in the air.

Nandipha: “I am sleepy and tired, Thando. Can you sleep?”

Thando shook her head, Nandipha clicked her tongue and she lifted Thando off her cot. She saw nothing better than to take her to the main bedroom because she was sleepy, her heart was no longer with the children but with her bedside. She wanted to close her eyes and sleep.

Thando: “Shiyaphi mama?” (Where are we going?)

Nandipha: “You’ll sleep with me because you are stubborn and you won’t talk in there. You’ll keep quiet. Do you understand?”

Thando: “Shoxoxa no baba.” (I will speak to dad)

Nandipha: “No, you’ll not do that but if you do that you’ll go back in your cot alone. You’ll cry and I won’t come to you.” she told her and she opened the door to the bedroom. Nandipha placed Thando on the bed and she crawled up to the pillows. She moved to the wardrobe to change for bed...

“Baba?” Thando called her father standing on her feet on the bed she placed her hands on her father’s shoulder. Ngcebo was sleeping facing the other side of the room and Thando was standing behind his back.

Ngcebo: “Why are you not sleeping? What’s she doing here?” he asked Nandipha and turned to hold Thando down.

Nandipha: “I am sleepy and I can’t stand by her cot until she sleeps.” She replied and laid down on the bed with Thando laying between them.



She finally got to close her eyes and her tired body was allowed to rest.

Ngcebo: “Are we going to sleep though? Thando, close your eyes.” He said and placed his hand on Thando’s eyes. Thando laughed and kicked her feet. Ngcebo sighed as he knew that this meant he wasn’t going to sleep. Nandipha had her eyes closed already. “Nandipha?” He called her but he didn’t hear a response.

Thando looked at her mother. “Mama, ushelele baba.” (Mom is sleeping, dad) she looked at her father with clear eyes.

Ngcebo: “Yes, and let’s sleep now.”

Thando: “Cha, anizeli mina.” (I am not sleepy)

Ngcebo: “Ey, uzosala wedwa ke.” He told her and closed his eyes. He wasn’t going to stay up with Thando... He opened his eyes after a few minutes as Thando was crying. “Why are you

crying now?” He sat up straight.

Thando: “Unishiya nedwa mina!” she complained and cried. Ngcebo rose up and tried to shake Nandipha awake but she was dead sleeping.

Ngcebo: “What do you want Thando?”

Thando: “Ashambe shobuka Itv! Shobuka opopayi, baba. Ashambeni shoshiya umama elele.” she replied delightedly and Ngcebo concluded he wasn’t going to sleep. His daughter’s voice didn’t even sound like she was any close to being sleepy. He had no other choice. He got up with Thando and he left the bedroom for the lounge to get her to watch cartoons.

“I can’t even sleep I will be the ghost of the house because I am the father. And just few months I will know no sleep. Ah!” He complained alone and turned on the TV with

Thando in his arms. He sat on the couch with her and placed the packet of chips on her hands. They watched the cartoons, Thando's talks and loud laughter kept Ngcebo awake and talking with her until they were both asleep on the couch with the TV watching them...

"We really didn't come here for you to go to your parents' house but we came here to do a small ritual to inform Lethukuthula and your ancestors that I am pregnant. But now, that's not a priority." Nandipha complained to Ngcebo who was dressing up the next morning to go to his parents' house because he'd been called there. They have had their breakfast with the children. They were outside playing.

Ngcebo: "I will come back, Nandipha."

Nandipha: "When are you going to come back? You should have told your parents you'll come to them during the day or in the evening because you didn't come here to discuss the

article.”

Ngcebo: “What’s the hurry now because I am telling you that I will come back? Why are you making a big deal out of this?”

Nandipha: “I am making a big deal out of it because we didn’t come here for what you are doing now. You can’t just make what we came here for your last priority, Ngcebo. You can’t do that.”

Ngcebo: “I am not making it the last priority but I won’t be gone for long.”

“Mxm!” She threw the towel that was on her hand on the bed and she left the bedroom. She headed to the kitchen for a bottle of water and she moved out of the house to watch over her children as they played on the yard...

“I heard you’re sick and I brought you some fruits. I really didn’t know what I can buy from town.” Nandipha said to Danielle after they’ve

greeted each other. Nandipha asked Nkosazana to send someone who was going to drive her Danielle because she wanted to see her. Danielle was seated on the bed with her phone on her hands when she allowed Nandipha to enter her room.

Danielle: "I will have them. Thank you. Are you home?"

Nandipha: "Yes, but it's only for a few days. How are you feeling? What are the Doctors, saying? There's hope, right?"

Danielle: "I can't say better but I am trying and the Doctors..." she briefed her.

Nandipha: "Oh! You got nothing to stress yourself about then you'll recover and you'll be on your two feet soon. You don't have to stress."

Danielle: "I can't stop the stress as I just lazy around all day."

Nandipha smiled shortly. "I think I can actually help with that." She said.

Danielle: "You can help with, what? I mean, how?"

Nandipha: "I need a dress for an event I will attend with husband. And I would like for you to design the dress for me. It's a simple dress, well, in my head."

Danielle tittered. "I would love to do that but I don't trust that I can be able to give a perfect dress as I am sick. What if I mess it up somehow?"

Nandipha: "It will keep you occupied and happy. You know how the brain can make you feel like your world is crumbling while it's not. But if you can do something to distract you from the actually situation you are facing. You won't feel the frustrations and all the depression that comes with being ill."

Danielle sighed digesting her words. “Okay, but – I will make the dress for you only if you agree to have back up just in case I don’t finish the dress in time.”

Nandipha: “That’s no problem.”

Danielle: “Please, take that bag then so that we will discuss the dress.” She said pointing the black bag with her sketch book and drawing tools. Nandipha stood up and she took the bag. She placed the bag before her. “What kind of dress do you want?” she asked taking the sketch pad.

Nandipha: “I want a dress I will wear with famine sneakers. I want it to be a little drab so that it can complement Ngcebo’s bright outfit...” she began describing the dress for Danielle and Danielle took notes until the end...

Danielle: “I will make it and I will make sure it will be the highlight of that evening. You should

look exquisite beside Ngcebo because his fashion sense is admirably on point. I have seen him with a brown suit with pink scotch lines and the sneakers earlier this year. That was!”

Nandipha laughed. “I was the mastermind behind that outfit.” She said and bowed her head a little. They laughed.

Danielle: “You do have a taste then, madam and I will dress you nicely.”

Nandipha: “Thank you. I should get going now.”

Danielle: “I should thank you because I will be occupied now. Let me walk you out. I haven’t seen the light today. You didn’t even have some juice.”

Nandipha: “I told Happiness I am good.” She said and waited for her to stand up. They exited the room together with Danielle telling Nandipha about the customised doll that Pearl possessed. Nandipha was laughing.



Nandipha: "It's good that she loves it. Nongcebo hates that doll and she doesn't even play with it while the others love seeing themselves."

Danielle: "Children have different preferences hey, just like us. She doesn't even dare to hit the doll because she thinks she'll be hitting herself."

Nandipha: "That's so cute."

"You are leaving, mama?" Pearl asked her mother who was approaching the lounge where they were seated with her other siblings.

Danielle: "No, I am walking Similo's mother out of the house."

Nandipha: "Bye, bye, then babies."

Children: "Bye!"

Danielle and Nandipha walked out of the house...

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Thembelihle and Dalisu were seated on the

dinner table without eating their breakfast on a Monday morning because they were waiting for Dalingcebo and Ngcebo to get to the palace.

Daliso: "I can't believe Dalingcebo could be that stupid to play happy family with another woman while he has this divorce case." He stamped and clicked his tongue... They've all read the article that highlighted 'THE OTHER WOMAN BEING THE BEST FRIEND OF PRINCE TEE'S WIFE' The article had the pictures of Dalingcebo with Phemelo in his arms seated inside the restaurant with Palesa. It highlighted that allegations were Palesa was the 'other woman' that Dalingcebo was cheating with and had a child with her. It didn't just dwell only on Palesa and Dalingcebo's alleged affair but it went on to highlight Nandipha 'Prince Tee's wife' as a person who knew about the affair while Dalingcebo was married to her cousin, the person she grew up with. She was painted as

someone who wasn't loyal. On the newspaper article it was written not obviously but professionally and on the tabloids it was written nasty, painting Nandipha as someone who connected Palesa with her cousin's husband. And the wonder question was, 'Did Prince Tee know and had a hand in this affair?'

Thembelihle: "Do you think they're really dating? And who would have sold that story to the journalists?"

Daliso: "I don't even want to crack my head but we will have to wait for them."

Thembelihle: "But we were supposed to hold this meeting in Ngcebo's house where Nandipha is. I know that she knew about this."

Daliso: "She knew about what?"

Thembelihle: "She knew about Dalingcebo and this friend of hers. I saw this friend of hers with Dalingcebo in her house in Johannesburg and

they looked rather cosy, she was laughing while Dalingcebo was speaking to her.”

Dalису: “We will have to hear from Dalingcebo not Ngcebo’s wife.” he told his wife and turned his head as he heard the footsteps...

Dalingcebo walked inside the dining followed by Ngcebo, they haven’t spoken about the article as Ngcebo never answered Dalingcebo’s calls. The two princes greeted their parents and they settled down...

Thembelihle: “You can dish breakfast for yourselves.”

Ngcebo: “Thank you. I have had breakfast.”

Dalingcebo: “I haven’t had eaten.” He said and dished breakfast for himself.

Dalису: “Ngcebo, how are you feeling now? You don’t have any negative reactions as you’ve changed the medication type?” he asked, he only spoke with him on the phone when he was

in the hospital and out of the hospital.

Ngcebo: “No, baba, I don’t have any negative reactions. I am fine.”

Dalису: “That’s good.”

Thembelihle: “But what’s not good is us, seeing you, Dalingcebo in newspapers with a girl and a child we don’t know.”

Dalису: “And it seemed like you know them.”

Dalingcebo: “You believed the article?” he looked at them not keeping his eyes with them but he removed them within seconds.

Dalису: “Tell us what to believe. How can you be so stupid and be seen in public with another woman while you are still under divorce process. And you know that your wife wants everything about this divorce public and people can never let an opportunity to make money slip through them. They might have recognise you from there.”

Dalingcebo: "I didn't know a person in Johannesburg can take pictures of me having breakfast with a mother and a child."

Thembelihle: "You didn't know? Your brother is a public figure and look how this article had been written? His name is there while you are the one who was out having breakfast with Nandipha's friend."

Dalису: "Is that woman your girlfriend?"

Dalingcebo: "No, she's not my girlfriend."

Thembelihle: "What was the need for you to have breakfast with her then?"

Dalingcebo: "I like her, I did ask her out and I am not willing to answer more questions mom and dad because I didn't do anything wrong."

Ngcebo: "You did everything wrong Dalingcebo. I told you not to pursue Palesa for reasons I told you about but look, something like this happened. And Nandipha's name is dragged in

there for no reason. Her friend is called homewrecker on social media and you just couldn't think of that before."

Thembelihle: "Nandipha should have told her friend to stay away from Dalingcebo because he's married to her sister. But it's clear that she didn't tell her that. Why would she be comfortable eating with Dalingcebo in public if Nandipha told her to stay away?"

Ngcebo: "Whoa! Whoa! Mama, you are not about to blame my wife for Dalingcebo's mess. Nandipha is in no way responsible for other people's actions. Palesa may be her friend but that doesn't mean she controls her."

Thembelihle: "I am not saying she controls her but there's no way that she didn't know that Dalingcebo had been asking her friend out. That's what friends talk about and it would be impossible that she didn't tell her. And this girl was even cosy with Dalingcebo in your house."

Ngcebo: “Even if she told her that doesn’t mean anything. Why don’t you say Dalingcebo was supposed to stay away from women because he’s married to Nontobeko? What reasons do you have bringing my wife in this?”

Dalису: “Ngcebo, have some respects now because you are talking to your mother. Don’t forget that because now it looks like you are forgetting.”

Ngcebo: “No, baba, outsiders can speak like this about my wife and I wouldn’t mind but not my mother. Nandipha shouldn’t be blamed for my brother’s actions. Dalingcebo was the one who was supposed to stay away from Palesa not my wife telling Palesa to stay away. Nandipha is not a guideline to life.”

Dalingcebo: “Ngcebo is right mama. We shouldn’t drag Nandipha into this because it’s no use doing it. I like her friend and that’s my choice. She had no hand and she can never

have a hand in it.”

Ngcebo: “And she’s being dragged enough on social media. I would really appreciate it mama if you would keep those comments to yourself.”

Dalisu: “I think that’s enough now, Ngcebo.” He said clearly looking at him as he had seen that his wife had her head looking down without saying a word. Dalisu kept his eye with Ngcebo and Ngcebo didn’t say anything more but he took the glass and poured water for himself. He drank the water, he could feel that he was more angered by his mother now more than he was angered by the article, Belinda and the comments from the public about Nandipha’s role in this alleged affair of Dalingcebo and Palesa. He didn’t expect his mother to actually talk like she was talking about Nandipha...

Dalisu: “What should be done then now? You can’t keep quiet about this.”

Thembelihle: “What can he say about it, baba? He’d been quiet about everything that had been written about him and if he can actually begin to comment about this. He will definitely look like someone who’s protecting this alleged mistress.” she looked at Dalisu.

Ngcebo: “Mom is right, baba, he must just keep quiet because they will talk that he’s raising a comment now because they’ve figured this other woman.”

Dalisu: “It will be wise that you stay away from this woman, Dalingcebo. I am not telling you how to live your life but tone it down until your divorce.”

Thembelihle: “No, baba, he must forget about having a relationship with her. He mustn’t even think of it. I will not accept that girl as my possible daughter in-law. There are plenty of women in this world but not a friend of your twin brother’s wife. No!”

Dalису: “MaSthole, that can never be your call to make. Dalingcebo is the man of his own, we can only influence his decision making but not make decisions for him. We can never do that.”

Thembelihle: “You honestly want that girl for him?”

Dalису: “I don’t know because I don’t know the girl. I can only say after I have heard about her character. But we will not tell an old man what to do.”

Thembelihle: “It seems like none of my opinions matters anymore.” she commented and stood up with her plate and other dishes. She left the dining room feeling that she was fuming...

Dalису shook his head and he got up...

Dalingcebo: “And why did you act like a girl and ignored my calls?” he looked at Ngcebo as they were left alone in the dining room.

Ngcebo: “Ay, voetsek, I was busy and wasn’t in

a mood to discuss this.”

Dalingcebo: “Does it affect your brand?”

Ngcebo: “Not really but I don’t know if I can say much about Nandipha’s reputation and let alone, Palesa’s reputation. Have you spoken to her?”

Dalingcebo sighed. “She’s ignoring my calls and she blue ticks me on WhatsApp. I don’t know what to do to know how she’s doing.” He replied.

Ngcebo: “You really want to date her?”

Dalingcebo: “Yes, I am serious.”

Ngcebo: “Good luck then.” He said and Dalingcebo laughed, they stood up from the chairs and walked out of the dining room. “Why are you laughing?”

Dalingcebo: “Am I really going to need it?”

Ngcebo: “I don’t know because I don’t know her personally but her friend does. Let’s go to the royal house. I want to see the King.”

Dalingcebo: “Okay, and I was about to ask her to teach me a thing or two about Palesa’s language because speaking to Phemelo is difficult. But I guess I won’t do that after this article.”

Ngcebo laughed stepping inside Dalingcebo’s car leaving the viano in the palace. “And don’t even try her.” He commented and Dalingcebo drove out of the palace after he’d said he won’t try her... They then catch up...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 15

“I really don’t know when I will be coming back, Palesa. I am so angry and it’s not even bearable.” Nandipha told Palesa on the phone. She was laid back on the bed at 9pm and Ngcebo wasn’t back home. The girls had long

fallen asleep.

Palesa: "I am sorry, girlfriend."

Nandipha: "You are sorry about what?"

Palesa: "That you are angry and it's my fault."

Nandipha: "No! I am angry at Ngcebo for not being home but he told me he'll come back early. He knows what we came here to do but he's not here."

Palesa: "Oh! So, you didn't have your phone switched off because of me?"

Nandipha sighed. "No, 'Lisa' I didn't have it switched off because of you but I switched it off because it just couldn't stop ringing. And I figured you didn't want to talk because I called Sunday night but you didn't answer."

Palesa: "I was so angry and hurt that I couldn't even answer that call. I cried myself to sleep and my father and brothers, they're so angry."

Nandipha: “No! Don’t tell me they believed that article?”

Palesa: “You know that it’s mom who wouldn’t have believed that article but my half siblings, no. But my father doesn’t believe it, he’s just angry that I was with the prince knowing what had been said about him.”

Nandipha: “I am really sorry that I couldn’t be there for you last night but I promise you when I come back. The girls and I will come for a sleep over and you’ll cry about it over wine while I drink juice and cry with you because apparently you and I are bitches. Who snatches men.”

Palesa: “Can you believe that bitch Belinda? How can she make this about her and Ngcebo because when you dated Ngcebo they weren’t dating?”

Nandipha: “Apparently, they were dating and he chose to leave her for me. And that means I

snatched him from her as she's saying on Twitter."

Palesa laughed. "I quote her tweet 'Birds of the same feathers flock together. This Miss Nandipha Author took Prince Tee from me and I watched as he left.' Can you believe it?" She raised her voice on the line and she laughed.

Nandipha: "Eish, sister friend and some people are on the same hype, they talk about me being arrogant and looking down on some women because I am with Ngcebo now."

Palesa: "And where's that coming from?"

Nandipha: "It's coming from that feminism tweet that even today entertainment news still wants me to comment on it and elaborate."

Palesa: "And why don't you do it? Now, some people are threatening on not buying your work because you think highly of yourself with just three books."

Nandipha: "I won't explain myself Palesa because most of my fans got me even though they didn't know why I retweeted that but they understood why I reacted that way. There'll always be people who'll be against you and as long as I have those who are for me. I won't back down. You know you are not a homewrecker."

Palesa: "But it hurts Nandipha and it affected my work because some women at work now they gave me that look as if I will steal their husbands. And I was given some time off because I just-"

Nandipha closed her eyes shortly as she heard she was crying. "Hey, hey, Lisa, don't cry about this. I know that it hurts but please don't let it get to you. You know Dalingcebo was just approaching you. I know it may not ease anything but you have everything the people don't have because you have the truth. And you

should keep a clear conscious. You didn't wreck any home, Dalingcebo wrecked his own home and if they want to name you the other woman then shame on them. You know how the public likes to act innocent when such things go public. And when celebrities go through what they also go through they act holy. Don't take it to heart that you can cry about it till dawn. You can be angry because you should but don't cry." She advised her friend and looked at Ngcebo as he walked through the bedroom door. He marched to the wardrobe and greeted Nandipha but she didn't greet back.

Palesa: "You are right. I have the truth and I will try not to allow this to get into my heart. And I am really sorry that your name had to be dragged in this."

Nandipha: "I am not that much of a celebrity but they've said things about me before but like the rest of the others, it will blow over."

Palesa exhaled. "Yeah and I am hoping that your songs with Mujo will have nothing but a positive press because really, we don't want any bad things."

Nandipha: "Really, why did you remind me about that?" she asked and laid her head down. She pulled the covers to cover her body.

Palesa laughed. "Sharp, then, I am not reminding you and don't think that because you've made me laugh you don't owe me that sleepover." She said.

Nandipha: "No, I owe it to you, babe. I won't make a mistake."

Palesa: "Your sister didn't call you? Oh! Lord, please don't tell me that she saw the article and she believed everything."

Nandipha: "I haven't spoken to her and I don't know what she'll say. But what I can tell you is that my mother called me and she laughed."

Palesa: "What!"

Nandipha: "Yeah, she said comedians have run out of jokes." Palesa laughed on the line and Ngcebo inside the bedroom laughed out loud. Nandipha raised her head to look at him and her eyes landed on his back as he was leaving the room on his underwear with a towel on his shoulder.

Palesa: "Mr husband is home?"

Nandipha: "Yes, and he's laughing at things that doesn't include him."

Palesa laughed. "Your mother is something else. She had to call journalists comedians, really?" She made the comment and they laughed.

Nandipha: "I wasn't expecting it I thought she was going to be all serious about it and she would shout and curse, you know how the woman is."

Palesa: "When you call her like that though, and

Randall supports you.”

Nandipha: “Eh! My friend, you have forgotten how you addressed your mother.” She reminded her and they laughed, a long laugh.

Palesa: “Can you please sleep?”

Nandipha: “How is it now? Missing her?”

Palesa: “I miss her the most when dad gives me crap like he did with this issue. And I told him mom wouldn’t have thought like that but his wife would have.”

Nandipha: “Ah! Palesa!”

Palesa: “They made me angry for real.”

Nandipha: “I am sorry, have some sleep and we will see each other when I come back. I love you.” she said to Palesa and raised her head as the door was being opened. Ngcebo walked back inside the bedroom.

Palesa: “Goodnight, I love you too.”

“I feel like you tell Palesa you love her more than you tell me.” Ngcebo commented and looked back at Nandipha shortly. He made the comment to search if she was really mad with him or she wasn't. It was just procedure because he was certain that she was angry that he just got home...

Nandipha: “Go back to the bathroom and shower and stop making silly comments.” She mumbled and tapped on her phone.

Ngcebo: “Hawu! I have just gotten off the shower.” He sent the comment back looked back at the bed's direction and Nandipha didn't comment. He confirmed she was angry and this meant he didn't need to explain and apologise now but just hold her... Yeah! That was what he needed to do.

“How was your day?” He asked Nandipha joining her in bed. Ngcebo slipped into Nandipha's back and he invited his leg between

her legs. He held her warm body into a cuddle but he didn't hear a comment from her. "You won't speak to me because you are angry with me?" He asked.

Nandipha: "I want to sleep."

Ngcebo: "You want to sleep now because you should speak to me but you didn't want to sleep when you were speaking to your friend."

Nandipha didn't comment because she was certain that he was just trying to make a conversation with her only because he came back late. They've made plans and he decided he was going to run with what was more important to him. And she wasn't about to complain about that. What was the use for her to remain the forever complaining wife over a man who knew what was right and wrong? She saw no use for it... Nandipha fell asleep expecting that in the morning he was obviously going to make breakfast and play nice. Or maybe

he wouldn't make breakfast because she wasn't going to eat... Ngcebo accepted that he was being ignored but he didn't let her go...

Ngcebo: "Your phone is ringing."

Nandipha: "Let me get it then." She requested and rose up when Ngcebo had let her go. She took her phone and she answered Happiness's call.

Nandipha: "Hello."

Happiness: "How are you, Nandipha?"

Nandipha: "I am fine and how are you?"

Happiness: "I am fine. I am calling to tell you that Ntandokazi can't make the dress for you. You just have to find someone else."

Nandipha: "Awu. Why?"

Happiness: "She's sick and I don't understand how can you request that she makes a dress for you. She should rest not stress about making dresses."

Nandipha: “Shouldn’t she have something to occupy her mind rather than stressing about her illness?”

Happiness: “She’s already stressing now as she thinks this will be the last dress that she’ll be making. I am the one looking after her and I can’t nurse her sickness and nurse the stress she’ll get from making this dress for you.”

Nandipha: “Oh. Okay. Sorry.” she removed her phone as she heard the beeping sound.

Nandipha chuckled and searched for Danielle’s number.

Ngcebo: “What’s wrong Rasta lami?”

Nandipha: “Nothing to worry yourself about.”
She replied typing a text.

>> “Hey, why weren’t you the one to tell me that you can’t make the dress for me? I didn’t know that it will be stressing you.” << she sent the text.

Ngcebo: "I want to know."

Nandipha: "Uthanda izindaba manje yeka umfazi bo."

Ngcebo chuckled and pulled her back to him. "Let me hold her then." He said and Nandipha allowed him to hold with her phone on her hand.

>> "Sorry, hey and don't worry about that. I will make the dress as I promised." << Nandipha read Danielle's text.

>> "No, it's fine. I don't want to cause trouble. I will go with Ngcebo's designer since mine is already occupied. Thanks though." << She texted her back.

>> "You'll see the dress delivered to you. I want to make it and I am not willing to listen.

Goodnight." << Danielle texted Nandipha back.

Nandipha read the text and she sighed, she placed the phone aside. She closed her eyes.

"MAMA!" Similo screamed waking her mother

on a Tuesday morning. She jumped up and down without stopping to scream for her mom.

Nandipha opened her eyes and her eyes laid on Similo who was on her diaper with her afro tied together neatly. Nandipha yawned and sat up straight up.

Nandipha: “You’ve had your bath?” she asked removing the covers from her body and she laid her feet down.

Similo: “Ehe! Uthi baba, vuka manje!” (Daddy said wake up, now.)

Nandipha: “Are you all walking around with diapers?” she asked and marched to the windows to open them. Similo followed her behind.

Similo: “Mama, ubaba yena uyashigcokisa thina.”

Nandipha: “Okay, go and get dressed then.” She said pointing the door and Similo ran to the

door. Nandipha yawned and looked at the bed, she yearned to sleep once again. But it wasn't going to help with anything. She made the bed and removed her night dress she wrapped her body with the towel. She marched to the bathroom dragging her body...

Ngcebo: "I think you have to limit oversleeping in the mornings. I have bathed the children alone and made breakfast and fed them." he said to Nandipha as she entered the kitchen dressed up in a pink straight cut skirt at a knee length and a black shirt with short sleeves.

Nandipha: "That's also the father's job. And oversleeping is way better compared to leaving in morning and come back at 10pm." She commented opening the fridge and it had nothing she wished to eat. The children were watching TV and Ngcebo was standing by the sink eating cereals. She didn't hear a comment from Ngcebo. She saw it was better that she

prepares food and snacks for the ritual. Ngcebo moved from the sink and he sat down on the chair while Nandipha got busy.

“Mama, ifoni yakho!” (Mom, your phone!) Buhle gave Nandipha her ringing phone. She then ran back to the lounge.

Nandipha: “Hello!”

Nontobeko: “I almost gave up.”

Nandipha: “I left the phone in the bedroom and I am inside the kitchen. Buhle just gave the phone to me.”

Nontobeko: “Okay, how are you?”

Nandipha: “I am fine and how are you?” she looked back at Ngcebo with an aim to ask him to get her earphones in the bedroom but she saw him with his earphones. She marched to him and unplugged the earphones from his phone.

Nontobeko: "I am fine and I am calling about the article."

"Why are you taking my earphones?" He asked and looked at her as she plugged them on her phone. He watched as she placed them into her ears.

Nandipha: "You can use mine, Rasta. I want to talk and work." She replied placing the phone on her waist supported by skirt. "I am sorry for that."

Nontobeko: "You are so bossy. Why did you take his earphones?" she asked and laughed. Nandipha looked back to check if Ngcebo was still there. He'd left his phone on the table to get the earphones...

Nandipha: "I am busy and he's not busy. How did you feel about the article?"

Nontobeko: "I know that, Palesa is not the woman he was cheating with but are they really

dating? They seemed pretty comfortable around each other. I don't know if you'll be comfortable speaking around his brother and speaking about your friend."

Nandipha looked back to check for Ngcebo and he wasn't back. "You won't use whatever I will tell you in your divorce?" She asked.

Nontobeko: "No, there's nothing left to delay the divorce and it'd been dragged for too long. I want it to end but I just wonder I wish to know. I think you'll also want to know if you were me."

Nandipha: "I guess you are right. They're not dating but your soon to be ex-husband asked her out and she told me about it. I never thought think someone would take pictures and have them leaked."

Nontobeko: "Did he know that she is your best friend?"

Nandipha: "Yes, he knew and my friend was

really worried last night that you'll think about her badly because of the article."

Nontobeko: "No, I have nothing against her but it did trigger something seeing him like that. But he is bound to move on as I am bound to move on. And he'd done that earlier by cheating on me."

Nandipha: "I am really sorry but there's nothing I could-"

Nontobeko: "No, don't feel bad about anything because none of this is your fault. And what that article said about you is just pure childishness. I just wanted clarity if they're really dating."

Nandipha: "If they're dating? Were you going to think I would have had a hand in stopping them from dating?"

Nontobeko: "You having a crush on him didn't stop me from dating him and how can you stop

your friend from dating him if she wants?”

Nandipha laughed. “Really! The crush? You are unbelievable from raising such horrible past things.” She commented and moved to the sink to wash the dough off her hands. She looked for the pots.

Nontobeko chuckled. “I am just making an example.” She told her.

Nandipha: “Okay, thank you for the call then.”

Nontobeko: “Alright, send my regards to the girls.”

Nandipha: “I will do.” she said and they shared goodbyes. Nandipha removed her phone from her waist and she placed them on the table. Ngcebo was inside the kitchen with her but he was on his phone with earphones plugged on his ears. Nandipha marched to the lounge to get her children to help her.

“Haa! You are seated so nice and quiet.” She

commented seeing the girls seated on the floor watching Tom and Jerry. They were all concentrated on the screen and nobody amongst them was doing any side activity.

“EHE!” They all chanted and looked at their mother shortly.

Nandipha: “You won’t come and help me in the kitchen? I am cooking. Umamauzohlaba inkukhu futhi anifuni ukumbuka ehlaba inkukhu enizoyidla?” She asked them looking at them hoping they would agree because even though they caused chaos in the kitchen they did help her by going up and down doing everything she would ask them to do.

Similo: “Ashambeni niyabo?” (Let’s go, okay?) She looked at her sisters and she stood up first, Buhle followed up and the rest of the sisters stood up. They led their mother to the kitchen and when they got there they got to work turning the kitchen into a busy and noisy room.

That forced Ngcebo to leave the kitchen because their noise was disturbing him...

The cup with baby milk, sweets, chips, chicken and dumpling were placed down inside the hut and Nandipha was kneeling behind Ngcebo's side while he was seated on his legs with a broken clay pot that had incense in his hands. They left the girls inside the house watching cartoons as they were inside the hut... Ngcebo then began burning the incense and its smoke rolled up. He then called upon his ancestors before speaking any words. He looked back at Nandipha and she knelt forward to be next to him.

Ngcebo: "Ngibiza nina bo Mageba, Sthuli sika Ndaba, Ndabezitha, ngiyacela niziveze nendodana yami uLethukuthula." He paused and proceeded praising his clan names until he was ready to talk, until he felt it was the time that he could talk. "nayi ingoduso yenu

engumfazi wami ngoko mthetho, umama wezingane zami, ezinsukwini ezidlule sithole ukuthi imbewu yami isitshaleke esibelethweni sakhe ngakho sizoba nabantwana ababili. Siyanibikela kuphinde kube sezicelweni zethu ukuthi nibavikele kuzo zonke izingozi nobumnyama...” he carried on pleading that they protect the two babies that they were going to have. And when he was done, he looked at Nandipha giving her an opportunity to personally speak to their child’s spirit. Nandipha then spoke after Ngcebo politely until she was done speaking...

“How did the ritual go?” Faith asked Nandipha on the phone. She had her feet on Ngcebo’s lap and he was rubbing them. They were seated on the couch watching TV. The children were sleeping after a long successful day.

Nandipha: “It went well, mama and tomorrow we are coming back.”

Faith: "That's good then and you can eat in the morning now?"

Nandipha: "No, I can't but I am fine. I am not sick or anything. How are things going with the preparations of the book launch?"

Faith: "We are getting there, baby and I hope you'll come."

Nandipha: "Yes, we will come with Palesa and we will buy the book. I will buy one for myself and Rasta will buy one." She informed her mother and folded her lips looking at Ngcebo as he was looking at her hearing her say what he didn't know. She didn't remove his eyes from her until he did.

Faith laughed. "That would be nice. Have a goodnight then and send my regards to your husband. I want my girls to visit me. When last did they?"

Nandipha: "Ah! Mama, they were with you not

so long ago.”

Faith: “Ey, don’t even complain it’s not about you.”

Nandipha: “I will tell their father and tell them, then.”

Faith: “Alright. Goodnight.”

Nandipha: “Goodnight, mama.” She said and removed her phone from her ear. She placed the phone on her lap. “You’ll buy the book, right?” she asked.

Ngcebo: “You are ending with something that you were supposed to start with. I should say I will buy the book?”

Nandipha: “Ah! You don’t have to buy it then.”

Ngcebo: “I was just asking.”

Nandipha: “I answered you. Mama asked that the girls visit her.”

Ngcebo: “But they were with her not even

months back.”

Nandipha: “Thank you, I want to go and sleep now.” she said to him and Ngcebo stopped rubbing her. Nandipha then got up with her phone and she made her way to the bedroom to get the sleep that she deserved...

“MaZondi, MaZondi!” Nandipha woke up as she heard Ngcebo calling her. She turned on the bedside lamp and she looked at him but he was sleeping facing her. Nandipha shook him lightly but he didn’t wake up. She placed her hand on her chest recalling that Ngcebo had once called her in his sleep. But he’d never called her again after that day. And now, he was doing it again. She didn’t lay back down on the pillow but she kept her eyes on him.

“Inkunzi isematholeni. Ubukhosi ngaphandle kwabantwana bufile, ubukhosi ngaphandle kwabantwana abunakusasa. Bavikele, vula amehlo ubavikele.” (Future leaders are amongst

the children. A kingdom without children is dead. Protect them, open your eyes and protect them) Ngcebo spoke in his sleep and Nandipha was looking at him as he spoke the same words he'd spoken before but this time the words were added and she looked around the room. She placed her hands on her arms. She shook Ngcebo awake.

Nandipha: "You are talking in your sleep again. You are not dreaming?" she asked him as Ngcebo's eyes were looking at her.

Ngcebo: "No, I am not dreaming."

Nandipha: "Are you sure? I am scared now. Why do you keep saying the same things to me and you start by calling my name?"

Ngcebo: "What did I say?"

Nandipha: "You said the exact same thing about children being the future of the kingdom and you added that I should open my eyes and

protect them.”

Ngcebo sat up straight and deepened his fingers on his scalp. “What does this mean, Nandipha? I don’t know.” He asked.

Nandipha: “I don’t know but what if the children are in danger? Maybe all the children in the family or my children. I don’t know.”

Ngcebo: “I will consult tomorrow before leaving but let’s pray for now.” he suggested and gave Nandipha his hands. She took them and they prayed...

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“You’ll pass by the palace?” Dalingcebo asked Ngcebo and he placed Qhawe on his hands on a Wednesday morning. Ngcebo was in his house as he was leaving with his family going back to Johannesburg. He left them in the house getting ready for their trip back home.

Ngcebo: “Yes, I will pass by. This one will be

dark hey, his ears are plain black.” He commented looking at the baby and Dalingcebo tittered and sat down.

Dalingcebo: “Yes, he’ll be dark like his father.”

Ngcebo: “But he will look like me. You could swear I was the one sleeping with his mother. Look at him.” he lifted the baby for Dalingcebo.

Dalingcebo: “Are you sure that you didn’t?”

Ngcebo: “Tsk! Gwani, Dalingcebo.” He swore at him and his feet went forward to kick him and they laughed. Ngcebo took the baby’s formula and he placed it on his mouth as the baby was crying. “How’s living with him as he doesn’t have a mother that looks after him?” He asked and looked at him.

Dalingcebo: “Babies are hard work but I don’t really feel the difficulty because MaNxongo over there is a traditional woman and she believes I shouldn’t be changing his nappies

and bathing him that's not a man's job. She doesn't even trust me if she has to leave me with the baby. Ey, lo mama."

Ngcebo laughed. "If only she knew that I bath my girls and change them, dress them, cook for them and put them to sleep. There's nothing wrong there."

Dalingcebo: "I don't see anything wrong with that too but dad shares the same sentiments as MaNxongo. He thinks I can feed him and put him to sleep but no do all other things that are meant for the mother."

Ngcebo: "Do what you are comfortable with because you are the father and you are also the mother for this one."

Dalingcebo: "You are right."

Ngcebo: "You've spoken to Palesa?"

Dalingcebo: "Ey, ndoda even now he doesn't want to answer my calls."

Ngcebo: “Let me call her for you but you’ll speak.”

Dalingcebo: “Ey, madoda! You have her number?”

Ngcebo: “Yes, her friend saved the number. She usually calls her with my phone if she doesn’t have airtime.” He responded tapping on the phone searching for Palesa’s number. He gave the phone to Dalingcebo when the phone was dialling.

Dalingcebo: “You’ll chill with Qhawe over there. I won’t sit here.” He told his brother and walked away to get to his bedroom.

“Hello?” Palesa answered Dalingcebo’s phone call on a polite tone.

Dalingcebo: “Why are you ignoring my phone calls? I have been calling you since Sunday but you didn’t take any of my calls.” He asked firmly and expected an answer from Palesa but for a

few seconds Palesa didn't respond. "You don't want to talk to me even now that I am talking to you?" he asked.

Palesa: "Who's this?"

Dalingcebo: "Palesa, I know that you can hear my voice. You've been speaking to me on the phone and you suddenly can't recognise my voice."

Palesa: "I don't want to talk to you. There's no need for us to talk."

Dalingcebo: "There's a need for us to talk because I know that the article might have hurt you and it wasn't my intentions for something like that to happen."

Palesa: "I think you have to accept that we can't be together."

Dalingcebo: "We can't be together because of the article?"

Palesa: "I can't fit into your world and it's best that you don't even waste your time with me. Let's stay away from each other."

Dalingcebo: "I can't stay – no, I won't stay away from you. I don't take orders, Palesa and if you really don't have a reason for us not being together then you can't stop us from being together."

Palesa laughed. "You are not serious, right? You cheated on your wife for goodness sake what can make me think you won't do it to me?" She asked.

Dalingcebo: "I know I did that but I am really not that kind of a man. My situation with Nontobeko was different but I loved her. I wanted her to have time with work and be happy and I thought that if time comes that I ask her to come back home she wouldn't refuse. All I want is a woman whom I will share my life with, I want her here with me in a home that will

become ours. I know that this life with me won't be fancy like the one you have in Johannesburg. But I can promise you it will be warm. I want to share my life and space with you. Don't be bothered by people calling you a homewrecker because you know that's not what you are. And please, if I call you again don't ignore my calls."

Palesa: "Bye."

Dalingcebo: "Have a good day." He said to her and Palesa said it back to him. Dalingcebo then removed the phone from his ear and he sighed. "She would be insane if she thinks I will let her go because of an article." He spoke to himself and he moved out of his bedroom.

Ngcebo: "She accepted the call?"

Dalingcebo: "Yes. Thank you and you'll see she'll answer my call next time."

Ngcebo: "I won't see you fool because I won't be here. Take the baby. I should get going now."

he said giving Qhawe to his father. Dalingcebo took the baby from his brother's arms. He walked away to put the baby down...

"I am coming from Mnotho's house and I thought I should check my grandson but he's sleeping." Thembelihle said to Dalingcebo looking at the baby that was sleeping on his cot. It was 7pm as she was in Dalingcebo's house.

Dalingcebo: "He sleeps a lot and his nanny says it's a good thing."

Thembelihle turned to leave the room and Dalingcebo followed her behind. "Yes, it's a good thing when the baby gets enough sleep. But, how are you?" she asked and looked back at him shortly.

Dalingcebo: "I am fine mama. You don't have to worry about me. You'll have tea or juice. I have cooked dinner."

Thembelihle: "Do you really want your father to



be grumpy?”

Dalingcebo chuckled. “Okay, let me walk you out then.” He said to his mother and they walked out of the house together.

Thembelihle: “Did Nontobeko call you?”

Dalingcebo: “No, why would she?”

Thembelihle: “She would call about the article. Dalingcebo, I really don’t think that you should even start a relationship with Nandipha’s friend. You should learn from the past situations. You saw how you and your brother would fight because your wives were sisters. And do you think things will be different now if you date Nandipha’s friend?”

Dalingcebo: “It’s different, Palesa is her friend not sister and they’re close.”

Thembelihle: “No, nothing will be the same but you’ll fight again. Don’t bring this girl here as your girlfriend and don’t even think of marrying

her.”

Dalingcebo: “Mama ndlunkulu, you are my mother and you can never tell me who to date and who not to date. If you won’t like her, should she become my partner then that will be your problem, mama. Please, go home it’s late.”

Thembelihle: “I am advising you.”

Dalingcebo opened the door for his mother.

“Yes, and I am not taking the advice.” He said giving her his hand to help her step inside the car. Thembelihle stepped inside the car and said goodbyes to her son... The car drove away and she was worried that her sons will be divided again should Dalingcebo date

Nandipha’s friend and she didn’t know how she could do to stop that from happening. No, mother wants her children to resent each other and she was scared that would happen again...

## THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

### S6 == EPISODE 16

Mntwana was seated behind the desk inside his office and he was looking at Neliswa's twitter profile while he was talking to Ngcebo on the phone. It was the 15th of August which was two weeks after he'd met Neliswa. They last saw each other the morning when she was dropping him off by Buzwe's house. Neliswa was busy for a week and they couldn't meet. When they were supposed to meet and they have planned their meeting. She had to fly to Dubai on a business trip, a trip that came up unexpectedly.

"What did she say? She wants something that you can't give to her?" Ngcebo asked Mntwana who'd told him that Simthande's sister is blackmailing him because she knew his age.

Mntwana exhaled. “She came back here because her business is facing financial difficulties and she was hoping she would get help from her sister. And she would make amends because things are falling apart. She wants me to help her with that financial difficulty by investing in her line.” He told his brother what Nikhona wanted from him.

Ngcebo laughed. “I thought she would want you sleep with her as she’d showed you her breasts and vagina.” Ngcebo guessed and they laughed.

Mntwana: “She’s crazy because she was supposed to give me a formal proposal and ask that I help her. I was going to help her without asking anything and I think that she’s lying she’s still going to want something from me. I can’t believe I encouraged her sister to meet up with her.”

Ngcebo: “What are you going to do then?”

Mntwana: "I will find someone who'll invest on that business. I won't put my money on that thing, make-up. She told me that the damage is still internal and she's trying by all means to stop it from being external."

Ngcebo: "But isn't external now that she wants money for damage control?"

Mntwana: "No, it isn't because they don't tell people they approach that they need money for damage control."

Ngcebo: "Is it a good investment though? It's legit or it's something that you can't trust that you'll get returns."

Mntwana: "It's a good investment and it's always good to invest on a product that has been running for years and their customer base is strong because you know that you'll get returns."

Ngcebo: "How do you get returns on this

investment plan? Is it yearly or half a year or monthly? How does it work?"

Mntwana: "You'll get returns quarterly for this investment plan."

Ngcebo: "Alright, I want you to ensure that this is legit by having a meeting with the board and go the right way by wanting to invest on the line. And if possible bargain a monthly return but if they can't offer it. Quarterly is fine."

Mntwana: "Alright, why do you want me to do this?"

Ngcebo: "I want to invest."

Mntwana: "Huh? On a make-up line?"

Ngcebo: "Yes, I won't be getting the returns but I want to do this for my wife."

Mntwana: "But your wife is someone who wants to work for herself."

Ngcebo: "I know but ever since we had kids she

had to put everything on hold. It was her choice but as a mother it was understandable that she would be scared to leave five babies with nannies. She didn't get a chance to complete her qualification and be able to be a screenplay writer and I doubt she'll ever be that because that career is demanding and children are also demanding. Being an Author is better compared to TV careers."

Mntwana: "Won't she work next year? And the girls will need to start preschool pretty soon and that means she can work."

Ngcebo: "She'll work but she'll be working from home. And the money won't be the same especially now that she'll have more children to look after."

Mntwana: "Huh?"

Ngcebo: "We'll have two additional babies. She's pregnant and it wasn't on her plans to

have babies now. I didn't have a problem with it but her, on the other hand she didn't want to be pregnant now. And being a fool that I can be sometimes I have said some offensive things to her about financial responsibility in our home. I want to make an investment for her so that she can have her own money. Everything will be on her name not mine. We have made an investment together but it's for the children and if we find ourselves in a financial crisis. So, would you do that for me?"

Mntwana: "Yes, it goes without question and if this investment is not promising. I will make sure that I find another one for you so that you'll compare and choose the best investment."

Ngcebo: "Thank you. I can really appreciate that."

Mntwana: "How are you? You are not in burdens since she's pregnant phela last time she was way too much when she was pregnant."



Ngcebo tittered. “No, she’s actually a little bit quiet but in a way I can’t explain to you because you don’t know her like I do.” He responded.

Mntwana: “How far is she? Maybe it’s still early or maybe this time she doesn’t want to be around you.” he guessed and they laughed.

Ngcebo: “She’s three months and you might be right about that because I asked Buhle if their mother does play and laugh with them and she said yes, they do that all the time.”

Mntwana laughed. “You are worried, neh? You even asked the child!” he exclaimed and shook his head as he couldn’t stop laughing.

Ngcebo: “Voetsek, wena! It’s much easier to see Nandipha when something is off with her and I am grateful for that because I wouldn’t survive doing the guessing game if she’s a quiet person. And you might be right yazi maybe I am the one who upsets her.”

Mntwana: "But don't guess just ask her. You can never confirm."

Ngcebo: "You are right. Simthande is all good now with her sister being around and did she take having a place of her own very well?"

Mntwana: "Yes, she's good being with her sister and she didn't want to move. She's still in my place but last night she told me she'll move because she gets my point that we will ruin our relationship if we can live together so early."

Ngcebo: "Haa! That was unexpected and she didn't accuse you of anything?"

Mntwana chuckled. "Why wouldn't she because I was told I want women to come by my place because I have seen living with her is not satisfying. Tsk! But I took it as a man though. I didn't get all worked up." He told him.

Ngcebo: "And you better not bring women over there because you'll die."

Mntwana: "I thought Dalingcebo would have said something like that, about me, dying if I bring more women."

Ngcebo chuckled. "It came from her mouth that she's insecure and insecurities can be deadly from some people. But you must not give her reasons to be insecure and question you all the time. It will get tiring." He advised.

Mntwana: "You are right and good news is, the other woman I found, she has a space of her own and a busy life. Simthande won't even notice."

Ngcebo: "Doti! You are already cheating, not even two minutes in a relationship and there's someone else in your life?"

Mntwana: "It happened once but I am interest in going back for more. I love Simthande. I know that I love her and she knows that now but I can't put all my trust in her. You know those

women you love while helping them. When they're up in their feet they tend to see better people than you."

Ngcebo: "Your mother didn't do that to your father."

Mntwana: "Mom was different."

Ngcebo: "No, she could have changed when she had money and everything that she wanted. But she didn't change."

Mntwana: "I get you but it's better if I leave a room for disappointment. And until I can see how she'll be after getting her success I won't date her alone. I have made up my mind about that."

Ngcebo: "Ay, boy, if you want that route there's nothing I can do to change your mind. But you better bring her on my sneaker line launch not the other cabbage that you've found."

Mntwana laughed. "Gwani! She's not a cabbage

but I will come with Simthande. I don't even think Neliswa will be available. I won't ask her. But you must tell your camera men not to take pictures of me-" he didn't finish off his sentence because Ngcebo laughed before he could even finish. Mntwana's assistant entered through the office door. "It's not funny."

Ngcebo: "It is funny if you ask me. I should go back to work now."

Mntwana: "Sure, me too. We will talk."

Ngcebo: "Sho, ntwana. And you must tell this Nikhona woman to be honest with her sister and tell her that she has problems. So that Simthande won't be hurt again. It's not nice to be hurt by your own blood over and over again."

Mntwana: "You are right. I will do that, thank you."

Ngcebo: "Sho!" they hung up the call and Mntwana nodded his head in support of what

his brother had just told him. He needed to tell Nikhona that she must be honest with Simthande...

“How about I find a place in that same building and I will have a roommate who’ll be my sister?” Simthande asked Mntwana who was seated across her inside a restaurant by the beach. Mntwana had taken her out on a Tuesday night because she wasn’t working and he was in a mood of going out with her.

Mntwana: “That’s more like living together. Wait, you haven’t agreed to the idea of us living separately, right?” he asked placing his fork down.

Simthande: “No, it’s not like that.”

Mntwana: “Yes, it’s like that and if I tell you the truth babe, the truth is that living together won’t guarantee that I won’t cheat on you because I can see that you have the idea of me cheating if

I live alone.”

Simthande: “How can you say that?”

Mntwana: “I am not saying it to hurt you but I am saying it so that you can see that you can’t stop me from doing something. But all you can do is relax and give our relationship a chance to blossom without any of us holding too tight on it because it can break. I love you and I want us to be together. Please, loosen up and don’t make things difficult for us.”

Simthande looked down as his words hit home. She looked at him. “Okay, I want to live by the beach and I will live with my sister because she lives in a hotel.” She told Mntwana feeling that she was forcing this. She didn’t want it.

Mntwana: “Your sister is moving in here permanently?”

Simthande: “No, but for the time being. When will I move?”

Mntwana: "It will depend on when are we getting a suitable place. I don't want you living in some shabby flat but I want a safe place for you. Maybe by September we would have found that place."

Simthande smiled as it warmed her heart that Mntwana cared about her safety. She was really hoping that this time she didn't go wrong and she wasn't going to destroy their relationship with her trust issues. "That would be really nice and I really think living separately will be good for us." She said.

Mntwana: "Yes, I have been bothered by something about your sister." He introduced. He didn't know if he was gambling by telling her this but he saw that it was best that he tells her what Nikhona had done. Because it was clear that Nikhona was going to hurt her sister again as she'd refused to tell Simthande that her business had problems. Mntwana had called



her to tell her that he wanted to meet with the board and he told her to tell Simthande the truth but she refused, telling him that Simthande wasn't going to trust her.

Simthande: "What is it?"

Mntwana: "I don't like what your sister did and if you were part of it I don't even want you to play such games with me."

Simthande: "What are you on about?"

Mntwana: "Your sister seduced me and showed me her breasts and vagina. I turned her down and she told me that she was testing me."

Simthande laughed and clapped once. "I can't believe this!" She exclaimed.

Mntwana: "You can't believe what?"

Simthande: "Nikhona told me that she doesn't like the way you look at her but I just thought she was overacting and now, you are lying

about her like this.”

Mntwana: “What! You can’t be serious, Simthande. Do you in any way think that I want your sister? Is that what you think? Why would I lie?”

Simthande: “I don’t know but you wanted to meet her as early as first day of my meeting with her and I didn’t want meeting up with her but you pushed me to do it. And now, you want me to move out. You are lying about her. Do you want her?” Mntwana clicked his tongue and raised his hand for the waitress. He opened his wallet looking for money to pay the bill. “Why are you quiet now?” She asked.

Mntwana: “I am fed up with this thing of being accused of things I know nothing about. I am telling you the truth about your sister because I actually don’t trust her and I thought maybe she was telling the truth but that morning I asked you about this. You didn’t tell me you’ve told

your sister to do this test shit.”

Simthande: “That’s because I didn’t tell her and you are just lying. How can Nikhona show you her breast-” she paused as the waitress was before them. Mntwana paid the bill and he got up from the chair. Simthande took her bag and followed Mntwana. “You can’t honestly tell me that my sister has showed you her breasts and vagina. She’s not like that and if she had done that. Why didn’t you tell me the same day she did it?” she asked.

They stepped inside the car. “I won’t answer your question because it’s not like you’ll believe anything I will say anyway.” He said starting the engine.

Simthande: “Yes, you won’t answer it because you are lying. I can’t believe you!” she shouted at him and clapped her hands once.

Mntwana didn’t raise a comment but he

wondered how could she trust her sister after everything that she'd done to her? But he'd never done something for her to doubt his intentions. He'd just told her the truth and she didn't even tell him she was going to speak to her sister but she was quick to conclude that he was lying to her! Why would she not trust him but trust her sister? He wondered as they had the rest of their drive quietly because he didn't want to keep arguing about this. But he knew she wanted to keep talking about it...

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Nontobeko and Dalingcebo exited the court as a divorced couple. Dalingcebo couldn't believe that after such a long time of a battle that his divorce had been. He was finally a divorced man. He thought that they would have a life, a good life with Nontobeko but that didn't happen. But he was grateful that they had someone, a beautiful princess that came from their love.

And as he was moving down to his car he felt like now he can really move on with his life.

Nontobeko walked out of the court deciding that all her dedication was going to be invested in her career and her daughter now not forgetting her mother. She didn't have a man she was committed to and should she want a man she knew what she was going to be looking for. She wasn't going to look for a man like Dalingcebo. He'd been a good and a bad part of her life and from today, she was going to move on from this marriage and start afresh. She didn't feel like she'd hurt Dalingcebo by making their divorce public because he didn't even comment to the public but she'd got support from strangers. She'd cried for the failure of her marriage, she'd cried for losing the man she loved. And now, there was no tears left to cry but looking forward to a new leaf...

"We will meet up at the restaurant?" Dalingcebo

asked Nontobeko as they have reached the parking lot of the court. They have decided before going to court that it was best that they tell Qalokuhle together that they were no longer together. Nontobeko was the one who called Dalingcebo and requested that they do this together because she didn't want Qalokuhle to be told about this divorce while she was not there.

Nontobeko: "Yes, and I will be going home with her. I hope you didn't forget about that. I will bring her back on Sunday."

Dalingcebo: "I didn't forget." He informed her and they stepped inside their cars. Dalingcebo's car drove out of the parking lot first and Nontobeko's car followed behind. He was driving hoping that their daughter wouldn't cry...

"Mama, you are going home with us? You haven't been coming home and I have a brother but you were not there when we went to take

him from the hospital. When are you coming home?" Qalokuhle asked her mother. She was sitting on Nontobeko's lap and Thembelihle was on the table with them. Qalokuhle had been with her as they were waiting for her parents.

Thembelihle: "Let her father answer that Nontobeko because that's a big and hard question that your child can ask you. I know." She said looking at her son.

Dalingcebo: "Why should I answer because she's asking her mother?"

Nontobeko: "Your mother is right, Dalingcebo. You should answer that because even that baby is not mine but that baby is yours."

Dalingcebo: "Qalokuhle? Your mother won't be coming home with us."

Qalokuhle: "Why?"

Dalingcebo looked at his mother and Thembelihle didn't say a word but she kept her

eyes still on him. He looked at his daughter not knowing how he was going to tell her about this divorce. “She won’t be coming home because your father and your mother are no longer married.” He told her.

Qalokuhle: “Why? Because grandpa and grandma are old and they’re still married and they live together. But you are no longer married, why?”

Dalingcebo: “Nontobeko this was your idea that we should tell Qalokuhle about the divorce together but now, you are quiet.”

Nontobeko: “I am quiet because you should answer her. I will talk to her when she reacts to the fact that we are divorced.”

Dalingcebo: “Some married people don’t live together until they’re old like your grandparents. But they encounter problems that stop them from staying together as a married couple. But

that doesn't mean they hate each other."

Nontobeko: "Yes, baby, your father and I, don't hate each other. But we just can't live together anymore and you'll stay with your granny.

Mommy, will always come take you and we will go home together not in your father's house. And you'll visit mama where she works in the city."

Qalokuhle looked at her grandmother and she cried placing her head on her mother's chest. Nontobeko held her daughter and closed her eyes.

Thembelihle: "I wonder how many children have to go through these type of situations." She wondered out loud shaking her head looking at them both.

Dalingcebo: "Qalokuhle wasn't living with us, vele. She won't have a difficult time adjusting because she already knows that her mother is

not always there. There was nothing we could do to give her a normal home.”

Thembelihle: “That doesn’t change anything. Don’t cry MaZulu because this doesn’t mean that you won’t see your mother but you’ll see her.” she said standing up and she took Qalokuhle from her mother because now, she didn’t know if Nontobeko was also crying or she was just emotional...

Qalokuhle: “Mama, won’t come to our house and see my brother. And the girls won’t visit me anymore if mama is not there.”

Dalingcebo: “You’ll visit the girls and your brother, don’t worry about him.” he said to her because Qalokuhle was too young to be told that Qhawe wasn’t her mother’s son. She didn’t even understand how the baby was made and telling her that Nontobeko wasn’t the mother was out of question...

“I just want to thank you for not taking Qalokuhle and I won’t really comment about your marriage. And being divorced to Dalingcebo doesn’t mean you are enemies. You still have a child with him and it would be easier if you two don’t have resentment towards each other for your daughter’s sake. And I must say that I didn’t like the fact that as Qalokuhle’s mother you didn’t even call when I lost my son. I don’t even want to mention coming. We had a relationship, you were my daughter in-law but you made it look like I am the one who sent Dalingcebo to hurt you.” Thembelihle told Nontobeko what was in her heart. They were standing by Nontobeko’s car and Qalokuhle was inside the car.

Nontobeko: “I am sorry but I was just angry that Dalingcebo cheated and you didn’t even do anything about that.”

Thembelihle: “What was I supposed to do

Nontobeko? He cheated and how do you reprimand a son for that? He knew what he was doing and I couldn't have stopped it. And how do you think I felt when I learnt he cheated with his brother's wife? I got sick and while dealing with that my son died. Was I ever cruel to you that you couldn't even call me and ask how I am?"

Nontobeko: "I am sorry I can see now that was wrong of me because you've never been bad towards me. But when I was out line you showed me the way and you've looked after my child. You weren't bad towards me. I am sorry. Please, forgive me." she said to her realising her wrong.

Thembelihle: "It's alright, let's put that behind us. Drive safe with her."

Nontobeko: "Thank you." she said opening her arms and they shared a hug...

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Nandipha was on her feet on a Friday morning she was ironing Ngcebo's clothes inside the closet. It was a Friday of Ngcebo's sneaker line launch and he wasn't home. He left in the morning with his brothers and Nandipha was left alone in the house. She was told Mntwana's girlfriend was going to be in the house with her but she wasn't in the house with her. She left with the guys. The children were in her mother's house because she was going to the launch with Ngcebo... The first song she did with Mujo was going to come out on the present day. And she couldn't wait to hear what people were going to say about the song. She was nervous about it because she didn't know if there would be any negative reports or there would be any positive reports. She didn't know if Ngcebo was going to make peace with this or he was going to be even angrier... She sighed and took her

phone that was ringing.

“Hello?” Nandipha answered Thembelihle’s phone call.

Thembelihle: “Yebo, unjani?”

Nandipha: “I am fine and how are you?”

Thembelihle: “I am fine. I have been calling your husband but he’s not answering his phone. Is he busy?”

Nandipha: “He left in the morning with his brothers. There’ll be a launch today and that’s what has been keeping him busy.”

Thembelihle: “Oh! He mentioned it to me. I have forgotten about it. How are the girls? I haven’t spoken to them in a while. Where are they?”

Nandipha: “They’re fine but not in the house. We have been busy and with the launch happening tonight, we sent them to mama’s house.”

Thembelihle: “Oh. I understand I will call them

when they're back. You don't even call me anymore. Just calling or sending a text like you used to. You've become quiet as if we are strangers and this is not just a recent thing. You didn't even see the need to tell me that you are pregnant I had to hear that from Ngcebo."

Nandipha placed the iron aside and she placed her hand on her waist. She was tongue tied but she had to say something because it was going to be awkward. "I don't know what to say but I have been busy." She said.

Thembelihle: "You've never been busy for me before but I understand you might have a lot on your plate. You'll tell your husband I called."

Nandipha: "Yes, I will tell him when he comes back."

Thembelihle: "Okay. Bye."

Nandipha: "Bye." She said back and removed the phone from her ear. She placed it aside and

proceeded with ironing the clothes...

“How would you like it if I can get a tattoo?” Ngcebo asked Nandipha who was standing before inside the closet. They were getting dressed for the launch.

Nandipha: “Not while you are my husband.”

Ngcebo laughed. “Why do you say that? It’s part of art.” He asked and opened the box of the sneakers with his name on them. He smiled looking at them.

Nandipha: “Tattoos and anger goes together. It’s a spiritual thing.” She said and she was the first person to laugh at what she was saying before Ngcebo.

Ngcebo: “I am pretty sure that you heard that from church.”

Nandipha: “Not really but I am telling you the truth.” She turned and looked at him. She saw Ngcebo’s smile as he was looking at the



sneakers. “How do you feel?” She asked walking towards him and he looked at her.

Ngcebo: “I have received awards, did music and my name would be on the CDs, billboards, you name it. But this piece is just so amazing. I feel proud.”

Nandipha: “I am happy for you.” she told him placing her hand on his shoulder.

Ngcebo: “Can you put them on my feet?” he requested looking at her and Nandipha smiled with a nod. She kneeled down and took the sneakers. She then placed them on his feet...

Ngcebo held her face when she was done and he placed his lips on Nandipha’s lips. They shared a kiss...

“When will these two be visible? I can’t believe a sick person made this dress for you. My brother’s wife is really talented.” Ngcebo commented holding Nandipha’s waist with his

eyes looking at her.

Nandipha: “Yes, she’s amazing and I look beautiful.”

Ngcebo chuckled. “Yes, but I was going to tell you that just in case you are saying it because I haven’t said it.” He told her looking at her face.

Nandipha: “It feels good too when I say it from my mouth.”

Ngcebo: “Oh! If you say it that way and you didn’t answer me about the babies. How are you? And how are they? I feel like maybe you don’t like me this time around.” He told her about his feelings.

Nandipha laughed: “We are fine. And why would you think that?” She asked.

Ngcebo: “You haven’t been yourself around me and Buhlezi tells me that you play and laugh with them. Don’t you like me?”

Nandipha: “No, I haven’t felt any reactions about anyone expect food. I have no problem with you but I have been nervous about the song that’s coming out today. I don’t want to ruin your image-”

Ngcebo: “If it’s about that. It’s better we don’t talk about it. But let’s go.” He said to her without allowing her to finish her statement. Nandipha nodded and she turned to her purse. She followed Ngcebo...

“You came, look at you! You look beautiful.” Nandipha said to Palesa and they hugged each other... The venue was packed and Nandipha had moved away from Ngcebo’s side the minute she saw Palesa.

Palesa: “And you look amazing! Who made this dress for you? I definitely like it. Wow! It’s beautiful.” She looked at her.

Nandipha: “Ntandokazi, the wife of Ngcebo’s

brother. She's a designer. You came here alone? I didn't expect so many people."

Palesa: "Yes, I came alone, bitch! Who would have come here with me? And look, your husband is looking around. Go!" she pushed her to his side.

Nandipha nodded her head quickly and she rushed to Ngcebo who was actually looking for her. "Are you looking for your girlfriend?" She asked with a smile.

Ngcebo chuckled. "Yes, why did you leave me? You know that you have to be by my side and smile when I talk with people. You are mostly not around me and so, I should enjoy this moment." He said holding her hand.

Nandipha laughed. "Whatever you want. You'll get it tonight." She promised and they walked together mingling with people as Ngcebo wanted...

Dalingcebo moved away from his position as he saw Palesa moving out of the venue with her phone on her ear. He'd been waiting for a moment to speak to her but she was around people. And he didn't want to intrude her space.

"You are leaving already?" Dalingcebo asked Palesa who was searching for her car keys inside her bag. She was standing before her car.

Palesa held her breath as she saw Dalingcebo. "It's you. Please, tell Nandipha that I have to leave because Phemelo is giving my helper a hard time." She told Dalingcebo and she finally found her keys.

Dalingcebo: "Okay, I will tell her but will I see you before I leave?" he asked and held her wrist stopping her from leaving his sight.

Palesa: "I thought we spoke on the phone that we shouldn't see each other."

Dalingcebo: "There's nothing you should worry

about now because I am divorced and there's no bad blood between ex-wife and I. She's not a person who can hate you. And I am not saying let's get married now but I am just asking that you give me a chance to be in your life."

Palesa: "I have a child and I don't want to bring a third person into our lives. It's best that he knows that it's just me and him, then his grandfather. I have my focus on him and my career."

Dalingcebo: "We will try not to include him for now but if things get serious between the two of us. We will do that. We will make sure he doesn't see that we are together. Don't block me." he said holding both her arms and pulled her even closer to him bumping her body on his.

Palesa: "Do you want them to take another picture of us?"

Dalingcebo: "There's nobody in this parking lot

and I really didn't care about what people said but I was just worried about you." he said holding her face now and Palesa looked into his eyes.

Palesa: "You're taking my son's time. By just holding me."

"Oh, let me take his time correctly by kissing you then because you are complaining that I am just holding you." Dalingcebo said to her and he didn't allow Palesa to speak but he relaxed his lips on her lips and he didn't rush to moving his lips. But he placed them on her lips waiting for a protest, he didn't receive it. He felt her body was a little tense as his lips were resting on hers. Dalingcebo moved his lips on her mouth softly and tenderly. He didn't stop until he got a response from Palesa who moved her lips with his matching the soft movement that gave Dalingcebo intense emotions of ecstasy. He smashed her upper lip and allowed her to focus

on his lower lips softly. Dalingcebo grazed his tongue between her lips and he heard a soft deep moan from her. He held her arms a little tighter as he felt himself harden within seconds. He felt great about the kiss but he had to stop himself now!

Palesa widened her eyes now that he'd stopped and she didn't allow herself to look at him because she couldn't believe she'd just allowed him to kiss her.

Dalingcebo: "You can go now and be with Phemelo." He said searching for her face that she was hiding away from him...

Palesa didn't say anything but she opened her car. She stepped inside the car and heard him laugh. But she didn't allow herself to look at him. She drove her car out of the parking lot and she couldn't believe she was acting as a shy woman who'd never been kissed. But what can she say? She was never a same person with guys after



her baby daddy...

## THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

### S6 == EPISODE 17

“I am grateful that you all managed to come for the launch last night. It was a success and I wasn’t expecting so many people.” Ngcebo sent his thanks to his brothers the following morning they were having breakfast. It was Dalingcebo, Banele who came to the launch with Candice and Mntwana who came with Simthande. They were all seated on the dining table eating breakfast that was prepared by Nandipha, Candice and Simthande. But Nandipha wasn’t eating what they were eating. She was having the usual.

Banele: “Who was going to come if we didn’t?”

Ngcebo: “Hha! I have a wife wena uthini manje?” (What are you saying now?) he asked looking at him and they all laughed

Simthande: “You have a point there because the two of you were following each other around. And not your brothers.”

Dalingcebo: “Imagine if we were following an old man around?”

Candice: “It wouldn’t be attractive.” She shook her head and they laughed.

Ngcebo: “You are right about that Candice and I hope that you’ll begin buying the sneakers. You should begin wearing my name. I am expensive nje!”

The brothers whistled and drummed the tables while the ladies were laughing. Simthande felt warm on her seat, loving the bond of siblings and they reminded her how they used to be close with her siblings before everything else

came between them. She didn't want to come to the launch because of the fight she had with Mntwana but her sister encouraged her to go with him. Simthande asked her sister about the accusations that Mntwana was saying about her. Nikhona didn't deny that she tested Mntwana but she denied that she showed Mntwana her body parts. Simthande was angry and she was scared that Mntwana was lying. She was angry that he wanted her sister and even though Mntwana had encouraged her that he didn't want her sister. Simthande didn't trust him still but she allowed the matter to rest because she didn't want their relationship to be all about her insecurities and fighting...

Dalingcebo: "I will be the first to buy them." he told him and Ngcebo gave Dalingcebo his fist. They did a fist bump.

Ngcebo: "Yizo, bafo! And you two!"

Banele: "Why are you even asking now?"

Nandipha: “He’s double checking Banele. Please allow him to.”

“Kodwa ngingaba yini ngaphandle kwakho my fohloza?” Ngcebo asked Nandipha and his eyes landed on hers.

“Awu! Ngcebo! Phambi kwabantu!” She screamed senselessly and everyone on the table laughed giving Mntwana a chance to tease Nandipha by that name.

Mntwana stood up as his phone was ringing. He left everyone on the table to answer his phone outside the house.

Mntwana: “Ey, I am getting a call from you. That means you’re no longer busy with the rest of the world and you remembered me.”

Neliswa: “That’s no way of greeting a lady.”

Mntwana chuckled. “Forgive me but I wasn’t expecting your call and the house that I am coming from right now doesn’t have some

politeness.”

Neliswa: “Oh! I should call when you have politeness, right?”

Mntwana: “No! No! Why would do that because I want to see you tomorrow. I will be back from Johannesburg and I would appreciate it if you dedicate the entire day for me. I will clear my schedule.”

Neliswa: “You’ll clear your schedule just for me?”

Mntwana: “Yes, you’ve been gone for too long and I understand it was business. And I wouldn’t want to come between you and business.”

Neliswa: “That’s nice coming from you and to tell you the truth I wasn’t expecting that you’ll tell me you don’t understand because you are in business as well. And you know how it works.”

Mntwana: “You are right but does that mean I

will have your time tomorrow?”

Neliswa: “Yes, I was just calling to tell you that I am free.”

Mntwana: “That’s amazing. I will see you tomorrow then because I will be very tired from travelling that I can’t see you tonight.”

Neliswa: “I understand.”

Mntwana: “You’ll have a good day then, lady luck.”

Neliswa laughed and hung up the call. Mntwana looked at the phone and he shook his head before heading back inside the house...

Nandipha: “Thank you for coming and it was nice to meet you even though we didn’t have that much time to be together.” She said to Simthande. She was walking her out of the house as they were leaving for Cape Town with Mntwana. Banele and Candice had left and Dalingcebo was still in the house.

Simthande: “Yes, we didn’t have much time but it was nice being here even though I couldn’t meet those beautiful girls I saw on the pictures.”

Nandipha smiled. “You’ll meet them next time.”

Simthande: “They’re not scared of people?”

Nandipha: “Not really but Ntokomalo is not easily drawn to people she doesn’t know. But the others, if you have a good vibe, they vibe with you.”

Simthande laughed. “The way you say it. It’s like they’re old people.” She said.

Nandipha giggled. “No, they’re little trouble. You’ll drive safe then Simthande.”

Simthande: “Thank you for the hospitality.” She said and offered a hug...

“I miss my girls let’s go take them now.”

Nandipha told Ngcebo as they were marching

back inside the house after seeing Mntwana drive off.

Ngcebo: “No, let’s take them at night. Dalingcebo and I will drive by Nhlakanipho’s house just to check on him.”

Nandipha: “Okay, we will take them when you come back.” she said and rushed to her phone that was ringing inside the lounge. But when she had the phone on her hands it stopped ringing. She sat on the couch and tapped on the phone to check who was calling. It rang again.

Nandipha exhaled and looked at the phone before answering it. She inhaled deeply. “Hello, Mr Rapper.” She answered Mujo’s phone call.

Mujo: “Hey. Mrs Rasta! Are you sleeping on this day? Please, use your twitter and see the song is trending and people are responding to it.”

Nandipha laughed. “I am scared, bro. I didn’t even want to touch my phone in the morning



and see what's written about it." She told him and stood up as Ngcebo was before her taking her hand.

Ngcebo: "I am leaving now and we'll go to your mother's house when I come back." he told Nandipha and he gave her a short kiss not caring about the person who was with her on the phone. "I love you." he said.

Nandipha: "I love you too." She said and looked at him as he left the house. She then dissolved back on the couch. "Sorry for that." She said.

Mujo: "It's okay, I can't compete with his time. And you don't have to be scared about anything regarding the articles because they're just a shocker. They highlight how unexpected this was, not anything bad. And people love the song. I don't know why I am telling you this because you should see it for yourself. I called because you haven't tweeted it and some wonders if that's really you as you haven't said

anything.”

Nandipha: “Alright. I will be on it now. Thank you for the call.”

Mujo: “Sure!”

Nandipha removed the phone from her ears. “Do you want to hear mama singing? Babies?” She spoke to her unborn babies and she stood up to play the song on the sound system connecting it through Bluetooth... She sat back on the couch and logged in on twitter while listening to their first song that was a rap inspirational song talking about nothing but dreams and ambitions. Nandipha read through the tweets about the song and she held her cheeks red from smiling seeing the positive response that she didn’t expect.

“Lord! Only if they knew that he didn’t know about this!” She shouted alone as she read more tweets from people, mostly females

praising Ngcebo for not standing between Nandipha and working with Mujo who has a beef with him. And some were against them working together, mostly guys. 'Mujo is stealing Prince Tee's limelight using his wife. He is disrespectful' tweets like that surfaced as people complained about not being able to celebrate freely that Ngcebo had launched a sneaker line because the song was all over their TLs. The song was the first on the trends and Ngcebo's sneaker line was second. 'Mujo has diverted our attention from Prince Tee's success using his wife' Nandipha sighed and closed her eyes shortly strongly feeling that Ngcebo was going to say the same thing. He still didn't want to talk about this with her and she knew that he wasn't going to comment about it. She wanted to feel absolute good for the praises she was getting from the public and the compliments about her voice but she didn't allow herself to embrace it fully. Because she

didn't know what Ngcebo was going to say about it.

Nandipha: "Either way! I had a good time and they loved the song. I am getting money and that should console me. We should eat now. South Africa loves your mama's voice and she's so proud right now." she said to herself and got up from the couch to have the breakfast that she didn't eat...

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"Tell me about yourself." Mntwana said to Neliswa and he took the piece of meat that was on the plate on the table... Neliswa and Mntwana were laying down on the sponge inside the lounge with a sheet covering their naked bodies. Mntwana cancelled the rest of his day just to spend his time with Neliswa.

Neliswa: "No, there's no need for you to know me because this is actually casual sex. It's not a

relationship.”

Mntwana chuckled and he pulled Neliswa back into his wet chest where she'd been laying on before he got up to take some meat. “Have some.” He placed the meat on Neliswa's mouth and she opened her mouth allowing him to put the meat inside her mouth. “I want to know you and I don't care what name are you giving this relationship of ours but you know there are different kinds of relationships. This is also one. And I deserve to know the person I am in a relationship with unless if you don't want to see me ever again. I won't ask that you tell me about yourself.” Mntwana said to Neliswa and deepened his fingers on her scalp. She had a short black afro that she hardly went public with. She was a classy woman not glamorous but classy.

Neliswa: “You're from KZN, right?”

Mntwana: “Yes, I am from Nongoma.”

Neliswa: "Oh! Do you know Chief Busakonke Dlamini?"

Mntwana: "Yes, I know him. There's no chief in Zululand that I don't know."

Neliswa: "That's nice. I am his first daughter from his first wife."

Mntwana: "What!" he exclaimed and he got up with her. He looked at her closely and he shook his head because he didn't know Neliswa as the princess of Chief Busakonke Dlamini. "And why don't I know you because I know his children even the ones who are older than me." he asked looking at her and he was sure that Neliswa was just lying to him.

Neliswa: "How do you know his children? And how do you all the Zululand chieftaincies? Do you perhaps study history?"

Mntwana chuckled. "You know I do business but I am the last born of the Monarch. Well, now,

my older brother is the Monarch after our father. I am Prince Mntwana Zulu.” He told her and he looked at her still confirming in his head that he didn’t know Neliswa as the princess.

Neliswa: “No ways! Wait, that means you lied to me! How could you?”

Mntwana: “I lied about what?”

Neliswa: “Hello! Your fuckin age! I know the former monarch’s last son is not 29 years old. I remember I was... I was... I was 9 years old when we went to your mother’s palace with my father’s two wives that time he had two wives. We were there to give gifts as it’s normally done and that means. Hell no!”

Mntwana: “Wait, age means nothing but I want to know how are you princess because I don’t know you as one!”

Neliswa sighed and shook her head as she couldn’t believe that she’d slept with a 21 years

old boy! She was a grown woman for goodness sake and she didn't even feel like Mntwana was young.

Mntwana: "Hey, I need an answer or you're lying to me."

Neliswa: "I think as a prince you've seen how it is being royalty and my father had plans for me that I didn't want. He'd figured my life out from who was going to marry his first princess and how many cows he was going to get. He didn't want me to have ambitions and dreams, be that woman that the new South Africa was preaching about. Come, I will show you something." She stood up with the sheet leaving Mntwana uncovered and he got up from the sponge. He followed Neliswa to her bedroom...

"This is an article I saw from my mother's things. I was 14 years when I saw this." She said and gave the article to Mntwana...

Mntwana took the piece of paper and he read through it. He smiled as he saw it was an article about his mother's graduation.

Mntwana: "This is my mother."

Neliswa: "Yes, it's your mom and I have kept that article with me since then."

Mntwana: "But your name-"

Neliswa: "I changed my name and last name. I ran away from home when I was 20 years and I was going to get married at 21 years. I have stolen enough money from dad and I ran away, changed my name and built myself."

Mntwana: "You are Ntombezinhle Dlamini, the princess who left home-"

Neliswa: "They lied that I went to study abroad they covered up that I actually ran away. I just couldn't stay at home because I felt like being royalty was a burden because I had to live according to traditions and rules. I couldn't

make my own rules. My father is so old fashioned and too traditional.”

Mntwana: “So, you’ve been living here and it’s impossible that they haven’t seen you. I don’t believe this.”

Neliswa: “My mother knows that I am here and we meet sometimes but my father doesn’t know about it. I am her only daughter since she has sons. She didn’t sell me to my father because she didn’t want me to have the life she had. She wanted me to have the life I wanted.”

Mntwana: “She had my mother’s article because-”

Neliswa: “It’s something that she wished for, to be an educated woman while she had her family and life that she had but my father didn’t believe in that.”

Mntwana: “I can’t believe I have slept with the princess.”

Neliswa: "Oh! Please! You lied to me, Mntwana. You are a child and I can't possibly be with a child. No! I can't allow that."

Mntwana placed the newspaper piece away and he shifted closer to her. "Come on, you didn't even see that I am younger than you. And that's because my age is just two numbers and it doesn't describe where I am in life and where I should be in life. Don't tell me that you don't like this..." Mntwana spoke to Neliswa on a lazy voice with his fingers already invading the space in between her thighs to reach her sacred place. Neliswa held his wrist.

Neliswa: "We can't proceed with this. I know it's just sex but I can't..." she broke off and closed her eyes as Mntwana's finger had reached 'her'. She began panting as her emotions had quickened within seconds. "Don't-"

Mntwana didn't give her anymore chance but he kissed her because he wasn't about to let her

decide she didn't want him anymore because of his age. He knew what he was doing with these two women and he couldn't see himself trying to get a new one. Neliswa being 30 years meant nothing to him because he'd been with women older than her...

Mntwana: "Don't place unnecessary blocks between us." he said moving from her lips and he placed his lips on her breasts while he sent his hand up the drawer to search for a condom.

Neliswa: "I don't want anything that got to do with royalty."

Mntwana stopped kissing her and he looked at her. "Anything' You are royalty yourself and sweetie you can even run to Nigeria, Australia and even change your name to Eloise English that can never change who you are because you know yourself and a human being can never lie to herself/himself." He lectured her feeling a bit otherwise as she'd said that to him... He looked

at her for a long while without saying a word and Neliswa wasn't talking. Mntwana decided to kiss her and hump on her because she deserved that...

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"Hheyi! Hheyi! Hheyi!" A Sangoma inside his hut in a forest closer to the small gravel road of KwaMhlab'uyalingana, he groaned deeply and groaned louder with his shoulders convulsing. He raised his head and looked at MaKhumalo kneeling before him. "I can see you've been carrying hate inside your heart and this hate had been rooted deeply within you. You feel now is the time you roar it." He prophesied what he saw from the woman seated before him.

MaKhumalo: "Yes, my family was wronged and killed in war for no reason by the late Monarch, Dalisu's father. I have tried to revenge myself and my family when Dalisu's sons fought with my son and his friends. They beat them into a

pulp and I thought that was going to be an opportunity for me to get my chance at revenge. But when I wanted Dalisu and his wife to give me money that I was going to use to destroy them. Their son, the ruling monarch he stopped me with his command and I have never tried any chances at revenge after that. I have only saved money for the past years since the incident of his sons beating my son. I want to destroy them.”

The Sangoma groaned louder and he sang songs that MaKhumalo didn't know. He stood up from his place and he tapped his feet around MaKhumalo and the bones that were scattered on the animal skin along with an incense that was burning. “Hheyi! Hheyi!” He groaned even louder that gave MaKhumalo's skin creeps and she held her arms. “Ngabe malini onayo?” (How much do you have?) he asked without sitting down but still tapping his feet around her.

MaKhumalo: "I have saved R240 000 and I was told when I come here I can get any help that I want." She replied looking down.

Sangoma: "Hheyi! You've told them that you want to destroy the kingdom and you'll be coming to me for that?" he asked quickly and he resolved back to the floor that he'd been kneeling on. He looked at MaKhumalo.

MaKhumalo: "No! No! No! I haven't told them that. I didn't tell anyone about this. I can never make that mistake. It's my only secret."

Sangoma: "What do you want to happen to the former Monarch and his family? What did you have in mind?"

MaKhumalo: "Before, I wanted them to be poor as I was going to take money from them and bewitched them the hard way. I wanted the glitz of their kingdom to perish just like they've taken from me-"

Sangoma: "WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW! NOT THE PAST!"

MaKhumalo: "I want to threaten their future existence. I want to take away the kingdom's priceless possession and bring misery into their lives. They say you can do wonders and I want you to do these wonders for me. I wanted to kill all their children but they can easily make more children. I wanted to kill their monarch but the next son can take after him. I don't know what I can use to hit them while they don't know that I have. Can you see what is it that I can use to give them sorrow and threaten their future? I want that-"

The Sangoma raised his hand to stop MaKhumalo from speaking and he took the broken play pot, he mixed a few herbs and he requested a drop of MaKhumalo's blood. She gave it to him by cutting her forefinger. He began tapping into the dark world just to see



what he needed to fulfil this woman's wishes. The Sangoma wasn't a man with mercy and he wasn't just a pure Sangoma but he also used witchcraft when it was needed...

MaKhumalo: "Do you see anything?" she asked as she heard the Sangoma groan even louder than before. She changed the position as she couldn't wait to hear what she needed to do to destroy Dalisu and his family.

Sangoma: "Lo msebenzi ubucayi ngendlela eyisimanga ingakho kodingeka singambandakanyi muntu kulento. Singafa nokufa uma kungavela ubuqu bethu ezigamekweni ezizokwenzeka. Kodwa ngizosivikela." (This job is critical and that's why we will have to do it by ourselves. We can be killed if it can be known that we are behind the upcoming events. But I will cloak us.)

MaKhumalo: "Makhosi!"

Sangoma: “Hheyi! Hheyi! Incane imali onayo kanti mukhulu umsebenzi. Ekupheleni kwenyanga KaLwezi kodingeka ubuye usunenye imali. Uyobona ke ukuthi uyengeza kanjani le mali. Mina kodingeka ngizilungiselele. Kothi ngalobo busuku bomsebenzi mina nawe komele siziqinise. Hheyi!” (You don’t have enough money for this job to be carried out. At the end of November, you’ll need to come back with more money. I will need to prepare myself. That night of the job we will have to do a ritual for ourselves.)

MaKhumalo: “Makhosi! Ngizozama konke okusemandleni ami kodwa awungitsheli ukuthi yini le edingekayo.” (What should we do?)

Sangoma: “Uzongilethela umfazi omhlophe, hheyi! Uthi akabe mfishane, hheyi! Wondlekile ngokomzimba, hheyi! Unemiyeko ekhanda, hheyi! Lo mfazi uzithwele amakhosana amabibili uma sithole yena namadodana akhe

sinayo yonke into! HHEYI. KuZibandlela sobe soqala umsebenzi ngalo mfazi. Yena! Yena! Nje! HHEYI!” (You’ll bring a light skinned woman, she’s short and has dreadlocks. She’s pregnant with two princes. In December we will begin working with her and her unborn sons. We must have her by then. Her! Just her!) He groaned lastly and widened his eyes looking at MaKhumalo to check if she could hear what he was saying to her.

MaKhumalo: “MAKHOSI! Ngiyamazi lomshoyo!” (I know her) she said clapping her hands and she looked at the Sangoma putting her trust in him. She was trusting that he knew what he was doing. All she needed to do was acquire more money...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 19

He parked his car on the parking lot outside the building and he looked at Neliswa after he'd checked if her driver was parking behind him.

"You really didn't want me to leave your house. I can't believe you opted to drive with me just to spend these few minutes together." He said to Neliswa and he smiled, it was a Friday night.

Mntwana had been in her house since 6pm and he wasn't planning on sleeping over even though Neliswa had asked him to sleepover.

When Mntwana was leaving the house she told him she was going to drive with him and her driver followed them behind.

Neliswa: "I enjoy your company." She admitted looking at him. A month had passed since Mntwana and Neliswa been seeing each other. They didn't know if they were in an official relationship or they were just sleeping together but they appreciated each other's presence.

They haven't opened up that much to each other but only about their identity.

Mntwana: "I enjoy your company as well but I don't understand why are you single? I mean you are a beautiful, smart woman and you're not too much."

Neliswa laughed. "Men I have been with they don't want to settle for a woman like me. I don't want to get married I don't want to have children I just want to have a partner who understands me and who likes being with me. And I always state that when I get into a relationship but men always want to tie me down. Whenever they start doing that I send them packing." She told him.

Mntwana chuckled. "At this point I can't strongly say I don't want to get married because I know marriage is a beautiful thing and we always change our choices as we grow. But I also don't want to get married where I am

standing in life and children, no. I only want a love relationship.” He said and reminded himself that he had a love relationship with Simthande but she wasn’t make it easy for them as a couple.

Neliswa: “You’ll get a love relationship with someone who’s your age.”

Mntwana: “What’s wrong if she isn’t my age?”

Neliswa: “Those relationships are mostly likely to fail and the woman will get hurt because ‘you were older than him he left you for a younger girl’ I wouldn’t put myself in that kind of relationship.”

Mntwana: “What are you doing with me then?”

Neliswa laughed. “Come on, you and I, we enjoy each other’s company and we have good sex. We are not in a love relationship and I don’t want it to be.” She told him truthfully because she couldn’t see herself loving Mntwana. He

was young and he wasn't sure about what he wanted. Now, he was telling himself he didn't want marriage but he was still going to grow and be 25 years, be 30 years. And that meant he might change anytime.

Mntwana: "I hear you but why can't you go home? Don't you think you've been away from home for too long? Your ancestors, how are they watching over you while you've ran from home?"

Neliswa: "I haven't had bad luck that showed that my ancestors are not with me but I have hustled my way to the top starting from being a model and now, I am here. That means they're watching over me."

Mntwana: "I can't believe you've hurt your family like this."

Neliswa: "My father was going to throw me out anyway because I really didn't want the life that

he wanted for me. And my mother has always been there. I haven't been alone. I always call her when I need help and need to talk."

Mntwana: "And your brothers?"

Neliswa: "I am not in contact with them and I don't even think that my father would welcome me back home because I didn't obey his word."

Mntwana: "Don't you want me to speak to your father just to check?"

Neliswa: "No! Don't!"

Mntwana: "I just don't like that you ran away from your family."

Neliswa: "I am not alone here. I have a squad of friends and they've become my family. I am happy with my life I don't miss home."

Mntwana: "If you insist then."

Neliswa: "When will I see you again?"

Mntwana: "It will be a while because I should



work and meet every deadline to ensure that by October I will be free because we will have a ritual for our late brother. The mourning period would be ending.”

Neliswa: “Alright, I understand. I will go now.”

“You can’t go without a goodbye kiss.”

Mntwana said pulling her by her hand and he held the back of her neck. They shared a short intense kiss. “Be safe.” Mntwana said to her and Neliswa nodded. She stepped off the car... Mntwana drove his car inside the parking lot of the building... He looked at his wrist watch and the time was midnight.

Simthande had told him that she was going out with her sister and she wasn’t going to come back. But seeing her sleeping on the couch now, Mntwana wondered what might have happened as she was here. He didn’t wake her up but he slowly passed the couch to take a shower and change his clothes because he had the woman

scent on him and he could smell it...

“Babe, wake up.” Mntwana woke Simthande up from the couch.

Simthande opened her eyes and she looked at him. She sat up straight still looking at Mntwana who was standing on his feet wearing casual clothes. “Where were you?”

Mntwana: “I was out with the guys for pool and a few drinks.”

Simthande: “Really and you only got back now?”

Mntwana: “Yes. Come to bed I want to sleep holding you.”

Simthande: “You want to sleep holding me while you are fooling me?”

Mntwana: “Ey, please, don’t tell me that you came back because you want to fight with me. I am really not in the mood for that.” He said and walked away mumbling words to himself ‘I don’t

know why it's so difficult to find a place for you.  
This place is a battlefield now'

Simthande: "I won't keep quiet while you are fooling me." Simthande followed Mntwana behind. She had to come back because she was angry to learn that Mntwana had been calling her sister and when she asked her sister about the call logs that she saw on her phone.

Nikhona lied to her and told her that Mntwana was approaching her but she didn't want to tell her about that because she was going to get hurt. And she didn't want him.

Simthande: "You told me that you don't want my sister but today, I saw it myself. You've been calling my sister. Why?"

Mntwana: "Where did you see that?" he asked and removed his clothes from his body after he'd cleared the bed to sleep.

Simthande: "Where was I going to see that

beside her phone?”

Mntwana: “I have been calling your sister because her line had opened space for investors and my brother was interested in investing. I was contacting your sister regarding that not anything else.”

Simthande: “That’s a lie! You are calling her because you are approaching her. You want my sister and you don’t know how that hurts me-”

Mntwana looked at her as she cried without finishing her sentence. She sat on the dressing table because she was hurt that Mntwana was approaching her sister. “You are hurting me and you can’t even see that.” She finished.

Mntwana: “You are hurting yourself by believing your sister and there’s nothing I can say to make you believe me over your sister. Your sister is here because her line is having financial difficulties and she wants investors. She asked me to invest but I wasn’t interested. I

told my brother, Ngcebo about it and he was interested to invest for his wife. And I told your sister about that.”

Simthande: “You are lying to me, Mntwana. You are taking me for a fool.” She shouted at him and she stood up moving forward to get to him.

Mntwana: “Your sister is the one who’s lying to you and hurting you.”

Simthande: “Why would she want to hurt me? Huh? What is it that she will gain from lying to me, Mntwana?”

Mntwana: “I told you that she wants me. I can’t believe how poisonous your sister can be and you are believing her after everything she’d done to you.”

Simthande: “Don’t say that about my sister.”

Mntwana: “I can see that this relationship is for three people not just the two of us. I will make this easy for us, just choose between being in a

relationship with me or being in a relationship with your sister.”

Simthande’s tears went dry and she looked at Mntwana with her heart pumping harder. She couldn’t believe what he’d just said to her. He was making her choose. “How can you make me choose? You don’t want me anymore?”

Mntwana: “What do you expect from me because every fight is about your sister. I am the bad guy and your sister is a good guy. It’s better that you choose and if you choose her it’s fine. And when she shows you her true colours I will be there for you because I love you but I can’t compete with your sister. There’s no sane man who can tolerate this behaviour.”

Simthande: “How can you make me choose because you know that I love you? And I love my sister but you just don’t want to tell me the truth.”

Mntwana: "I am telling you the truth. I don't want your sister but she's the one who wants me. Her business is in crisis and that's the reason she's back but you don't want to hear that truth."

Simthande: "That's not the truth."

Mntwana: "Okay, just choose between standing with your sister's truth and my truth then go with that truth."

Simthande: "It's fine. I will go with my sister because I can never trust you over my blood. I will leave your apartment."

Mntwana: "I didn't say leave because when you leave this place where will you stay? Your sister doesn't have money to cater for the two of you." he told her but he could feel that his heart was breaking apart because Simthande was choosing her sister over him. She was choosing her after everything that had happened and he'd

never given her a reason not to trust him. But her sister?

Simthande: "You are wrong about that. I will leave tomorrow morning." She said marching to the wardrobe and she took her gown and night dress. "I will sleep in the guestroom and tomorrow I will leave." She said and left... She reached the guestroom. She threw her body on the bed and cried...

Mntwana clicked his tongue and took his phone to call Nikhona. He waited as the phone rang without being answered. He called again.

Nikhona: "So, late! Are you having wet dreams about me?"

Mntwana: "What do you want, huh? I have got an investor for you because that's what you said you want but you are still destroying my relationship. You are hurting my girlfriend who's your sister."



Nikhona: "I showed you what I want and you acted like a saint."

Mntwana chuckled. "I won't fuck you not even in your wildest dreams."

Nikhona: "Why are you calling me then? You think I can't see that you are lying to yourself? Shouldn't you be on top of my sister?"

Mntwana: "Oh! You lied to her and told her I want you because you wanted me to be on top of her? Wait, no, you thought I was going to be on you if she leaves me and let me tell you something she has chosen you over me."

Nikhona: "What do you mean?"

Mntwana: "I mean that and even though she has chosen you I still won't sleep with you, Nikhona. But I called you because I know that you won't look after Simthande. The only thing you'll do now is run away from her but I am begging you to have some humanity because

your lies has hurt her. I know you got no money to look after her and even if you have money you wouldn't look after her since you left her the minute your pastures were green."

Nikhona: "You'll make her stay with you because I want to move in with the two of you and if you don't do that I will tell her the truth about your age. And I don't have money to stay with her."

Mntwana chuckled. "You want to move in with me? I can never share a room with you and I didn't call you to bargain with you. You'll listen to me, you and Simthande will find a flat with good security. You'll live together because she trusts you enough to think that you can look after her but she doesn't know that you don't care about her. You don't care even after I have told her your intentions. I will send money in your account for rent and food but just know that I am not doing this for you. I am doing it for

her because I know you'll run away from her and she'll be shattered since she has so much trust in you."

Nikhona: "You love her that much?"

Mntwana: "You'll contact me when you've found that place." He said without answering her question and he removed the phone from his ear. He placed the phone down and he closed his eyes because he was heavily sleepy...

~~~~~

He laid sleeping Nongcebo on her cot and he looked at the rest of the girls. They were sleeping peacefully on their pyjamas. Ngcebo moved out of the room and he looked at his wrist watch, it was after 9pm. He needed to shower and sleep because he was tired. He opened the door softly. He stood by the door and he looked at Nandipha who was laying on the bed across with her arms stretched out and

her eyes closed. Her feet were dangling and she was wearing her night dress. She was singing along with her phone that was next to her head.

“..... Nhliziyo yami ngiy’bek’ ezandleni zakho

Ngifis’ ukuthanda nguna phakade

Oh, dali sib’amathe nolimi

ngicela waz’ ukuthi yoh ngiyakthanda.

Nguw’ enqondweni yami angikwazi ukucabanga

Mihla yonke uhlala usenhlinzweni

Indlela engizizwa ngayo ngawe, dali,

ngicela wazi ukuthi ngiyakuthanda.

Maw’buk’ emehlweni ami, kugcwel’ uthando.

Inhliziyo ayikwazi nokuzibamba indlel’

engizizwa ngayo, ngawe, dali!

Ngicela wazi ukuth yoh! Ngiyakuthanda X2” She placed her hands on her face feeling fresh tears and she cried. She got up while her eyes were

closed and her hands still on her face. She cried without stopping.

Ngcebo moved from his position as Nandipha was crying. He didn't expect such a cry because she was just singing politely, this could only mean something was in her heart bothering her... He reached Nandipha he stood before her and placed his hands on her shoulder.

Nandipha opened her eyes and she didn't stop crying even if she was seeing him before her.

Ngcebo saw hurt in her eyes but he didn't understand why it was there because he did nothing to hurt her.

Ngcebo: "Why are you crying? Come." He pulled her up. She stood on her feet and Ngcebo pulled her to his chest. "Why are you crying, Nandipha?"

Nandipha: "You've been speaking to me anyhow and I don't know how long you are going to keep this behaviour because there's another

song that will come out. Why are you letting a professional thing influence how you treat me as your wife? I know I was wrong and I have apologised but I don't deserve this treatment from you. Weren't you going to expect me to forgive you if you did something like this?" she confided in him while holding his shirt tightly as Ngcebo was hugging her.

Ngcebo: "I wouldn't have done something like this."

Nandipha: "Okay, then, let go of me." she said and moved her shoulders to break free from him but Ngcebo didn't let her go. "Let me go, Ngcebo. You had your illness hidden from me for years and you were still hiding it from me. But I have let that go. It's fine though keep treating me like your trash."

Ngcebo: "Don't talk like that because that's not how it is."

Nandipha: “Okay. Let me go, phela. Why are you still holding me?”

Ngcebo: “I don’t want you to cry.”

Nandipha managed to push him away from her. “Today, you took our daughter and left with her without telling me where you are going and when I called you, you didn’t even answer your phone. You just got back with the baby now. I don’t know where you were, if she ate where she was. Every person has their limit njalo, don’t forget that.” She said and left the room for the nursery. She wiped her tears and inhaled, she opened the door... She stood by Nongcebo’s cot and checked her clothes, she removed her clothes and her full nappy. She lifted her along with her nappy she marched to the bathroom... She mixed the water while Nongcebo was in her arms and when she was done she placed her inside the tub. She washed her body and Nongcebo woke up, she cried.

Nandipha: “Don’t cry baby. You’ll go back to sleep now and you’ll sleep peacefully. You are not hungry, right?” she asked running the water on her body and she lifted her up to wash her behind. “Awulambanga?” She repeated her question and she touched her tummy. She lifted her off the tub after removing the stopper. She grabbed the towel and wrapped her. She marched with her to their room after moistening her body... She dressed the baby and put her to sleep by brushing her back. She left the nursery...

Nandipha opened the door of the bedroom and she hopped onto the bed next to Ngcebo. She sighed and grabbed her phone she proceeded with reading the book that she was reading online. She placed the phone down and pressed her tummy. “Everyone is asleep, your siblings are snoring and dreaming but you are bothering me while I am trying to read an interesting scary

book. Where are your manners?" She spoke out loud feeling uncomfortable with their movement that were swift.

Ngcebo: "Is something wrong with the babies?"

Nandipha: "No, nothing is wrong."

"What's happening, then?" He asked laying closer to her and he sent his hand to her belly not on the night dress but he placed it underneath the night dress to feel her skin. "Oh, it's play time for us." he commented and chuckled.

Ngcebo: "Your skin is dry though and you remember from your last pregnancy you were told to look after your skin. Did you apply any lotion or oil?"

Nandipha: "I did."

Ngcebo: "I will get the oil for you and maybe you shouldn't read any scary stories." He said to her and got up from the bed to get the oil... knowing

she won't do what he would tell her to do,
Ngcebo pulled Ngcebo's nightdress up.

Nandipha: "What happened to asking for permission though?"

Ngcebo: "You won't agree if I ask because you are angry with me."

Nandipha: "I am not angry with you. Just ask."

Ngcebo: "Can you lift up your night dress because I want to massage you? Your skin is dry and it shouldn't be dry."

Nandipha: "It's better that I sleep and I think you should sleep too."

Ngcebo: "Okay, but when you're the one who'll be in need of this massage. Just remember this night." He said and placed away the oil. He dissolved back into his pillow and he closed his eyes without hearing her comment. "And Nongcebo and I spent a few minutes with the guys and the rest of our time, we spent it with

Banele in his place.” He informed her seeing the need because he’d realised he was wrong to leave without telling her.

Nandipha: “It would be better if God gives us other girls because clearly if they’re boys they won’t stay here. They’ll be mingling with the guys too.”

Ngcebo: “Hawu, how can you say that because you know I want a boy?”

Nandipha: “I am just hoping.” She said and Ngcebo was mute...

~~~~~He looked around his surroundings and he realised that he was inside his grandfather’s living room. He was seated on the couch that was nearby his grandfather’s chair that was leopard print design. But he was alone.

“Ngcebo!” He heard the echo of an old man’s voice, the voice that he’d heard before and he looked around the room. He saw the old man,

his grandfather walking inside the living room wearing his full traditional gear carrying a shield and spear in his hand. He occupied his chair. He looked at Ngcebo.

Ngcebo: “Ndabezitha!” he exclaimed and bowed his head shortly.

“Lalela, laela ulalelisisise, sifuna umfazi Ngcebo. Lesi sikhathi seside kakhulu. Kumele angene umfazi bubonakale ubukhona bakhe. Sizokwaz ukumvikela. Akungapholiswa maseko kodwa akangene lo mfazi siyamfuna.” (Listen and listen clearly. We want a wife, Ngcebo. It has been too long and a wife should enter the premises and her presence should be seen. We will be able to protect her. Don't waste time, we want a wife) Ngcebo's grandfather said to Ngcebo in a bold commanding voice.

Ngcebo: “Kodwa mkhulu ukusho kanjani lokho ngoba ngingaye-” (How can you say that because I have-)

“Lokhu akudinge kudingidwa namuntu ayikho imbuzo nezimpendulo. Sifuna umfazi ngakho mlethe ekhaya. Akangene emagcekeni akwa Zulu. Akangene... Akangene...” He said to Ngcebo lastly... ~~~~ Ngcebo woke up from his sleep on his own and he inhaled a deep breath. He removed his vest from his body and he wiped his sweaty face and his upper body. He closed his eyes and he replayed his dream inside his head. Ngcebo opened his eyes and looked at Nandipha who was peacefully sleeping next to him. He placed his hand on Nandipha’s cheek and he exhaled. “I really don’t know what’s the meaning of this dream because you are my wife. I don’t want someone else but I just want you and nobody but you. They want a wife? What does that make you, then? Tsk! I can’t even speak to you about this because how can you take this? Tsk!” he spoke to the sleeping Nandipha and he sent his face down to kiss her cheek. He dissolved back into

his position and he closed his eyes with his mind thinking. He was thinking deeply...

“Nithathe nani futhi, baba?” (What else should I take?) Buhle asked her father and she placed her hand on her tiny waist and she sighed as if she’d been doing a difficult task... Ngcebo was cooking breakfast for the girls, he was woken up by Buhle who was crying and from there he decided he was going to make breakfast for them. He’d fed Buhle instant porridge and now, she was helping him make breakfast. “E.eh! Phone yakho baba! Yayizwa zoythatha!” She jumped as if she would catch it.

Ngcebo laughed. “You are short, Buhlezi.” He told her and took his phone.

Buhle: “Nenzeni pho manje, baba?” (What should I do now?)

Ngcebo: “Wait, I will tell you when I am done on the phone. Have your bottle.” He said to her and

he gave Buhle her formula bottle while answering the phone. Buhle took the bottle and sent it straight to her mouth.

Ngcebo: "Boy, zithini?"

Mntwana: "Ey, up and down. I have emailed you the documents for the investment and it's not that of the make-up line. It's a different investment but it still pays out quarterly."

Ngcebo: "Alright, I will look through them and thank you, boy."

Mntwana: "No problem."

Ngcebo: "What did you do about your sister in-law?"

Mntwana chuckled. "I found someone else to invest on the line. She's off my back with that but she wants what she always wanted from the first place. That skinny bitch. Tsk! You won't believe her sister chose her over me."

Ngcebo: “Hheyi, ndoda, just breathe out!”

Mntwana exhaled on the line. “She makes me angry that she listens to her fuckin sister’s lies. That woman told her I am approaching her just for calling about the investment. I made her choose and she chose her.”

Ngcebo: “Awu, ntwana, don’t be sad about that because blood is thicker than water, they say. Just allow her to be with her sister and she’ll learn on her own that what kind of a sister she is.”

Mntwana: “I don’t want her to hurt her.”

Ngcebo laughed. “Oh, little boy, that’s a good thing but you can’t stop that. You’ll have to give her time with her sister.” He advised.

Mntwana: “Okay, but I told her I will send money into her account for Simthande’s rent and food because I know she won’t look after her. Simthande doesn’t earn much in the club and I



don't want her working two jobs again.”

Ngcebo: “That’s a good thing then. Ey, there’s a call coming through it’s important. Let me call you after this.” he said to Mntwana as he’d seen that Langalibalele was calling him.

Mntwana: “Alright, but I will be busy from 9am. I will hang up.”

Ngcebo then accepted Langalibalele’s phone call. He placed his hand on his daughter’s head as she was busy sucking the milk from the bottle. “Thokoza mkhulu.” Ngcebo greeted Langalibalele.

Langalibalele: “Thokoza, Nkosana, how are you?”

Ngcebo: “I am fine and how are you?”

Langalibalele: “I am fine. This is a short phone call. I want to see you urgently.”

Ngcebo: “How urgent? I have an important gig

tomorrow.”

Langalibalele: “You can drive down after the gig.”

Ngcebo: “Thokoza.”

Langalibalele: “You’ll have a good day, Nkosana.”

Ngcebo: “You’ll have a good mkhulu.” He said and removed his phone from his ear. He hoped that he was calling him to talk about his dream and even if he wasn’t calling for that. He was going to have to ask him about it.

MaZungu: “You are making breakfast more often these day, nkosana.” She commented as she saw Ngcebo standing behind the stove. She was inside the kitchen to take the cleaning material. She’d greeted Ngcebo before.

Ngcebo chuckled and looked back at her. “I am giving their mother a break.” He replied and gave Buhle a chopped Vienna.

Buhle: “Ngiyabonga, baba.” She took it with both her hands after she’d placed the bottle of her milk on the floor. She ate the Vienna.

MaZungu: “I can see but you are her husband, you are the prince and she’s your wife. She should serve you not you serving her.”

Ngcebo: “What can go wrong if I serve her?”

MaZungu: “Nothing can happen but don’t forget who you’re. And your place as her husband is not in the kitchen.”

Ngcebo didn’t say anything to her as he felt there was no need for him to explain himself to her. He didn’t want to have to put her in her place because she was older and he had respect for her as a woman from the village.

Nandipha walked inside the kitchen with Ntokomalo in her arms. MaZungu left the kitchen with her cleaning material. “Sanibona, Buhlezi, you are eating already?” she asked her

with a smile on her face and Buhle nodded.

Ntokomalo: “Mama, nilambile mina. Shawubona, baba.” (I am hungry)

Ngcebo: “Sawubona, nkosazana.”

Nandipha: “Buhle has eaten? The other three is sleeping.”

Ngcebo: “I gave her porridge.”

Nandipha: “Okay, let me make some porridge for you nkosazana emhlophe.” She kissed both her cheeks and Ntokomalo giggled. Nandipha placed her down and she made the small portion of porridge for her.

Ngcebo: “Langalibalele called me and he asked that I come home for something urgent that he didn't tell me about.”

Nandipha: “Oh! When will you go?”

Ngcebo: “I won't but we will all go Thursday. We will spend the weekend home because I won't

be busy this weekend.”

Nandipha: “Oh! Come, mehlo let’s feed you.”  
she lifted Ntokomalo off the floor and she sat  
on the chair with her.

“Baba, nicela elinye.” Buhle requested another  
Vienna from her father showing him both hands  
that were empty. Ngcebo gave Buhle another  
piece, she thanked him and moved from her  
father’s side and she stood by her mother’s side  
eating the Vienna with her bottle by her leg...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 18

“You are angry over nothing because there’s  
nothing bad said about the song yet. You  
should just tell us that you have chest pains  
because she chose to sing with the other guy

not you.” Dalingcebo said to Ngcebo as they were driving back to Ngcebo’s house after spending their day with Nhlakanipho... They were playing FM when the song with Nandipha and Mujo was aired.

Ngcebo: “You are saying that because you haven’t seen people saying he used her just to divert their attention from my line.”

Dalingcebo: “But he didn’t know that you were launching the line. What’s your problem vele because this will not affect your brand? But instead you’re being praised for being the ‘IT husband’” he said and laughed shaking his head he read out loud for Ngcebo a tweet from a woman who tweeted. “Prince Tee is that husband every woman must have. He must definitely hold seminars and educate these men about being a husband and boyfriend.” He looked at him.

Ngcebo: “Well, they don’t know that she didn’t

tell me before doing this and if she told me about it I wasn't going to allow her to do it."

Dalingcebo: "You won't tell them that then because you'll hurt her when you say that. And listen 'We still want to know why she didn't dance on that video. We want to see more of her.'" he read and Ngcebo clicked his tongue.

Ngcebo: "I can't deny that the song is a good song and it didn't affect my brand like I thought it would but that didn't change that I don't like what she did. And I can't get over it because they still have a second song coming up."

Dalingcebo: "Let your woman shine and you must stop sulking like a boy just say a comment about the song because it won't be good if you don't."

Ngcebo: "I won't comment shit about it." He said stopping his car before his house because they were still going to drive to her mother's

house... But they were not going to use this car. He remembered and drove inside the garage.

Dalingcebo: "Mujo is low-key gay and I am sure he wanted you." he said something he knew was going to pump him even harder as he was reminding him of the past. They were entering the house through the garage door.

Ngcebo: "Ag! Voetsek, Dalingcebo. I always tell you that he had issues with me because I had everything that he didn't have. Not that."

Dalingcebo and Ngcebo sat on the single couches inside the lounge. "But he wouldn't have suggested you settle the score by having a three some with one girl. He definitely wanted to touch you and kiss you." he reminded him.

"Gwani! Mgodoyi!" He swore at Dalingcebo and he threw a cushion at his direction and Dalingcebo held the cushion while he was laughing at him.



Dalingcebo: "I should sell this story to the public you know, it's very juicy."

Ngcebo: "You sound like a bitch right now Dalingcebo."

Dalingcebo: "Voetsek! I can't believe half of the things you've done Ngcebo. Does your wife know that you had a foursome with Mujo after refusing the threesome because he wanted to sleep with you?"

Ngcebo: "Can you shut the fuck up before I remind you what you have done? It's clear that you've forgotten that you once had to run away from two girls because they wanted to panel beat you for fooling them."

Dalingcebo laughed. "Every guy goes through that but they don't go through what you went through with Mujo." He shielded himself.

Ngcebo: "I have never had women wanting to beat me. They rather want to beat each other

than to beat me. Never!”

“Hmm! Hmm!” Dalingcebo cleared his throat as he saw Nandipha enter the lounge. Ngcebo looked back at Nandipha and he sent his eyes forward.

Nandipha: “Can we go now?”

Ngcebo: “Bafo! I will be back.”

Dalingcebo: “Sharp! I will go gather my things because I will have to leave tomorrow morning.” He said standing up after Ngcebo had stood up.

“Okay.” He said and looked at Nandipha, he took the keys from her and they followed each other to the viano... Ngcebo took the driver seat...

Ngcebo: “Do you want to say something?”

Nandipha: “Why are you asking?”

Ngcebo: “You keep looking at me and you say nothing.”

Nandipha: “You really had a foursome with Mujo?”

Ngcebo looked at her shortly and she was looking at him. Ngcebo looked forward and he didn't say anything for a while. “Why are you asking?”

Nandipha: “I heard your conversation with your brother.”

Ngcebo: “It was our conversation and you had no right to eavesdrop.”

Nandipha: “Don't be mean about this just answer me.”

Ngcebo: “I won't answer that question because you weren't supposed to hear that. And I don't know what's your interest in that.”

Nandipha kept her mouth shut and took her phone from her bag. She concentrated on the phone and held no conversation with Ngcebo...

“MAMA!” Similo was the first to see her parents following each other walking inside their grandmother’s lounge. They were seated on the couch with their grandmother seated with them in the lounge.

Nandipha: “Sanibona!” she greeted the girls who had gotten off the couch and they were all before their parents. They greeted them back.

Ngcebo: “How are you? We are going home now.” he told them and sat down on the couch after he’d greeted Nandipha’s mother. The girls were all before their father and their mother was seated next to her mother.

Similo: “No, we are not going.”

Buhle: “Yes, gogo uthe yena thina shodla out! Anithi?” (Grandma said we will go eat out, right?) she asked looking at her sisters.

Girls: “EHE!”

Ngcebo: “You’ll go eat out some other time.”

Similo: “Hawu! Neke ke! Gogo! Uthi ubaba ashishahambi kodwa thina shifuna ukuhamba. Mama!” (Granny, dad says we are no longer going but we want to go.) she told her granny and tapped her thigh repeatedly. She had moved from her father’s side and all her sisters’ eyes were on her.

Faith: “What’s wrong if we go out, Ngcebo? I have promised them.”

Ngcebo: “But mama, we are here to fetch them and go home.”

Faith: “Let them be. I will drop them off your house. We will drive from the restaurant to your house. Don’t take them because I made a promise.”

Nandipha: “You are just excluding us like that. You are indirectly telling us to leave because you are going out. Okay, better for their father because there’s his brother in the house but I

want to go too.” She said to her mother and looked at Ngcebo shortly. She knew going back to the house meant she was going to be alone in bed and Ngcebo would be with his brother.

Faith: “Ay, I am speaking for my grandchildren not you.”

Ngcebo: “Okay, they can go out and come back after dinner. I don’t have a problem with that.” He announced and looked at the girls as they jumped up.

Nongcebo: “Ashambe shotshela malume ke ukuthi shiyahamba.” (Let’s go tell uncle that we are going out) she encouraged her sisters and they supported.

Ngcebo: “No, you’ll tell him after walking me out.”

Faith: “Take my car and leave the viano so that we will drive together. I will take the car when we drop them by.” She suggested and stood up

from the couch to get the car keys. Nandipha remained on the couch.

Ngcebo: “And you? There’s no reason for you to stay behind.”

Nandipha: “Awu, kwahle. You are going back to the house to laugh with your brother not with me and so, let me stay behind.”

“Lauren is here. Bro!” Randall exclaimed looking at Ngcebo not Nandipha. He gave his hand to him and they shared a fist bump and shoulder hug.

Ngcebo: “How’zit?”

Randall: “Everything is good and I am buying my rides tomorrow. They’re so top-class. I will definitely spend every penny on them.”

Ngcebo chuckled. “Thank you. I was going to disown you as my brother in-law if you were going to tell me you’re not buying.” He said and they laughed.

Randall: "If they were otherwise I wasn't going to buy."

Ngcebo: "That's a lie. Your sister was going to force you to buy them." he said and they laughed and Ngcebo moved away from him as his mother was back with the keys. Ngcebo took the keys from Faith and he turned to his girls. "You'll come back home after eating out. You won't sleep here, that's clear?" he asked them firmly because he didn't trust them not to come back as their mother had also decided she was staying behind.

Girls: "EHE!"

Ntokomalo: "Mama, awuhambi no baba?" (Mom, you are not leaving?)

Nandipha: "No, I am staying behind I want to eat out too."

The girls giggled and they nodded, they walked their father out with Randall...



“When are you telling them they’ll have siblings?” Faith asked Nandipha, they were driving to Nandipha’s house from the restaurant. Faith was seated on the passenger seat and Nandipha was driving with Randall seated with the girls.

Nandipha: “We will tell them soon.”

Faith: “I really love that song. It’s a beautiful song.”

Nandipha laughed. “Really? You listened to a hip hop song?” She asked and looked at her mother shortly with a smile on her face.

Randall: “I told her to!”

Faith: “Yes, your brother told me to listen and I didn’t regret it.”

Nandipha: “Thank you.”

Faith: “I hope the second one will be as good.” She commented stepping out of the car.

Nandipha promised it was going to be good. Randall and Faith then helped Nandipha transport the children inside the house as they were asleep...

“I hope they’ll be happy and scream.” Ngcebo said to Nandipha who was sitting next to him on the lounge... It was a Sunday which was 2nd of September. It was a week after Ngcebo’s launch and the song release... The girls had just finished watching imvelo and their parents wanted to speak with them. The girls were seated on the floor looking at their parents.

Nandipha: “They should.”

Ngcebo: “They’re looking at us now.”

Nandipha: “Your mother and father wants to tell you something that will make all of you, very, very happy.” She introduced and looked at Ngcebo.

Ngcebo looked at the girls as they smiled. “God

will give your mother and father two babies that will be your siblings. After a long time, your parents will go to the hospital and take your siblings they'll live with us." Ngcebo announced to their children and he looked at Nandipha.

Similo: "Howu! Ningayi!" (Don't go)

Others: "EHE! NINGAYI!" (Yes, don't go!)

Nandipha: "We shouldn't go where?"

Similo: "Ningayi eshibhedlela mina aniyifuni ingane encane." (Don't go to the hospital. I don't want the baby.)

Others: "EHE!"

Nandipha: "Hawu! Buhlezi?"

Buhle: "Hmm! Mama." She shook her head and pouted her lips.

Ngcebo: "Ntokomalo? Awuzifuni izingane nawe?" (You don't want the babies?)

Ntokomalo: "Cha, sibaningi thina." (No, there's

too many of us)

Nandipha: “Nifuna senzenjani ke? Singaythathi lezi ngane siyiphiwe uNkulunkulu nje. Soyshiya kuphi?” (What do you want us to do? We shouldn’t take the babies that we have been giving by God?)

Thando: “Howu! Shiye eshibhedlela mama utshele uNkulunkulu ukuthi thina shikhona. Howu, mina aniyifuni ingane. Izothatha ubaba wethu futhi no mama wethu.” (Leave the baby in the hospital and tell God that we are here. I don’t want the baby. It will take our father and mama.) she shook her head and she cried, she stood on her feet. And Ngcebo got up to take her. He sat back on the couch with Thando.

Nandipha: “Nongcebo, you are quiet my baby.” Nongcebo didn’t say anything but she had her lips pouted and her arms folded before her chest. “I really didn’t expect this from them. You’ll play with the babies.” She said.

Ngcebo: “Nizodlala nazo nje izingane yini nacasuka manje?” (You’ll play with the babies. Why are you upset now?) he said to them wiping Thando’s tears as she was seriously crying and her sisters were looking upset.

Nandipha: “I will send you back to the hospital then and you’ll live there because you don’t want my babies. I will send you there.” she threatened them feeling irritated by their behaviour that she didn’t expect and they all cried within seconds of hearing that.

Ngcebo: “Did you have to say that though and make matters worse?”

Nandipha: “Yes, bayangicika nje.” (They’re irritating)

Ngcebo: “They’re just children.”

Nandipha: “Talk to your children then and leave me out of it.” She said and stood up from the couch. She left Ngcebo with the crying children.

She moved up the stairs feeling irritated that they had to cry about nothing, absolutely nothing! 'You're making matters worse' their father said that to her. She clicked her tongue and landed her hands on her phone that was ringing.

"Hey, girly!" Nandipha greeted Palesa on the phone and she laid back on bed. She exhaled and closed her eyes, she placed her free hand on her belly.

Palesa: "And why did you ignore my texts while I was talking about such an important thing? Or you don't want to buy the house now. It's all good."

Nandipha: "No, I am sorry I had to tell these children that I am pregnant and you won't believe that they cried, Palesa. They told me they don't want my babies I should leave them in the hospital."

Palesa laughed. "You are angry, huh? Eh! You didn't tell me you are pregnant and you are telling me now because you are angry at the children. How could you?" She raised her voice at her.

Nandipha: "I was going to tell you but you know this thing, you shouldn't tell people until you have passed three months. And I had to go to KZN first and report it to the ancestors and Lethukuthula before anyone."

Palesa: "Lord! My friend, congratulations and don't mind those rats because they'll accept the children once they're born. Oh! Jesu! You are getting more than one baby once again?"

Nandipha: "Relax, it's just two. Can we meet up tomorrow morning and we will go to the bank together. I have read the contract and signed the papers. I haven't changed my mind about the house."

Palesa: "We're on then girl. You'll fix the house right away or?"

Nandipha: "I will fix it now but I won't buy brand new furniture."

Palesa: "Don't worry about that but don't you think you mustn't buy furniture? You should let the tenant have their own furniture."

Nandipha: "I will think about that, babe. I really want-" She raised her head and looked at the door as it was opened. Ngcebo walked through the door. She stopped talking at Ngcebo's presence. "I will see you tomorrow." She added.

Palesa: "You really want what?"

Nandipha: "We will tell you on WhatsApp. Thank you for the call." She said and removed the phone from her after Palesa had said goodbye. She placed the phone aside and she looked at Ngcebo who was looking at her.

Ngcebo: "I get that you are pregnant and you



can throw tantrums but it would be better if you throw them at me not the girls. They're just children and they don't understand what's happening but you couldn't be sensible." He lectured her and Nandipha didn't say anything to Ngcebo. But she got up. "I am talking to you and you are heading to the door. Where are you going?" he asked.

Nandipha: "There's no need to fight about this because it's easy for you to lecture me about taking control of my emotions."

Ngcebo: "Should I let you do as you please because you're pregnant? It's not us alone now but there are children too and they know nothing about pregnancy hormones."

Nandipha: "Okay, tell them about them then. Go and tell them." she left him inside the bedroom. She was angry that Ngcebo had been giving her attitude since the song was out and he'd never commented about it. He didn't even say a

simple 'It's a nice song'. She understood she was wrong not to tell him but she didn't expect he wouldn't even show a slightest of happiness for her. But he kept giving her attitude. She clicked her tongue as she climbed down the stairs to be with the girls...

"You are not crying now?" She asked and sat on the couch. She looked at them as they were quietly seated on the floor without eating the chips before them.

Buhlezi: "Uthe mama uzoshishiya esbhedlela thina!" (You said you'll leave us in the hospital) she complained without looking at her mother.

Nandipha: "But I was angry that you don't want my babies. Nongcebo?"

Nongcebo: "Mina nifuna ukuya kubaba." (I want to go to dad)

Nandipha: "Hamba uye kuye. Mom will give the others ice cream. Come." She stood up and the

girls got up from the floor with their faces loosening up. Nongcebo wasn't smitten easily but she left for her father...

"I just got off the phone with my manager and he advises I should comment on the song that you did with Mujo. Here, take the phone and right that comment." Ngcebo said to Nandipha who was eating ice cream with her girls seated on top of the dining table. They were sharing a tub. He had Nongcebo inside his arms and she was dressed differently now.

Nandipha: "What's the use of commenting on the song after a week?"

Ngcebo: "I haven't tweeted anything in a week expect the sneakers. Write."

Nandipha: "You have nothing to say about it in a way that you can't even write your own tweet but you want me to write it?"

Ngcebo: "I have nothing to say about it."

Nandipha: "Say nothing then. I won't write a comment for you. It's really not my problem that you have nothing to say about it. If you're not even happy for me then it's fine because everyone else is."

Ngcebo was found mute after hearing that from her. He then left the house with Nongcebo without telling Nandipha where he was going.

Similo: "Uyahamba ubaba?" (Dad is leaving?)

Nandipha: "He'll come back soon." She replied looking at her with a smile...

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"Why don't you wear the shoes I bought for you? Do you remember the shoes?" Mnotho asked Happiness moving inside the bedroom. He didn't knock on the bedroom door but he opened the door because it'd been long since she entered the bedroom from the bathroom.

Happiness looked back at him. "You don't even

knock. What do you want to see, exactly, Mnotho?" She asked searching for something to wear.

Mnotho: "I knew you were dressed and we have been living together for three months now since you left. Don't you think I have seen you naked?"

Happiness: "No, you haven't. What shoes are you talking about?" she asked and moved from the wardrobe. She'd found the dress to wear.

Mnotho: "I bought you purple shoes before you left here but you never wore them and you left them here."

Happiness laughed and shook her head moving to the ironing board that was inside the bedroom. "It's breaking your heart now that I didn't wear them?" she looked at him as he was standing before her with his hands packed inside his pockets. He was looking at her.

Mnotho: "I don't get heartbreaks,

MaMthimkhulu.”

Happiness: “You can’t fool me, Mnotho. I know you get heartbroken and you were heartbroken when you learnt that I fooled you.”

Mnotho chuckled. “I was just angry not that I was heartbroken. I am dressed up and you are not dressed up. We are not going to some gala dinner.”

Happiness: “You are right about that but you wanted me to wear high heels. Please, pass that phone over to me.” she requested pointing her phone... It’d been a long difficult time living together as a family. It wasn’t easy for Happiness because she spent all her time with sick Ntandokazi but she had Nkosazana as her support system and Mnotho was there not just for Ntandokazi but he was there for her, emotionally and he would always ensure she doesn’t stress. Happiness had encouraged Mnotho that he didn’t need to take time off

from work because she was going to be home. And he didn't want to listen to her but he listened when his brother, Mlamuli told him to do what he was told.

Mnotho: "It's your father." He handed the phone to Happiness and he gave her a face that meant she was in trouble.

Happiness: "Why are you giving me that face?"

Mnotho: "He'll obviously shout at you and I told you that you can go home."

Happiness: "Leave the room I want to talk to my father freely." She commanded him with her eyes showing the door and he raised his hand to leave her. Happiness smiled... He'd been like her friend and she was relieved that he respected her enough not to talk about them getting back together. Happiness had told Danielle not to tell him what she'd promised. She asked that because she didn't want any

pressure. She'd decided that she was going to let go and allow the possibility of a new life with Mnotho if it was possible. And Mnotho didn't pressure her. All Happiness saw in him was that man she knew before everything else. He would tease her and annoy her from day to night like he used to when it was just the two of them.

Happiness: "Mthimkhulu?"

Mthimkhulu: "Mthimkhulu my foot! You've married yourself there, huh?"

Happiness: "No, but you are the one who married me here, baba."

Mthimkhulu clicked his tongue. "I married you! Happiness when are you coming back home with the children? You are a nurse now?" he shouted.

Happiness: "No, but I am Mnotho's wife."

Mthimkhulu: "You are what! Over my dead body, Happiness. Do you hear me? You've divorced

Mnotho and that means you are not his wife. What has he given you that makes you speak to me like that? Do you want me to remind you what he has done to you? Do you want that?"

Happiness: "No, baba. I won't cry even if you can remind me that because that's the past and I am not dwelling on it. Court marriage is a Western thing and by tradition I am still his wife."

Mthimkhulu: "That will not happen! You're telling me that you never stopped loving this man even after everything that he did to you. How can you want to go back to him, Happiness?" he shouted at her but Happiness didn't answer her father. She looked at the dress that was on the ironing board. "I am talking to you, now! Why are you quiet?" he shouted.

Happiness: "I am old enough to make my own choices, baba. And you cannot make decisions

for me like I am a child. If I am making a mistake it's my mistake and don't forget you are the one who married me to him. I didn't marry myself to him and I didn't want to marry him."

Mthimkhulu: "And I am telling you that you should come back home."

Happiness: "No, baba. But we will come visit this weekend. I love you." she said to her father and removed her phone from her ear. She placed the phone aside and closed her eyes shortly. She exhaled. "My children are so happy and even if it had been difficult looking after MaNkosi. I have been at peace. God, please just let my father understand and give him a forgiving heart." She pleaded with God before opening her eyes. She proceeded with her dress.

"Please, I really want you to wear the shoes."

Mnotho requested seeing Happiness coming from the hallway wearing a black straight cut

dress with flat shoes. And she had a short Brazilian wig on her head.

Happiness: “We are going to the hospital to fetch MaNkosi not to be jolly around Durban. Why should I wear high shoes?”

Mnotho: “Do you want us to be jolly before going to the hospital?”

“I will just wear the shoes so that you’ll stop nagging me about them.” Happiness said to Mnotho and she walked back to the bedroom without answering his question about being jolly with him.

Mnotho smiled and shook his head. He didn’t move from his position because he wanted to see her walking from the hallway... The children were at Thembelihle’s palace because they were driving to Durban for fetch Ntandokazi. The Doctor advised that she takes the last session of her chemotherapy for her second

cycle of the treatment in the hospital. They advised it was better that they put her under their observation. She'd been in the hospital for a week and Sheila freed Happiness that she didn't have to come to Durban to be closer to her. She was going to look after her. Mnotho and the children along with Happiness had been in the house for week without Danielle. Pearl was also in the house with them... Happiness and Mnotho did go to the hospital on Monday, Thursday and Saturday as they were fetching her now on a Tuesday morning.

"You look very beautiful now as my wife." He commented like that for the first time because he hadn't been making such comments for her sake. She'd told him clearly that she didn't need pressure and he'd respected that. "What did your father say?" He asked and took her hand without asking permission as Happiness didn't comment about the compliment he'd passed.

Happiness didn't protest. "He wants me to come back home. I told him that we will come back this weekend." She replied as they left the house.

Mnotho: "But you didn't tell me about that and you'll leave for how long?"

Happiness: "I don't know but I have to go home and you also said that. I don't know why you are asking that now."

Mnotho: "I am not against you going but you didn't tell me first." He held the door for her and she stepped inside the car. Mnotho to the driver seat.

Happiness: "I will leave for a week and that will give you time with Ntandokazi because she's much better now even though she hadn't finish her treatment cycles. She's much better."

Mnotho: "Yes, she's better and when we were talking last night she said she thinks she can go

back to her house. But she'll tell you don't tell her I told you."

Happiness laughed. "Why did you do that? Tell me?" She asked.

Mnotho: "It's nice if you hear it from your husband. Don't you think?"

Happiness folded her lips and shook her head. "She can go back to her house when I am gone. I want to ensure she's fit. I don't want her slipping away."

Mnotho: "If that's what you want you'll get that. But please do come back."

Happiness: "Let's play music so that we will have a smooth ride." She said without telling him that she was going to come back. Mnotho supported the music part and they spent the rest of their drive talking about random things...

"You look much better now and Mnotho told me that you are ready to go back to your house but

you'll go back this weekend. I will be going home. I just want to ensure that you are fine." Happiness said to Danielle folding the blankets while Danielle was packing her other bag. She was dressed up... They arrived in the hospital later than they've promised because Mnotho drove them to a restaurant at Umhlanga and when Happiness told him about being late. He didn't listen to her but he told her he wanted to take her out...

She laughed. "I never thought you are such a caring person. I always thought that you really didn't want me but you were hiding it." She told Happiness as she was insisting that she doesn't go back to her house.

Happiness smiled. "I didn't have a problem with any of you but I can't lie and say I wasn't hurt when Mnotho wanted to marry the two of you. I have suppressed a lot of things but I don't want to visit the past." She said.

Danielle: "Okay, I will not go back to the house mama wasekhaya elikhulu because I know you'll keep insisting until I scream." She said and they laughed. Mnotho was with the Doctor. "Did you tell him that you are coming back?"

Happiness: "I haven't told him and don't tell him."

Danielle: "Happiness, are you trying to play me?"

Happiness: "Why are you asking that question?"

Danielle: "You don't want to tell him you are coming back and I don't want you to play me by leaving me as his wife while you promised you'll come back."

Happiness: "No, I will come back but I have to go home."

Danielle: "You better come back because if you don't I will come drag you out of that house. I won't be played mina in this lifetime."

Happiness laughed. "You've risen from the almost death and you talk like this now. Don't forget I am older." She said closing the bag.

Danielle smiled. "I will definitely forget that. You've been like a friend to me and I know sharing a husband sucks but we will make it work because I know that you love him as much as I do." She said.

Happiness: "I never said that."

Danielle: "You don't have to say it mamkhulu. It shows and even looking after me even if it's for the kids or him but that's a reflection of your love for him." she looked at her and Happiness looked down. Danielle wondered if she was scared or she wasn't sure that he'll treat her right. "Are you scared?"

Happiness: "Of what?"

Danielle: "That when you come back he'll mistreat you again?"

Happiness: "My father's negative thoughts and words sets me back and make me fear that maybe he'll go back to being that monster."

Danielle: "No, he knows you are his wife not by force and I know he won't mistreat you again. I think that mama no baba will have to speak to your father. And you must trust your instincts not your father's fear." Happiness inhaled and she nodded her head. "We are ready to go?" she asked Mnotho who had entered the room with the Doctor.

Mnotho: "Yes, we are ready." He looked at the Doctor and he briefed Happiness shortly, the same as he'd briefed Mnotho.

Happiness: "Okay, thank you Doctor. And I hope she's close to beating this."

Doctor: "She'll beat it because she stood up against it while it was on the first grade. And she's been consistent with treatment. She'll be

good.”

Happiness: “Thank you, let’s go then, mamncane.”

Mnotho: “Mamncane?” he looked at Happiness as he’d never heard her say that to Ntandokazi. He looked at Danielle and they followed each other with Happiness. Mnotho looked at the Doctor.

Doctor: “You are blessed, hey. You didn’t bewitch them? Or maybe you forced them. How did it happen like this? I thought the first wife was her sister when you first came here with her about the second’s wife illness.”

Mnotho laughed and shook his head. “I don’t know. Let me behind them.” he said giving his hand to the Doctor and they shook hands...

Mnotho followed behind Danielle and Happiness listening to them talk...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 20

“It’s so beautiful and I am hoping that the tenant won’t give me troubles because I can’t be running from Sandton to Pretoria now and again.” Nandipha said to Palesa they were looking around Nandipha’s house. They’ve just finalised the deal with the owners of the house and they left them inside the house with the keys of the house and the title deeds with Nandipha’s name. It was a Thursday of the 1st of October, during the day. Nandipha left the children with Thula and MaZungu. Ngcebo wasn’t home.

Palesa: “You are right about that and since husband doesn’t know about it. How do you feel about him not knowing?”

Nandipha: “I don’t feel bad about it because I

have seen that I need this insurance and he's the one who pushed me to it very harshly. What if someday I find myself out of his house? I have mom but I am older now and I will have seven children that's just-. I thought of asking him that we sell that house and buy a new one together. But I dropped the idea."

Palesa: "Why didn't you go with it?"

Nandipha: "He'll obviously make a fuss over it and I strongly believe that, this is a better insurance than buying a house together even though legally he has power over it as much as I have power over his property but it's mine. We always vow forever my friend and that's not where we end up. And leaving a room for disappointment has never hurt anyone. With everything that has happened between us. I should really leave that room."

Palesa: "Given another chance to go back. Would you choose him?"

Nandipha: “No, I wouldn’t. Not that there’s a perfect man out there but I definitely wouldn’t.” she replied without elaborating further and without giving Palesa her eyes but she had them looking around. “What type of client do you think I should go for?” She asked moving forward leaving Palesa alone in that space of confusion, confused by her response.

Palesa: “We will have to find someone who’s older not students. When will you start looking for a tenant?” she asked as they moved to the other bathroom of a three bedroom and two-bathroom house (excluding the master bathroom) with other rooms and a garage. A two room backroom with a backyard garden.

Nandipha: “I will do that next year January. Hheyi, mfazi I got paid.” She told her with a big smile on her face and they laughed sharing a high five.

Palesa: “Really? What was the deal? You’ll get

paid through royalties or you'll just get the lump sum?"

Nandipha: "I will get different kinds of packages, I have a different take for being featured on the song and I will have a different take for writing the song with him. But I will get more money for the last song because I wrote it alone."

Palesa: "You even wrote the bars for him?"

Nandipha: "Yes, babe. I will get a fee for my time, I will get money for the recording of the song through royalties and sync. I didn't sign the deal to give them all my rights because I wanted royalties. I didn't want cash up front."

Palesa: "Now, that's nice. Why don't you put yourself on the market for song writing because you've written songs with Prince Tee as well? And you must also have the money from that. You've written a number of songs with Ngcebo. You must have money."

Nandipha: “Hawu, I have never thought of being paid for that, yazi.”

Palesa: “How because your name is included as songwriter on some songs?”

Nandipha: “Yeah, but I always do it with him when we are home and because he usually comes to me with most of his music to double check with me. And we will work on the song then he’ll include my name so that he won’t have the credits for everything. There has never been a contract because I always take it as helping my partner.”

Palesa: “No, you should get money for that. You must speak with him and that money can help you with this house payment.”

Nandipha: “No, it’s cool. I won’t ask for any money.”

Palesa: “Oh! But you have to think about being a song writer. You’ll get money, you don’t have to

play if you can do something just put yourself out there and make as much money as you can. Do what Nandipha can do and don't feel any sorry about that because that's your work."

Nandipha: "Eish. I will have to think about it but I am so happy about this. I just love that I got a chance to be more than just a mother of Prince Tee's children and Prince Tee's wife. It felt so good just to be Nandipha as it does when my books are praised and reviewed without Ngcebo's name being included. Yes, they did include him now but it's different. It really feels good."

Palesa: "This career is broad and if you use money wisely you can be rich within a few years." She said to her as they were making their way to the to the brown and cream themed kitchen.

Nandipha: "Yes, but some artists are being played by record labels and it's really not fair

because they work hard for everything... I think the first thing I will change and work on, is the kitchen. It's so boring."

Palesa laughed. "Please, this house is just insurance for you and the children. It's not like you'll be staying here but you'll proceed staying in your husband's house. You don't have to invest so much in making it beautiful."

Nandipha: "Yeah, you are right and I wonder who's that calling you because you keep ignoring their call."

Palesa: "My phone is ringing?" she acted surprised and opened her bag. Nandipha laughed and she shook her head. "I will answer the phone call away from you." she informed her and walked away quickly leaving her laughing.

"Hello?" Palesa answered Dalingcebo's call and she leaned on her car.

Dalingcebo: "Are you busy? I can call later."

Palesa: "No, I am with Nandipha but we can talk."

Dalingcebo: "You and Nandipha! Are you actually friends or lovers? She's always there around you. Is my brother competing with you? I am worried now because I wouldn't want to compete with Nandipha for a space in your life."

Palesa laughed and shook her head. "No, he's not competing with me. And we are not always together but we just make time for each other as friends. We have a relationship and every relationship needs nurturing for it not to die."

Dalingcebo: "You are right about that and that's why I also like calling you because I am just nurturing this relationship."

Palesa giggled. "Oh! I didn't know we are already in a relationship." She said.

Dalingcebo: "If we can meet once again I can

show you we are in one.”

Palesa: “You’ll show me by kissing me?”

Dalingcebo chuckled. “Did you enjoy that kiss? I did.” He asked softly.

Palesa: “It was just a kiss nothing amazing.”

Dalingcebo: “Oh! You mean there’s nothing amazing about me?”

Palesa: “I don’t know but do you think there’s something amazing about you?”

Dalingcebo: “Yes, I do think there is and your lips were amazing. I wouldn’t mind kissing you again if I see you once again.”

Palesa smiled. “It’s a pity that you won’t see me again and petrol price has risen again that means we can’t be in a long distance relationship.” She said.

Dalingcebo laughed seriously and Palesa joined him. “You are right about petrol price but I

wouldn't mind spending my money just to come and be with you. Just like I want to come this weekend." He said.

Palesa: "Where will you sleep because your brother and his family, they're coming to KZN this weekend. I think they're leaving tomorrow if I remember correctly. Where will you sleep then?"

Dalingcebo: "Ow! Ngcebo didn't tell me but there are hotels, right?"

Palesa: "Yes, wouldn't you like to see your brother?"

Dalingcebo chuckled. "Listen, I won't allow you to turn me down using my brother. I will simply come to Johannesburg because I want to take you on a dinner date on Saturday and then I will drive back home. I will see my brother on Sunday. Can you not turn me down now?"

Palesa sighed. "Alright, you can come." She

agreed because she knew he wasn't going to stop and the best thing was to just agree. She would love to see him again because it'd been nice to speak to him over the phone as he would call her now and again. And they would talk about nothing and everything. He would call anytime of the day and at night...

Dalingcebo: "Hheyi, madoda! I didn't trust you'll agree."

Palesa: "You won't stop calling if I don't agree."

Dalingcebo chuckled. "But you always answer my calls when I call." He said.

Palesa: "I didn't know that you didn't want me to answer."

Dalingcebo: "No, no, please, answer. And let me not keep your friend waiting because she might throw tantrums at you since she's pregnant."

Palesa: "She's on her good behaviour this time."

Dalingcebo chuckled. "She must be carrying boys then because they're not dramatic but they know how to behave." He said to her and they laughed.

Palesa: "That's not what my boy did. Have a good day."

Dalingcebo: "Thank you and you have a good day."

Palesa sighed and she removed the phone from her ear. "And why are you standing over there?" She asked walking up to Nandipha who was standing by the main door of the house looking at her direction.

Nandipha: "I was just looking at you as you were talking and laughing. But I couldn't even hear what you were saying, the smiles, though."

Palesa: "I was talking to a friend."

Nandipha: "Really? That's nice, friend."

Palesa: "Can we just go eat and drive back to Johannesburg. The babies are behaving this time around I haven't felt the heat but you are approaching your fifth month of the pregnancy." She commented as Nandipha was locking the door of the house. She was standing behind her.

Nandipha: "They're killing me with heartburn and burping now and again."

Palesa: "But you haven't gained too much weight."

Nandipha: "I don't see it that way and I have a radio interview with Mujo on Friday next week. I am hoping that I will be back by then."

Palesa: "You said you are going there for the weekend." She started the engine of her car and they drove out of the premises.

Nandipha: "Yes, he can say that but we'll find ourselves staying over there for weeks and so, I don't know if I will come back in time."

Palesa: "You'll have to come back for work."

Nandipha: "Enough! Who was that on the phone?" she looked at her and she folded her lips. She placed her hand on her belly.

Palesa: "It was just-"

Nandipha: "Don't lie to me because I don't lie to you."

Palesa: "Okay! Okay! It was Dalingcebo, he told me that he'll come here this weekend because he wants us to have a dinner date."

Nandipha: "Wuuh! Petrol price has risen up and he's driving up here for a dinner date. Hmm! Hmm! My friend."

Palesa laughed. "I said the exact same thing that the petrol price has just risen and that means long distance relationships are expensive." She said.

Nandipha: "But I know that in no time you'll be

driving down to KZN too.”

Palesa: “What? No! I can never do that.”

Nandipha laughed. “I think we all know the power of a dick and things we have done just for it.” She said and Palesa looked at her. They cracked...

Palesa: “We have kids in here. Can you please, hold it!”

Nandipha: “Aw, these two in here don’t understand this language.”

Palesa: “And he kissed me, bitch.”

Nandipha: “What! When and how did you react?”

Palesa: “Duh! I was a statue for a few seconds but I kissed him back. It was that time when Prince Tee had his sneaker line launch.”

Nandipha: “Wow! And you’ve kept that a secret! Do you like him?”

Palesa: “I think that I like him but I am not sure.”

Nandipha: "You'll be sure in a few months or weeks."

Palesa: "I heard Phemelo's father is getting married. I wanted to tell you that last night but I didn't have airtime and you were not available on WhatsApp."

Nandipha: "You're lying!"

Palesa: "Yeah, he's getting married babe and it seems like it will be a huge wedding. I heard that from one of his friends who was at the bank yesterday."

Nandipha: "How do you feel about that?"

Palesa: "I have made peace with him, Nandipha. He doesn't see the need to be in his son's life and I won't force him. I don't care what he does."

Nandipha: "Ey, some guys. They're a waste of sperms"

Palesa laughed: "You can actually say that again."

Nandipha: "I am just scared that maybe I will fail as a mother to so many children. I am really scared."

Palesa: "Aw. My friend, don't stress yourself. You saw that being a mother comes naturally and you'll do a great job with them all. I was watching American Idols' auditions and some girl came to the audition with her parents and siblings. She's the first child of ten children."

Nandipha: "HUH? TEN!"

Palesa: "Yes, ten. It's a lot of them and they look little. That woman shame." Nandipha: "No, I will tie my tubes after this." she said and Palesa laughed as they stepped out of the car and marched up to the restaurant to have their lunch...

"Can you stop the car?" Nandipha requested as

she could see a girl walking alone on the dark gravel streets of Nongoma. She looked at her wrist watch as she couldn't understand why a pregnant girl would be on the streets this late. They were driving to their house on a Friday night. The girls were inside the car sleeping and Thula was with them, sleeping. They were quiet with Ngcebo in the car and music had stopped playing...

Ngcebo: "Why?"

Nandipha: "Can't you see a pregnant woman on the road? It's almost midnight for goodness sake. What's she doing here?"

Ngcebo: "Ey, I won't stop for strangers."

Nandipha: "Ngcebo, please, have some sympathy." She looked at him raising her voice as Ngcebo was driving pass the girl... Ngcebo hissed and he stopped the car. Nandipha opened the door once the car had stopped.

Ngcebo: "I will go to her and you'll stay here. It's almost midnight and you are pregnant. We don't know what spirits are there and maybe she's one."

Nandipha: "I don't trust-"

Ngcebo: "If she's real I will bring her to you." he said taking the torch that was kept in the vehicle. Nandipha closed the door and Ngcebo stepped out of the car. "Hey, sis! Stop!" Ngcebo called out the girl while lighting his way.

The girl stopped walking and she looked back. She held on tight to the bag with her clothes and she was prepared to tell the guy she had no money. But why would they want her money? She asked herself as she didn't trust this person who was stopping her but she wasn't running away she was standing.

Ngcebo: "I am Prince Ngcebo Zulu you don't have to be scared." He said to the girl and he

light his face shortly because he could see by her body language that she wasn't free. He heard the girl sigh and he removed the torch.

Girl: "How are you, Nkosana?"

Ngcebo: "I am fine and how are you?"

Girl: "I am fine. How can I help?"

Ngcebo: "My wife asked me to stop the car and I would like to take you to her because she's the one who has concerns about you."

Girl: "Okay." She nodded and followed Ngcebo to his vehicle...

Ngcebo: "She's here." He said to Nandipha, he stood by her side of the door with the girl standing next to him... Nandipha greeted the girl and she greeted Nandipha back.

Nandipha: "You are pregnant and walking on the streets alone at this hour. What's wrong?" she asked showing her face through the window

after she'd turned on the lights inside the vehicle. The girl didn't answer her but she looked down and played with her fingers. "I won't judge you and if you're scared to speak in his presence you can say it." She added looking at Ngcebo and even though the lights coming from the car weren't too bright to light Ngcebo and the girl clearly, Nandipha saw Ngcebo widening his eyes.

He knew the next thing he was going to be told to leave.

Girl: "No, but I coming from home."

Nandipha: "You are going to your boyfriend or?"

Girl: "No, but father just got back home from work. He works in Limpopo and he didn't know I was pregnant. He saw me and chased me out."

Nandipha and Ngcebo: "HAWU!"

Nandipha: "I am sorry to hear that but where are you going now? Do you have any relatives that

you can go to or you're going to baby daddy's house?"

Girl: "No, I don't know where I was going I have been going around trying to find a place to hide. I thought I could hide in some old house far up the road until I know what to do."

Nandipha: "No, you can't be walking alone in the dark. It's almost midnight."

Girl: "I have nowhere to go because our relatives don't live around."

Nandipha: "Who's the father of your child? We can drive you to him."

Ngcebo: "Yes, tell us his name and house. We will drive you to him."

The girl didn't even look at them after they've suggested that but she shook her head because she didn't want to tell who was the father.

Ngcebo: "Hawu, what's wrong now?"

Girl: "I can't tell you."

Nandipha: "Why, were you molested to be pregnant?"

Girl: "No."

Nandipha sighed and grew interested with this girl who didn't want to say the father of her child. She looked at Ngcebo. "Can we take her with us? We can't possibly leave her walking around, alone." She asked him.

Ngcebo felt that he was on a tight spot because Nandipha had asked him this in the presence of the girl. And that meant he couldn't refuse. How was he supposed to trust a girl they met on the streets and she didn't want to tell them about the father of her baby?

Ngcebo: "There isn't an available chair in here but you'll see how you'll fit inside the car because unfastening one of the girls' seats would be a problem." He said to the girl opening

the door for her.

Girl: "Thank you." she said stepping inside the car and she sat down on the open space that was left with no seat because the middle seats were two.

Nandipha: "What's your name and surname? You didn't even think of sleeping behind the fence of your father's premises. You just left."

Girl: "I am Gcinile and I didn't think that."

Ngcebo: "You were supposed to at least ask to sleep in your neighbour's house not walking alone at this hour." He said to the girl and she kept quiet...

"You'll eat now? I will give the girl some food."

Nandipha asked Ngcebo as they were inside the kitchen of their house. Nandipha gave the sponge and blankets to the girl and she opened the hut for her because Ngcebo told her she mustn't sleep with them in the house. And she

took that.

Ngcebo: “You are giving her food now? How can you trust someone that you saw on the road? And she doesn’t want to tell us the father of her baby?”

Nandipha: “I don’t know but she’s pregnant she needs help.”

Ngcebo: “You don’t know that for sure, Nandipha and maybe she’s not what you think she is, helpless and all. You don’t know that and you can’t go around trusting everyone you meet because they’re helpless.”

Nandipha: “I will go give her food.”

Ngcebo: “No, you’ll not go out at this hour. I will give her that food. You’ve brought a stranger here, near our daughters and the children that you’re carrying. You can’t be going up and down outside at this hour.” He said and took the food that she had on her hand. They’ve bought

takeaways but they didn't have them all.

Nandipha had dished that food for the girl.

Nandipha: "You didn't tell me if you'll eat or not."

Ngcebo: "I won't eat." He told her walking away... Nandipha closed the takeaways and she placed them on the microwave. She then marched to the bedroom thinking about this pregnant girl. She didn't want to believe that she would lie and be someone on the road that hour. She was really helpless and she knew someone who was going to help with this matter...

"You are sleeping or?" Ngcebo asked touching Nandipha's neck. Nandipha laughed instead of answering him that she wasn't sleeping.

"What's funny?"

Nandipha: "Uyigwala man!" (You are a coward) she exclaimed and they both laughed at what she'd just said about Ngcebo.

Ngcebo: "No, I am not a coward but I should

protect you and you shouldn't trust everyone because not everyone has your best interest at heart."

Nandipha: "But she doesn't look like a chancer and I think that there's something hidden about the baby daddy. Why did she refuse to tell us?"

Ngcebo: "Ey, tomorrow she must go home."

Nandipha: "No, I want to know the father of her child and I will call Queen Nkosazana. She will get to the bottom of this."

Ngcebo: "It would be better if you do that."

Nandipha: "Goodnight."

Ngcebo: "Hawu!"

Nandipha: "What?" she opened her eyes and looked at him. He was laying on the bed facing her and his eyes looking at her.

Ngcebo: "You can't just say such a dry goodnight to your husband."

Nandipha: “We should pray and sleep, I am tired.” She said recalling that they’ve just had a safe drive from Gauteng to KZN. She sat up and Ngcebo sat up after her. Nandipha gave her hand to Ngcebo, they prayed...

“What happened with the father of your child? You don’t want to tell me about him even now?” Nandipha asked Gcinile and she placed the plate of breakfast next to her as she was seated on the sponge with her phone.

Gcinile: “I don’t think I can tell you.”

Nandipha: “Is it someone I know?”

Gcinile: “Yes.”

Nandipha: “Oh! I have placed the basin, soap and towel by the door. You’ll bath. You’ll knock by the kitchen door if you need hot water.”

Gcinile: “Thank you for everything that you’ve done for me.”

Nandipha: "Where will you go?"

Gcinile: "I don't know but mom said she's still talking to dad."

Nandipha: "Okay." She walked out of the hut and sent her hand inside her apron. She dialled Nkosazana's number and waited.

Nkosazana: "Hello, MaZondi?"

Nandipha: "How are you, ndlovukazi?"

Nkosazana: "I am fine, sis and how are you?"

Nandipha: "I am fine, I have a girl here and she's..." she told her about Gcinile.

Nkosazana: "Eh... Eh... Do you have time or you came back home for something specific? I am very busy today and it seems that this girl needs help urgent."

Nandipha: "No, I am not busy. We came back because Ngcebo had to come back for Langalibalele. He doesn't trust this girl but I

can't help the feeling because I have heard him talk in his sleep about children. So, everything with babies makes me wanna connect his words."

Nkosazana: "Okay, can you try taking her back home and if they don't want her back. You'll have to get her to tell you the father of the baby and take her there. I really can't help today because I am busy and we are leaving later with my husband. Can you do that for me?"

Nandipha: "Okay, I will do that."

Nkosazana: "Thank you for calling me."

Nandipha: "There was no one to call. I will tell you how it went."

Nkosazana: "Alright, have a good day."

Nandipha wished her back and she moved from her position to get to Ngcebo who was marching to the viano. "Wait for me!" She shouted.

Ngcebo: "Where are you going as I should wait?
I am going to Langalibalele."

Nandipha: "I just called the queen and she
asked that I take this girl to her parents. I can't
go alone and I ask that you go with me."

Ngcebo: "You and this girl."

Nandipha: "I am begging you. I can't just enter
people's premises without you. And I don't
know this place you know that."

Ngcebo: "I will come back."

Nandipha: "Yoh! Thank you."

Ngcebo: "Hawu, why are you saying it like that?"

Nandipha: "I didn't think you'll agree. Your
family is what matters when you are here not
what I request from you."

Ngcebo: "Hawu!"

Nandipha: "I'll wait for you." she said and turned
to leave him... Ngcebo was looking at her as she

was walking away. He only stepped inside the car when Nandipha had entered the house. He drove the car out of the premises and he got off the car. He rushed to close the gate before getting back...

“...I really don’t know what’s the meaning of this dream because I have a wife. I would like that you clarify that if you know before we get on to what you’ve called me here for.” Ngcebo said to Langalibalele after he’d narrated the dream that he had of his grandfather telling him they needed a wife. Ngcebo was kneeling before Langalibalele inside his hut.

Langalibalele: “Hawu! You were supposed to tell me about this dream the day I called you because I called you for something connected to that.”

Ngcebo: “Oh! You saw the dream?”

Langalibalele: “No, but your grandmother came

to me and told me that your wife's traditional wedding should happen soon. And that way they'll be able to protect her and the children because she's still not a wife but a bride to them."

Ngcebo: "Hawu. How can that happen because my father doesn't want my wife inside his palace? And that's because of the abortion she did years ago. How can Nandipha get married traditionally? Where will she enter?"

Langalibalele: "Your wife will only be welcomed in your grandfather's premises. That's where she'll enter as a wife and do all the duties of a wife. And should she perform any rituals in future she'll perform them in your grandfather's premises."

Ngcebo: "Oh! Is there a reason for that?"

Langalibalele: "That's all I need to tell you, Nkosana regarding her being welcome into the

family. If it was needed for her to be welcomed in your father's palace your father was going to have to listen to the ancestors' words. I am not saying this because she's not welcome in your father's palace but I am saying this because it's an order."

Ngcebo: "Thokoza!" he clapped hands and felt the relief that they didn't want him to have another wife but they needed the one he already has. "Is my wife in danger as my grandfather told me that they need to protect her? And now, you've just told me that the wedding must happen soon."

Langalibalele: "I tried looking beyond but I saw nothing as danger that might be following her. But what you must do is, talk to your parents and plan the wedding right away. You'll have nothing to worry about after the wedding because if there's danger we can't be shown, she'll be protected. And maybe they can't show

us because she's not their daughter in-law fully."

Ngcebo: "Thokoza mkhulu."

Langalibalele: "I will give you something that you'll use at home inside the premises before you sleep. Uzochela igceke lonke ngayo. And with the state that your wife is in, you shouldn't tell her about the wedding being requested until you've spoken to your parents. I don't think you'll want to worry her."

Ngcebo: "Makhosi!" he clapped hands and took the muthi that was thrown on the floor next to him. Ngcebo then placed the money where he was supposed to place it and they were done. They got up to leave the hut...

Langalibalele: "Siyakubongela ngamadodana akho ozowathola. Ey uyanda umndeni nginesiqiniseko ujabule uyafa." He said to Ngcebo walking him out of the premises to get

to the viano.

Ngcebo stopped walking. “Hhaybo! I will have sons?” He asked as he wasn’t expecting what Langalibalele was saying or maybe...

Langalibalele: “Hawu, don’t doctors tell you?”

Ngcebo chuckled. “They do but we haven’t asked about the gender.” He said and he smiled feeling that deep inside he was happy about this. He was going to have two boys to complete their family. And was more than enough.

Langalibalele: “Siyakubongela ke.” He extended his hand to him and they shared a handshake with Ngcebo whom he saw he was totally happy.

Ngcebo: “Can I ask?”

Langalibalele: “Yes!”

Ngcebo: “How will the legacy continue if you won’t have a wife?”

Langalibalele chuckled. "I already have children even though it's with a woman my father had told me not to date but you know when you are a boy. And a certain woman is everything you see. I have a daughter and two sons with her. They live with her and her family but they do visit. My stubbornness costed me chances of ever having a wife."

Ngcebo: "AY! Why am I learning about this now?"

Langalibalele chuckled. "While you were living your life in Johannesburg, we were also living before our biggest responsibilities." He said without looking at him in the eye and they laughed.

Ngcebo: "Ey, a man got to live, mkhulu."

Langalibalele: "That's right, Nkosana and even if it's not my children. My brother can still have children or he can take after me if he has the

calling.”

Ngcebo: “Oh, I understand. I will leave now.” he said to him and they shared goodbyes gesture... Ngcebo stepped inside the car and drove home to Nandipha because she’d told him something he didn’t know she had in her heart. He didn’t want her to keep complaining about him...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 21

“She looks quite nervous.” Nandipha commented about Gcinile who had stepped inside the Viano. Nandipha was walking beside Ngcebo, they were taking Gcinile to her parents’ house.

Ngcebo: "She should be nervous. Wouldn't you?"

Nandipha: "Well, I don't have a father."

Ngcebo: "No, I mean if you were in her position."

Nandipha: "I don't know."

Ngcebo: "Hee! Yazi, I have noticed something about your behaviour and it really gets to me in a way that I don't understand." He said holding Nandipha's hand to stop her from opening the door because he wished to address this.

Nandipha: "What have you notice?" she looked into his eyes. Ngcebo didn't reply but he spent a few minutes looking at her. "Ah! Rasta, we really have to get going and now, you are just looking at me." she added.

Ngcebo: "I shouldn't look at you, now?"

Nandipha: "No, you should but right now we

should get going so that we can come back early and that way I will cook early.”

Ngcebo: “Let’s go then.”

Nandipha: “You won’t say what you wanted to say about my behaviour now?” she asked with a frown and she placed her hand on her forehead as an umbrella to the sun that was too hot on her skin.

Ngcebo: “No, let’s get going. I will talk if you do this again.”

Nandipha: “Naleli langa liyashisa man. Angizi la ngo December mina.” (It’s hot. I am not coming here in December) She said stepping inside the car as Ngcebo was moving to his side but he heard what Nandipha had said.

Ngcebo: “I don’t know if I heard that well.”

Nandipha: “Yes, you heard it well.” She confirmed and took out her phone from her sling bag that she had with her.

Ngcebo: “And what makes you think you won’t come?”

Nandipha: “The sun will affect my babies I don’t want to give birth to black babies but they must look like their mother.” She said and Ngcebo laughed, Gcinile giggled after Ngcebo as she couldn’t hide it from them.

Ngcebo: “Their family members are also dark skinned I don’t know why do you think you’ll give birth to yellow boys.”

Nandipha: “I am not even yellow and who said it’s boys? You are really dreaming about boys and don’t do that because you might be very disappointed.” She said and smiled with her phone. She shook her head and she typed a response to her new reader.

Ngcebo tittered and asked: “You’re black?”

Nandipha: “I am pineapple coloured.” She replied and she laughed but not laughing to

what she'd said and what they were talking about.

Ngcebo: "Who's making you laugh on that phone because you are surely not laughing with me?" he asked and looked at Nandipha's direction as he could see that she was laughing with her phone not him.

Nandipha: "I don't know how to pronounce their name."

Ngcebo: "Them? It's a group or man or female?"

Nandipha: "It's a guy."

Ngcebo: "You can't possibly have a man making you laugh in my presence. How can you do that? Bring your phone to me."

Nandipha: "Ah! Can you make me laugh then?"

Ngcebo chuckled. "Eh... Eh... Eh... Ayi... I don't have jokes but bring the phone to me." he insisted and looked at her shortly.

Nandipha laughed. "If you don't have jokes let the others make me laugh then because the babies want their mother to laugh. Their father has run out of jokes nje and I don't even think he had them jokes, in the first place anyway." She said to him and Gcinile laughed loudly unexpectedly. Ngcebo and Nandipha looked back at her.

Gcinile: "Eh! I am sorry."

Ngcebo: "You are supposed to be thinking about an apology speech that you'll give to your father not laughing at elders." Nandipha laughed and shook her head, she looked at Ngcebo with an amused expression after Ngcebo had said that. "Don't give me that look because I am telling her the truth."

Nandipha: "Don't you think you are talking too much?" she whispered moving her face closer to Ngcebo's face. She folded her lips and she laughed as Ngcebo was looking at her head

that had a doek. “You don’t have a chance.”

Ngcebo chuckled. “Don’t you love it when I talk?” He asked and took her hand into his hand as Nandipha was moving away from him.

Nandipha: “Let’s stop talking because we are not alone.”

“Okay, but this should come to me.” He agreed and took the phone from Nandipha’s hand. He placed it between his thighs and they drove in silence. Ngcebo looked at Nandipha and she was quiet... He wondered...

Nandipha: “We can’t drive in this total silence. Please, sing for our babies.”

Ngcebo: “Ayi Nandipha. I won’t do that.”

Nandipha: “I am sure they’ll be happy and Gcinile’s baby will be happy.”

Ngcebo: “No. I am shy I will sing for you alone.”

Nandipha looked back at Gcinile. “Gcinile, sisi.

Don't you want to hear your Prince sing for your child?" She asked and Gcinile laughed with a nod that Ngcebo saw through the mirror.

"Prince Ngcebo, please, sing for us." she requested looking at him. But Ngcebo shook his head.

Nandipha: "I can't believe you're refusing your wife. Wow! I wonder who's that you're not shy to sing for since you are suddenly shy now."

Ngcebo chuckled. "Are you angry now?" he asked.

Nandipha: "No, it's fine don't sing."

Ngcebo: "Do you want to cry? Play the music if you want someone to sing for you." he looked at her shortly but Nandipha was quietly leaning her head on the window with her right hand tapping her belly. "I am talking."

Nandipha: "I said it's fine. Don't sing." She repeated in a murmur...

“I think that you’ll have to go before her father gets here. He’s very angry that his last born is pregnant.” Gcinile’s mother told Ngcebo and Nandipha who were seated inside the lounge of her house with Gcinile.

Nandipha: “But mama, we found her on the streets by midnight. She was walking alone. Maybe we can reason with your husband.”

Ngcebo: “Yes, it’s not right that a girl, I don’t want to count pregnant girl but a girl was roaming the streets alone at that hour trying to find a place to sleep.”

“There’s nothing I can do about this. I am still trying to soften her father and I need time. Please, I don’t want my daughter on the streets but I have no power because she was wrong to get pregnant.” She pleaded with them.

Nandipha saw she feared her husband. She looked at Ngcebo. “You are trying to soften him.

And where should this child stay while you are still trying? You didn't even make any arrangements for as her mother. She's wrong to be pregnant while living under your care we all know that but that doesn't change that she's still your child and needs your protection."

Ngcebo said to the woman feeling angry that she wasn't thinking about her child's wellbeing in this time that she says she would be softening her husband.

Nandipha: "And how will she learn to protect this child if you don't show her. I can see you're powerless but as a mother you make means even if it means hiding that from your husband. You protect your own because it's the truth that men fail to think straight at times. You should be the one to think don't let your respect for your husband force you to choose him over your children. Don't make a mistake of putting yourself in that position mama." She said to her

and she felt she wanted to say more because it was bothering her that she would let her daughter leave at night just to please her husband. But she figured she'd said enough she didn't want to overstep her boundaries.

Gcinile's mother looked down as she accepted Nandipha's words. She looked at Nandipha. "You are right mntanami but now, my relatives live very far. I don't know if you can help me keep her until I have organised that she leaves this place to go to my relatives. I will have to call them and get some money for my daughter and she will be able to go. I will only need about two days." She requested politely but speaking fast because she didn't want her husband to find them in the house. He was going to be even more angrier. He wasn't a husband who abused her physically but he was an uptight and too strict husband and father. Gcinile's mother wasn't just respectful but she was awe of her

husband. He had his grip too tight on their children and he expected them to live by the rules he made with no room of making mistakes.

Ngcebo: "Can you at least tell us the father of her child? She doesn't want to tell us and we will be leaving soon. We can't leave her in our premises alone."

"Please, the father of the baby issue, leave it to me but I would like to give my number to you. Nkosikazi Zulu. I will take yours." She said to Nandipha taking out her phone and they exchanged numbers.

Ngcebo, Nandipha and Gcinile stood up along with Gcinile's mother. Nandipha looked at Gcinile and she saw the fear and she wondered how tough her father was because she was definitely scared to be in her own home. "Hug your mother I can see that you very much need it." Nandipha said to Gcinile and she looked at

her mother, she was telling them something they've never done.

Gcinile: "Mama?" she asked to check with her, she knew her mother was a good mother to them and she loved them but she wasn't an affectionous mother. She didn't want to let this moment pass her. Gcinile's mother nodded and she hugged her daughter tightly telling her she was going to speak to her father.

Gcinile: "Thank you, mama and I am sorry for putting you in this position with father." She said to her to her. She'd forgiven her for the pregnancy.

Gcinile's mother: "Go now. I will call you." she pressed moving away from her and Gcinile left the house following Nandipha and Ngcebo.

"Were you counting me in when you said men can't think straight?" Ngcebo asked Nandipha as they followed each other to the viano.

Nandipha laughed and held Ngcebo's hand for balance. "There's nothing funny."

Nandipha: "You are unbelievable Ngcebo. You picked that up out of everything that I have said in there, that one found a place in your heart."

Ngcebo: "Yes, because I want to know if you think like that about me too."

Nandipha: "I don't know." She replied and stepped inside the car and Ngcebo stepped inside the car along with her. She took the bottle of water inside the car and she drank the water while they waited for Gcinile.

Ngcebo: "I have done what I promised you and I will drop you by our house and I will go home." he informed her.

Nandipha: "Okay." She looked at Gcinile as she walked to the vehicle and her mother was standing inside the premises looking at her...

"Vusuzulu is the father of my child. He left the

country knowing that I am pregnant. He was scared that his father was going to stop him from leaving and force him to stay because I am pregnant with his child.” Gcinile told Nandipha as she was heading to the door after giving her lunch inside the hut. She felt it was only right that she tells Nandipha the truth because she’d been kind to her. And it was unfair that she wasn’t telling her the truth.

Nandipha: “Hawu! That’s the truth? He chose leaving?” she asked and turned to Gcinile as she was being told what she didn’t expect.

Gcinile: “Yes, it’s the truth and mama said we shouldn’t bother them by telling them about the baby while Vusuzulu wasn’t here because they were going to say I was lying. I have been with him alone and my father is also angry that he’s the one who made me pregnant.”

Nandipha: “He also supports that you don’t tell them?”

Gcinile: "He said he doesn't want his daughter to be called an opportunist. And he was going to be humiliated because of me. He threw me out."

Nandipha: "If I ask my husband to go with me to his father after getting permission from Ndlovukazi MaMkhwanazi. Will you agree to go there? We won't be going there to traditionally tell his father you're pregnant but we will go there as their family with my husband and we will ask him not to tell others. Will you agree if I get that permission?"

Gcinile: "Yes, I can go with you. I don't want to stop going to school because I am pregnant. I am doing my matric and if I can move to mama's relatives I will not go to school. It's October now, the yearend exams are closer."

Nandipha: "I understand. I will tell you what will happen after speaking with the queen and my husband, okay?"

Gcinile: “Yes, thank you so much sis Nandipha. I don’t know what I would have done if you didn’t stop that night. You are such a free-spirited person.”

Nandipha smiled. “Don’t even mention it.” She said to her and left her to convince Ngcebo that they needed to go with Gcinile. He was still inside the house having his lunch with the girls...

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“I don’t know what you want me to do because I am telling you that we will come back. We have to go and visit grandpa. You don’t like him now?” Happiness asked her children who were crying. She was seated on the couch fastening the laces of her shoes. Nonjabulo and Njabulo were standing before her on a Saturday morning, they were both crying because they were leaving.

The two children didn’t answer their mother but

they cried. “These two are crying? Why are you crying?” Mnotho asked the children walking inside the lounge. He was coming from Danielle’s house to get Happiness and the kids.

Njabulo: “We don’t want to go.”

Mnotho: “Njabulo, stop crying. You don’t want to go! You have to go and visit your grandfather. How do you think he will feel when you don’t want to visit him? Huh? Nonjabulo!” He shouted at them looking at them as they were no longer crying but they were looking at their mother. “I am the one talking.”

Happiness: “Your father is speaking. Why are you quiet now?”

Njabulo looked at Nonjabulo, they looked at Mnotho. “We will come back?” Nonjabulo asked and she lifted her hands for Mnotho.

Mnotho bent over and he lifted Nonjabulo. “Yes, you’ll come back with your mother. How can

you leave your home?" He asked wiping her face. Happiness pulled Njabulo to him and she wiped his face. "MaMthimkhulu, I am here to tell the three of you that MaNkosi asked that you pass by her house." He said.

Happiness got up from the couch with Njabulo. "What's wrong? I have promised mama that I will pass by her house before I leave." She told him as she followed him behind leaving the quiet house for their cars.

Mnotho: "Mama can wait but MaNkosi can't wait. You'll see mama after. You can drive with Njabulo and I will drive with my baby girl." He said to Happiness marching to his car while Happiness headed to hers. Mnotho buckled Nonjabulo on the front seat and he took his driver seat. They drove out...

"Hhaybo! All of this, just for me." Happiness smiled looking at the table that was beautifully decorated with her favourite cuisine. Pearl and

Siphosami were already seated on the table waiting for their father, Happiness and siblings... Ntandokazi left Happiness's house Thursday morning, she was leaving with Siphosami and Pearl. They informed the children that they were separating now going back to their houses and they accepted what they were told. Mnotho was left behind with Happiness and the children. Danielle spent Thursday night with the children and Friday, Mnotho was home.

Danielle: "Yes, I just wanted to give you a treat before you go."

Happiness: "Thank you so much. Can we sit? Where's this husband? He hasn't arrived over here but he was just after me."

"I am already here." Mnotho said stepping inside the dining side of the kitchen with Nonjabulo inside his arms. He placed Nonjabulo next to Pearl on the table. "I heard you were

crying for me.” He looked at Happiness and took his seat on the table. Danielle sat on the left side of Mnotho on the table and Happiness sat on his right side of the table.

Happiness: “Yes, I am already starving and I want to dug in here. It looks yummy Ntandokazi. Who helped you?” she looked at her with her lips folded.

Danielle: “Really?” she said and they laughed with Happiness.

Pearl: “LET’S EAT! I WANT ICE CREAM!” She screamed and the elders laughed while her siblings were supporting her because they were not part of the adults’ conversation... Mnotho looked at his family before giving his wives his hands and he couldn’t find the reason why he deserved this. He couldn’t believe they were seated together and his wives were laughing with each other genuinely. And his heart was at rest. He had no words of expressing how

grateful he was for how things were in his life now... Mnotho blessed the food and they dug into the food that Danielle had prepared with love in her heart. Danielle never imagined that things would turn out this way and life would be such a blessing in this type of marriage. After everything that she went through she wished that her joy would be the one that was going to last...

Nonjabulo: "The food is nice." She said and nodded and the others agreed.

Happiness: "You really didn't cook alone."

Danielle laughed. "I cooked alone with Pearl and Siphosami helping me."

Mnotho: "I don't know if you'll believe it when I tell you that when she first dated me. She didn't even know how to make an egg."

Danielle: "HAWU! ZULU? Really?"

Happiness laughed. "Ihlazo Ntandokazi! Why?"

She asked and wiped her tears that had come out of her eyes because of laughing.

Ntandokazi giggled. "I had dreams of being a person who doesn't do house chores and well, that changed when I met the dear husband." She said.

Happiness: "I can't even say that you couldn't cook now. It's delicious."

Danielle: "Thank you."

Mnotho: "I passed by the shop a few days ago and ayi, you should do something because it doesn't look loaded. Is it still making money?" The two ladies laughed knowing they have neglected the shop. "I am asking."

Happiness: "We will revamp it when I come back and it will be our shop not the family shop. I don't know if you know what that means."

Mnotho: "No, I don't."

Danielle looked at Happiness then Mnotho. “It means the shop will generate money for the two of us not for the family.” She informed him.

Mnotho: “Yehheni! And where will the money for the family come from?”

Wives: “Husband!”

Mnotho laughed and shook his head. “Providing for my family can never be an issue but you won’t ask money for hair and lipstick because-” he was cut off.

Happiness: “That’s really out of line. Where should we get that money?”

Mnotho: “From the shop.”

Nonjabulo: “I want money too. We want money, right?” she asked her siblings and they chanted the same thing about money.

Mnotho: “I will give the money to my children.” He promised looking at them with a smile and



they screamed clapping their hands out of delight...

Mnotho: "I really don't have enough words of gratitude." He said to his wives and he sent his head down... Happiness and Danielle were washing the dishes. They stopped washing the dishes when Mnotho asked to speak to them.

Happiness: "We know that you are grateful and I think that all of us here are grateful. Yes, it hadn't been easy months for us but this illness brought us together. You know some painful situations are just blessings in disguise and this illness is what brought us together."

Danielle: "Yes, and moving forward we will work together."

Mnotho: "I would appreciate that when one of you sees I am wrong, don't keep quiet but speak. You can either tell the other wife and call me to address that matter because talking is what will

take us to forever.”

Danielle looked at Happiness and they nodded.

“Yes, and MaMthimkhulu, I will start designing the wedding dress because I want you look perfect than the first time because this time around you’ll be getting married genuinely.”

Danielle said to Happiness who was standing next to her.

Happiness: “A wedding?”

Danielle: “Yes, you are no longer married legally.”

Mnotho: “MaNkosi is right. We must plan the wedding and it will happen next year because this year, it’s Banele who’s getting married.”

Happiness smiled and looked down shortly, she looked at Danielle. “I want the dress to be a surprise but I will tell you hints of what I like.” She said to her agreeing that she was going to get married.

Danielle: "I always deliver and I don't disappoint."

Mnotho: "Okay, that's out of the way.

MaMthimkhulu you'll drive to mama's palace because you were supposed to go there. I have to go to my brother now. And please, call when you get home." he said to her opening his arms for Happiness. She moved forward and they shared a tight hug. "Thank you so much for coming back." He said lastly and kissed her forehead while she was still inside his arms. The arms that Happiness felt were lovingly warm.

Happiness: "Don't mention it." She said and they backed away from each other. Happiness stepped back after giving her eyes to Mnotho.

Mnotho then hugged Danielle after Happiness. "Thank you for the lunch. It was delicious." He said to her and Danielle sighed in his arms... Mnotho then turned to leave them after he'd

wished Happiness a safe drive...

“I thought you were going to come early.”

Thembelihle said to Happiness who was seated on the couch and Thembelihle sat on her chair. The children didn't sit with them but they rushed to Qalokuhle.

Happiness: “We had to go to MaNkosi's house. She was treating me.”

Thembelihle smiled. “Haa! That's very nice and I am happy if there's a good relationship between the two of you. It will make things easy.” She said.

Happiness: “Yes, but I am afraid that my father won't let me come back. I tried being stubborn with him but he didn't want to listen. I don't want to come back without his blessings. I will need them.” she confided.

Thembelihle: “Mnotho told his father and I about your father and you don't have to worry

because as your in-laws. We will go to your father and speak to him. We will make him understand that he must not stand in your way.”

Happiness: “You’ll do that for real?” she asked with a beautiful smile.

Thembelihle: “Hee! I am seeing a smile that I have never seen before.”

Happiness giggled and looked down. “I love him, mama. On Thursday, we stayed up late watching movies, talking and laughing. He makes me feel very different and even if we’re still down there. I just love him.” She confessed.

Thembelihle giggled. “That’s a good thing and I am happy when you’re happy my child. God will shower you with nothing but happiness and I have been praying for your marriage that no evil eye should fall upon the 8 of you. MaNkosi has also been through hell with losing her baby and her father, the problems have been following

her. And you have been living in hell. Your husband has also suffered but now, God has turned all your tears into gold. You'll be happy and don't be scared." Thembelihle said to her.

Happiness: "Thank you, mama. Those words are comfort to me."

Thembelihle: "Yes, and you should come back because there'll be a ritual for the end of the mourning period. But we will come to Johannesburg before it happens. I want you to come back here with your father's blessings."

Happiness: "Alright, and the problem that Langalibalele said about restoring the peace in the family. I have been thinking and I don't even know where we can start because this includes the entire family."

Thembelihle: "That's what bothers me because we have old difficult men and what can be done to restore this peace? I don't want us to talk and

end up hating each other while trying to fix things.”

Happiness: “You are right about that mama and it would have been good if we can find the solution and solve this on the day of the ritual. If we do that we will know that we are starting things on a new slate.”

Thembelihle: “You are right about that. Let’s pray and hope God will reveal it to us that how can we restore this peace because it’s us women who can.”

Happiness: “Yes, we are the backbones of our families.”

Thembelihle: “That’s true. Ey, it’s getting late my child and you should get going. We will speak on the phone and I will tell you when will we be coming.” She said standing up and they shared a hug with Happiness. “Thank you so much for being the light of this family. We are blessed to

have you.” she said to her and Happiness closed her eyes with a smile on her face...

## THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

### S6 == EPISODE 22

“Mama, cela ukucapuza ingane mina anikhali.” Similo said to her mother, seeing their mother’s belly was always amusing for them and they have grown to love playing with it instead of moping around about the new babies. And now, the four sisters were crying because their parents were leaving. Nandipha had managed to convince Ngcebo to go with her to Sbani’s house before going to his parents. She convinced him after she’d called Nkosazana and she gave her permission to go with Ngcebo to Sbani’s house.

Nandipha: “Okay, get on the couch my love.”



She said to Similo who'd asked to kiss her mother's belly. And as soon as she was given that permission, the rest of the sisters stopped crying and they giggled like they were not crying just then. They got up with their giggles to line up. Nandipha smiled and looked at Ngcebo who was next to her. "Kiss it twice, phela, there are two babies inside Mimi." She reminded her as she kissed her once. Similo giggled and looked back at her sisters who were smitten now. She kissed it twice and Ngcebo removed her from the couch giving others the chance.

Ngcebo: "We will come back then. You'll behave, right?"

"YEBO! BABA!" They all chanted like a choir and their parents left after promising them they were going to come back with sweets...

"I can't believe half of the things that your father said to the poor girl. He insulted her Ngcebo and his wife supported him!" Nandipha clapped

her hands once and looked at Ngcebo who was standing beside her. They were standing by Sbani's house looking at Gcinile as she ran to the viano crying after the meeting they had with Sbani and his wife.

Ngcebo: "I think mam' uSbongile said everything that she said because Vusuzulu isn't her child but he's a child her husband got from another woman." He said without looking at her because he couldn't believe that they have insulted the girl calling her an opportunist who wanted their money.

Nandipha: "Hawu! Why didn't you tell me that then, Ngcebo? We were supposed to go to his mother then."

Ngcebo: "His mother died, Nandipha. He lived here with them after her death."

Nandipha: "We have to fix this Ngcebo otherwise they will start badmouthing her and

her father and mother will be humiliated for real.”

Ngcebo: “How can we fix it?”

Nandipha: “Call your father he’ll speak to his brother.”

Ngcebo: “Ay, I won’t call him. Why involve him now?”

Nandipha: “He’ll reason with his brother.”

Ngcebo: “You can’t trust that maybe he’ll say the same thing.”

Nandipha hissed and opened her bag... Sbani and his wife were angry and they didn’t even want to call Vusuzulu to ask him about Gcinile.

Ngcebo: “What are you doing? Let’s go.”

Nandipha: “No, I will not let Gcinile’s father find the reason to question our actions to help his daughter while he’d threw her out to the wolves. Don’t forget I have been disowned before and I

had Palesa and Duma to help me. That girl should finish her matric and she can't do that if she'll leave this place." She said following Ngcebo with her phone on her ear.

Ngcebo: "The queen will see what to do." he said not noticing that Nandipha was calling his father now as they were walking out of the premises.

"MaZondi?" Dalisu accepted Nandipha's phone call.

Nandipha: "Eh, yebo, baba. Unjani?" she closed her eyes as Ngcebo had stopped walking but he had turned to look at her now.

Dalису: "Siyaphila ninjani?"

Nandipha: "Siyaphila okungatheni. I need your help, baba. I don't know if you are too busy because I will cross my boundaries now and ask you to move from where you are. I am desperate."

Dalisu: "What is wrong?"

Nandipha: "My husband and I met..." she narrated to Dalisu everything that had happened with Gcinile until the recent event at Sbani's house.

Dalisu: "Hawu! Hhayi! My brother said all that?" he checked.

Nandipha: "Yes, and now, I am scared that what Gcinile's parents didn't want to happen will happen. We didn't think they were really going to think like this. We thought that he'll follow through."

Dalisu: "Don't leave from there. I am coming."

Nandipha: "Yebo, baba. Syabonga." She removed the phone from her ear and only then was she able to open her eyes to look at her husband. "Sorry."

Ngcebo: "There was no need for you to call him."

Nandipha: “I think he’s the only person who can reason with his brother and he said we can wait for him here with Gcinile. He’s coming.”

Ngcebo: “You are trouble, Nandipha. You are trouble.”

Nandipha: “Do you want Gcinile’s big dark angry father to axe us?” Ngcebo laughed holding her hand and pulled her out of the premises.

Nandipha giggled. “Why are you laughing now?” she asked.

Ngcebo: “How do you know he’s big and dark?”

Nandipha: “That’s how I have painted him in my head.”

Ngcebo chuckled. “Oh! He’s Mboma in your first book. You described that man as hella ugly and scary.” He guessed and they laughed.

Nandipha: “He’s exactly like him. Keep quiet now, Gcinile is here.” She reminded him as they’ve reached the Viano. Nandipha looked at

Gcinile as they were inside the vehicle with Ngcebo. "Don't cry because Ndabezitha will come now." she said to Gcinile who was crying inside the viano.

Gcinile: "I don't want to cause any more trouble."

Ngcebo: "You won't be causing trouble just calm down." He pressed on Nandipha's words and gave her the bottle of water that belonged to Nandipha. Gcinile took the bottle and thanked him...

"You were supposed to say to the girl you'll get to the bottom of this and keep her somewhere, where she'll be safe not to accuse her of deception. The girl is from this village and she knows that there'll be hell to pay if she can even dare to deceive us." Dalisu said to his brother who'd asked him what was he supposed to do about this matter. They've argued about Gcinile's issue and that he didn't even try to call

Vusuzulu to ensure if he knew the pregnancy. Dalisu was seated alone with his brother.

Sbani sighed. "I am angry that she said to us Vusuzulu left knowing he's leaving a pregnant girl. Did MaZondi tell you that the girl said he left knowing she was pregnant? That's not like him. That's why I don't believe this girl." He stressed.

Dalisu: "That was supposed to give you valid reasons to confront the truth. Where can such a young girl get the audacity to fool us?"

Sbani sighed. "Ey bafo. I will have to call my son and I will keep this girl here. I will have to see her parents and talk to her father because Ngcebo told me he's very angry. And if she's lying! They will pay." He assured his brother.

Dalisu: "Please, get on it because it will be unfortunate that you kicked your grandchild from the womb. That's not what our father



stood for.”

Sbani: “Impela Mageba. I took this the wrong way, thank you.” he said standing up to give Dalisu his hand and he accepted it. They shared a brief manly hug.

Dalису: “How are things with him over there?” he asked about his brother’s son as they were leaving the house heading to Ngcebo’s vehicle.

Sbani: “He sounds happy about being in a new environment.”

Dalису: “That’s good for him because he has been through difficult times.”

Sbani: “Yes. It good for him.”

“Phuma ke we ntombi uzosala khona la.” (Get out you’ll stay behind) Dalису said to Gcinile and she raised her head in shock as she didn’t expect that was going to happen. She could see her future vanishing before her eyes and she would be stuck with a child while the father of

the child had left her for green pastures of another country.

Ngcebo: “You are taking her, baba?” he looked at Sbani.

Sbani: “Yes, it will be good that we keep her here until I have spoken to Vusuzulu and we will go to her parents to talk.”

Gcinile: “Thank you.” she said to Sbani with her hands bonded together.

Nandipha: “Go and look after yourself don’t ever walk alone at night like that. And good luck for your matric exams.”

Gcinile: “I won’t. Thank you, sis, Nandipha and Nkosana.” She said to them, Nandipha and Ngcebo nodded once as she got off the car...

Dalisu: “You didn’t even come home but you are here.”

Ngcebo: “I am still coming to see you and

mama. We need to talk.”

Dalису: “Okay, you did a good thing by helping that girl.” He said to them.

Ngcebo: “Ay we will head home now. You’ll drive safe.”

Nandipha: “Yebo, thank you for coming.”

Dalису: “It’s okay, drive safe. I will see you when you come see me Ngcebo.”

Ngcebo: “Ndabezitha.” He said and Dalису walked to his car... Ngcebo then drove away and he sighed. “Ey, your friend is safe now that’s less stressful.”

Nandipha laughed. “Ey, uyaqina uma uthandile.” She commented and they laughed with Ngcebo... They drove to town first...

Ngcebo stepped out of his car and he marched up to his parents’ house looking at his phone. He was looking at the phone while thinking

about what he was going to discuss with his parents now...

“Hhhh!” He groaned and shook his head, he rammed his phone inside the pocket of his black ripped jeans. His feet landed inside the lounge and he saw his father seated on his chair reading the paper.

Dalisu: “Hawu, Mageba, you are already here!” He exclaimed and gave his hand to Ngcebo after folding the newspaper and allowed it to rest on his knee for him to give his attention to his son. Ngcebo took his father’s hand and they shared a handshake that was accompanied by a brief manly hug.

Ngcebo: “Yes, I am here now. How are you, Ndabezitha?” he asked sitting on the couch that was by his father’s side of the chair... Dalisu took the remote and turned the volume of the radio down while telling his son about his wellbeing.

Dalisu: “Hheyi, tell me what brings you here because we were expecting you for the ritual and it will be held in my father’s premises and your wife should be there. I wasn’t even expecting a call from your wife.”

Ngcebo: “Why should she be there? I was called home by Langalibalele.”

Dalisu: “Oh! The family should find a way to move forward from what Langalibalele had said to us when he returned. I want things to be in place for all of you as they’re in place for Mnotho.”

Ngcebo: “Oh! Where’s mama?”

Dalisu: “QALOKUHLE CALL YOUR GRANNY!” He shouted repeatedly until Qalokuhle heard him and replied. “How’s work? Your sneakers are very comfortable and I feel proud to wear my son’s name.” he said.

Ngcebo laughed. “Thank you, baba. And work is

hectic because I want to take my break this December. We will have Banele's wedding." He said.

Dalisu: "Yes, yes, it's important that you come back home. And how are the little children that you'll have additionally? The girls are happy?"

Ngcebo chuckled. "They were very upset." He said and Dalisu laughed looking at his wife who was joining them on the lounge.

Thembelihle: "Who was upset?"

Ngcebo: "The girls. They were upset about having more siblings."

Thembelihle laughed. "Aybo! I didn't expect that. What did they say?"

Ngcebo: "They told us we shouldn't take the babies from the hospital. And when their mother told them they will go to the hospital because they don't want our babies. Thando cried first and they all followed."

Dalisu and Thembelihle laughed. “Hheyi, you were supposed to tell them that you and your brothers were all happy when your mother was going to have a baby. You never cried.” Dalisu said to Ngcebo and they shared laughter.

Thembelihle: “Yes, we were always waiting for popayi that we never had.”

Dalisu chuckled. “You know the gender now, do you?” He asked Ngcebo.

Ngcebo: “Langalibalele is the one who told me they’re boys.”

Parents: “HAWU! SIYABONGA!”

Thembelihle: “I wonder how he sees the gender.”

Dalisu: “Ey, we will never know. Ngcebo, won’t you have food before we get to speak about what has brought you here?”

Ngcebo: “No, baba, I am not hungry.”

Thembelihle: “What’s wrong, then? I wasn’t expecting you home.”

Ngcebo: “I saw grandfather in my sleep and Langalibalele called me home.”

Dalису: “Hawu, my father? What did he say?”

Ngcebo: “He told me they want a wife-”

Thembelihle: “Hawu, but you have a wife.” She commented with interest as she was surprised by what Ngcebo was saying. At the back of her mind she was thinking that maybe Ngcebo was going to be given another wife.

Dalису: “MaSthole, let him speak.”

Ngcebo: “Thank you. I received a call from Langalibalele in the morning following the night I saw grandpa. He told me to come home and I went to him, he told me that grandma told him that Nandipha and I, should have a traditional wedding.”



Dalisu looked at Thembelihle, she was looking at him with clear eyes that didn't reflect emotions. "But Nandipha is not welcomed here, Ngcebo. Where should that wedding take place? I mean, where will she be welcomed?"

Thembelihle asked Ngcebo after shying her eyes away from her husband.

Dalisu: "That's not the point you can raise, MaSthole. If these gates should be opened for her just for her wedding that will happen."

Ngcebo: "You don't have to do that baba because it was stated clearly to me that Nandipha should be welcomed in grandfather's premises and should she need to perform any rituals, they should happen there."

Dalisu: "Hawu, why? Is it because of my decision not let her in here?"

Ngcebo: "I asked for the reason but he didn't tell me."

Thembelihle: "It's okay, the wedding will happen but she's still pregnant and Banele is the one who should get married first because he has been kept waiting for too long. He will get married and you'll follow."

Ngcebo: "I understand but our case is, this wedding is essential because the ancestors need to reach Nandipha to protect her. Grandpa told me that the wedding shouldn't be delayed so that they'll be able to protect her."

Dalisu: "Is she in danger?"

Ngcebo: "He didn't say but baba, you know they won't say they need to protect her if there's nothing following her."

Dalisu: "I understand."

Thembelihle: "But they didn't say there was danger. I think they might have been impressed that she held on to you and they want her to have the wedding not because she's in danger."

And she also has inqibamasondo that she hasn't done. We can't speed things."

Dalisu: "MaSthole, we must not play a guessing game about the safety of our son's wife. But we need to do what the ancestors had said."

Thembelihle: "I understand that we need to take their instructions and we will do that but what about Banele? Banele's plans were put on hold because his older brother's wife went missing and there couldn't be a ceremony while we were stressed about Happiness. Happiness was found and he thought things were going to happen for him but his brother died. He had to change his plans. They came to speak to me with his wife and I had to tell him he'll wait for months until we start doing the ceremonies. How do you think he'll feel when we can tell him that he'll need to wait once again?"

Ngcebo: "This is not about just getting married for us, mama and especially since Nandipha is

pregnant. It's not about just getting married but it's about my wife's safety and the children she's carrying. If the ancestors want to protect them there's surely a need for that. Banele will understand that."

Thembelihle: "Yes, he will understand because he's an understanding person. But why are his feelings not considered? He can't even have children of his own. Why should we treat him as if he's not important and he'll have to come last? Why should we do that? Would you be happy if you were him?"

Ngcebo: "No, but if it was for Candice's safety I would have gladly waited because waiting has never killed anyone."

Dalisu: "Ngcebo is right, MaSthole. They're brothers and he will understand."

Thembelihle: "We can't do that to our son, Ndabezitha. Banele deserves to be happy as

well and he deserves to be put first like everyone else. I know that even if he won't be happy if we ask him to wait he won't say it. But he'll have it in his heart that he's been kept waiting and he even had to cancel travelling with Candice as his wife because of all the mess his big brothers created. He's younger than them and they should know his happiness matters too. And don't even think of running to Banele with this because he'll be forced to understand even if he doesn't understand."

Dalisu: "What should we do then? Huh? What will you say if something happens to MaZondi and her sons? What will you say?"

Thembelihle: "We will pray that nothing happens. God will listen to us and we will tell Banele that by end of October his first ceremony should take place and beginning of November the second one. And by first week of December, they will get married and then, Nandipha and

Ngcebo will have their wedding.”

Ngcebo: “Nandipha will be seven months by December and with two babies inside her she’ll be too heavy to perform a wedding. She can’t even stand the hot sun now. How much more then, mama?”

Thembelihle: “You don’t care about your brother, Ngcebo, isn’t?”

Dalisu: “Hhayi, MaSthole! How can you ask him that question?”

Ngcebo: “Ey, it’s fine then. I won’t speak to Banele, mama. I will go now. Thanks.” He stood up because he could see that he was just wasting his time. They didn’t care what happens to Nandipha because if both of them did, they were going to do what was said. His father had never let his mother have a final say when he didn’t agree with her. But today, he wasn’t firm about this and that was only

because it was Nandipha. A non-factor of the family.

Dalisu: “Ngcebo, where are you going now?” he asked as he was seeing Ngcebo head out through the door.

“I am going home.” he replied and dashed out of the house without looking back. He couldn’t believe them! He marched to the viano with a heavy painful heart and he was clueless of what was going to happen next...

“What’s your problem, MaSthole? Banele would never have a problem if we can tell him that this needs to be done because our ancestors requested it. What is your problem?” Dalisu asked Thembelihle after Ngcebo had left.

Thembelihle: “I don’t have a problem but it seems as if nobody sees things my way. Banele had to stop his wish of being a polygamous man because he found out that he was infertile

and his brother who didn't want polygamy is the one who is a polygamist. Can we put him first this time around?"

Dalису: "We should put him first and risk putting MaZondi and Ngcebo's two sons in danger? Is that what you want? Banele should be happy at a possibility of the other son's family being in danger? Who has died in waiting?"

Thembelihle: "Banele is also our son-"

Dalису: "Yeywena! MaSthole, it seems that you've forgotten your place and I can see that you have a problem we don't know with Ngcebo's wife. Why don't you put it out in the open for us to know? If I resent someone I don't hide it and I make sure that they know. What's your problem?"

Thembelihle: "I have no problem with Nandipha. I want-"

Dalису clicked his tongue. "Do you want your



relationship with Ngcebo to be destroyed as you're jeopardising the safety of his wife and children?" he asked.

Thembelihle: "Nothing can come between me and Ngcebo. He's my son, I gave birth to him and there's nobody who can separate us."

Dalisu: "I don't know what has gotten over you. If you're not giving our sons wrong advices, you are doing things you've never done. And you don't say what's making you like this but you keep changing. This is not the woman I married. I don't know this person you've become. Tsk!" he got up from his chair and he left Thembelihle alone in the lounge. He took his phone from his pocket to call Ngcebo but he didn't answer his phone...

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Ngcebo stepped inside the still quiet house, he wriggled his head around and he figured they

were already sleeping... He'd been with Dalingcebo, from his father's house, he didn't feel like driving to his house. He found Dalingcebo on his way out to the airport and he opted to drive him to the airport. He didn't tell him anything about his wedding with Nandipha. But they only spoke about random things until they reached the airport... He'd been distracted the whole time he was with Dalingcebo but now, that he was home the worry came rushing as he recalled what had happened earlier... He neglected his body on the couch with the plate of food that belonged to him...

She pushed her lips forward irritated that she couldn't sleep because Ngcebo wasn't home and his phone was on voicemail. She placed her feet on the cold floor and she placed her hand on her belly feeling her baby kick. She hissed.

"There's nobody who bothers me like your father. I resent this place because he just

forgets about us and he doesn't even care to inform me that he won't be coming home. I can't even be blithe when I am in this place I am mostly grumpy. Love can be a curse sometimes my children." She vented to the children while waltzing barefoot to the door as means to get to the kitchen. She felt her body was restless and how could it not because she was compelled to play with her children on the yard until they informed her it was enough. She shook her head with a short smile as she was taken back... Her worried eyes rested on his back and she placed she cuffed her full waist and her direction changed. It was him, that she wanted to see now and all she wanted to inquire of, was why was he was bothering her this much?

"You are not tired, are you?" Nandipha asked placing her hand on Ngcebo's shoulder to balance her body. Her goal was to sit on the

coffee table. "I want to sleep and I want to sleep when you are next to me." she said pushing the plate of food that was on the table. She rested her body on the table.

Ngcebo heard Nandipha speaking but he didn't want to speak because he didn't trust his voice wouldn't betray him and reveal to her that he was shading a sea of tears. But how was he going to conceal this from her because she was just here right here before him!

Nandipha: "Rasta?" she called him politely as she wasn't picking up any comment from Ngcebo but his head was just forced down with his hands pressed at the back on his neck. A drop of his tears fell on his wife's feet. "Are you crying?" she asked pushing his shoulders back.

Ngcebo: "You are supposed to sleeping." He said briefly forcing his shirt up to his face to wipe the entire face.

Nandipha: “Why are you crying, Ngcebo?” she stressed and within a blink of an eye, her eyes were watery and her hands were on her chest. Ngcebo inhaled deeply while his face was still covered with his tee shirt. “Ngcebo! Ngcebo!” she called out his name repeatedly and her hands shook his shoulders.

Ngcebo removed the tee shirt from his face and he stared at Nandipha, bug eyed that she was crying and for what reasons? “Hey, and why are you crying now? Come here.” He pulled Nandipha by her hand, his eyes traced her movement still surprised until she was seated on his left thigh. “Why are you crying?” he asked on a rather soft voice.

Nandipha: “You are crying! Why would you sit here alone and cry? Did I do something wrong? You said something about my behaviour but what is it? And you shouldn’t cry.” She responded gazing into his eyes while her sea of

tears flew off her eyes without stopping.

Ngcebo chuckled. “I wasn’t crying sthandwa sami.” He told her moping the tears off her cheeks with his tee shirt that he’d taken off his body.

Nandipha: “I am not a fool, Ngcebo.”

Ngcebo: “I was having a moment of reflection and I found myself crying. You know, Rastakazi to tell you the truth I didn’t mean to cry at all. But what can I tell you? I think your hormones brushed on me.”

Nandipha: “I don’t believe you. What’s happening? What did Langalibalele say? You’ve never cried because of the past. You don’t just cry anyhow.”

Ngcebo: “You said you want to sleep with me in our bed. How about we just get up from this couch and we will rest? You won’t let this rest even after telling you that I was reflecting on the

past. We've been through shit together. Wipe your tears because they're stubborn." He said throwing his tee shirt on the couch and he looked at her as she giggled moving her butts from him.

Nandipha: "You bother me though." She notified him lifting his plate away from the coffee table and she dashed away from him. Ngcebo laughed as they followed each other to the kitchen...

Nandipha laid her body on her bedside. "When are we leaving?" She asked.

Ngcebo: "We will leave tomorrow. I don't have foul smell I am not even thinking of taking a shower. How are the girls?"

Nandipha: "They're dead sleeping. I thought I was going to tell you to put me to sleep but I can't have your sweaty unclean penis penetrating my clean vagina as you will sleep

without bathing.”

Ngcebo: “HAWU! WAIT, BABE, I WILL GO SHOWER.” Like a stroke of lightning he sprung out of bed leaving Nandipha laughing her pregnant lungs out.

Nandipha shook her head and laid her head on the pillow as she never expected Ngcebo would be a suppressed spring at the mention of sex. “He was crying no so long ago and my dear Lord, I wonder why was he crying. Please, if he has worries he can’t share with me, help him carry them, dear God.” She pleaded with God shortly and she laid still in waiting for Ngcebo’s return...

Nandipha giggled and wiped Ngcebo’s sweaty faces as they were laying on the bed parallel to each other. “Why are you looking at me like that now? You’ve had your bath and you’ve drugged me. I am sleepy.” She said to him, softly.

Ngcebo was looking at her with a different



emotion cloaked behind his eyes and Nandipha couldn't put her mind around it.

Ngcebo: "How am I looking at you sdudla sami?"

Nandipha: "You are looking at me like you'll wake up and I will be gone." She said and laughed wiping his sweaty chest with her hand.

Ngcebo: "Why would you want to be gone from me?"

Nandipha: "I don't know but your eyes are looking at me like I am sick or something. I really can't clarify it to you, Rasta."

Ngcebo: "I love you, that's why I am looking at you like I am now. You can't cram how I will look at you and I am horny again. Come on top."

Nandipha giggled. "This belly is making me lazy that I can be on top." She said holding her belly and they both looked at it. When she raised her head, her eyes met Ngcebo's innocent smile.

Ngcebo: "You'll be a lazy cowgirl. You know how I love you on the reserved position but you'll lie back on me because you feel so lazy now. Come, sthandwa sami, I want you."

Nandipha giggled senselessly and she rose up to sit on Ngcebo's waist as she felt that she was heavily throbbing from hearing his voice convince her. "I can't even see where I am directing this human dildo." She commented and Ngcebo laughed loudly. Nandipha smiled with her hand holding 'him' and she began rubbing and rubbing and rubbing his tip on her wet entrance. She was teasing herself with Ngcebo's tumescent penis and she was loving the feelings she was blessing herself with. Ngcebo was holding her full waist with his eyes closed as he allowed her to have the amount of fun and teasing that she wanted. He groaned deeply as if it wasn't the second time when Nandipha unexpectedly shoved himself onto

her warm openings and he accepted her back that she was neglecting on his body. Slowly, she controlled all the movements commanding him not to move and all the ecstasy and satisfaction was on her hands... She suddenly rose up with vitality and she controlled him the way that she knew Ngcebo would appreciate honestly, fast and nasty...

Ngcebo held her shoulders tightly feeling her body vibrate as she'd collapsed it on his, after they've reached their sharp climax. "Don't make that mistake of jumping out of my penis like an ungrateful brat because you'll never get it again." He warned her after hearing her release a long sigh that he suspected it was her famous after-sex pleased smile.

Nandipha laughed. "You know that you'll never do that and I wasn't going to jump out. But this snake inside me still feels hard." She said and they laughed.

Ngcebo: "It's in heaven not in the garden of Eden eating forbidden fruits from Eva." He said holding her as they laughed. He crawled back still holding her and locked inside her vagina. He managed to laid her down without removing himself from her insides. Nandipha giggled as Ngcebo began moving again...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 23

"Why does it sound like you are sleeping?" Dalingcebo asked Palesa on the phone. He was inside the Uber that was taking him to 'the grill house'

Palesa: "Yes, I am sleeping. I have been busy the whole day."

Dalingcebo: "How can you tell me that because

I told you I am coming this weekend? And you are sleeping now.” his voice rose up sounding rather maddened that Palesa was sleeping but they had plans and she knew about the plans. He wasn’t prepared to be told to go back home!

Palesa: “No! You weren’t serious, were you?”

Dalingcebo tormented his jaw and closed his eyes. “Do I look like a joker?”

Palesa: “Please, don’t go all hard on me. You didn’t remind me this morning that we have a date but you called to check on me in the morning.”

Dalingcebo: “It’s Saturday.”

Palesa: “Where should I meet you? Did you drive?” she asked and got up from her bed. She was all alone in the house she left her son in her father’s house as she’d been there from morning till late. When she was leaving Phemelo asked to stay behind and Palesa

allowed him to. She had been sleeping since she returned. And now, she figured it would be rude to tell Dalingcebo to leave...

Dalingcebo sighed. "No, I didn't drive. I told you I was having a busy morning."

Palesa: "Ee! That's what you said to me and you didn't mention you'll still come and I automatically thought you weren't coming." She recalled and unfastened the knot of her black short gown. She tapped her feet on the floor faster to get to the bathroom to wash up pretty fast.

Dalingcebo: "And why didn't you ask?"

Palesa: "My mind told me that maybe you were joking about it."

Dalingcebo: "I will be at the grill house waiting for you if you don't want my Uber to drive to your house to get you."

Palesa: "No, I will get there on my own. Don't

worry.”

Dalingcebo: “Don’t be long. I don’t like to be kept waiting.”

Palesa: “Ao! Are you a woman?” she stepped inside her crystal white en-suite bathroom with greyish crystal tiled walls. She jogged to the round crystal white tub and she opened the water after dropping her gown on the floor.

Dalingcebo chuckled. “No, but I am a man.” He told her what she knew.

Palesa: “Yes, and men wait for women not the other way round. Get off the phone with me now I should take my bath.”

Dalingcebo: “Why don’t we talk while you are washing your body?” he asked and his voice turned completely cynical.

Palesa shook her head with light smile. “Emisa go bua o ntshenyetsa nako!” (Stop talking you are wasting my time) she exclaimed without

giving a straight forward response and she wholeheartedly laughed.

Dalingcebo: "I am lucky because I know what you mean and I will hang up just to give you time. I hope you'll be looking lovely but don't take too long preening yourself it's just a casual date."

Palesa tittered and she removed her phone from her ear. She invited her leg inside the tub of warm water and her entire body relaxed inside the tub. She wondered if she had to preen herself just to spite him or she had to take his advice? She rose her slim body from the tub with a decision...

She tied the thick yellow string of her red flare high waist skirt that was beneath the knee. She checked her makeup and she smiled satisfied that she'd preen herself perfectly. Her yellow suede stilettoed feet crawled out of her house marching to her red Renault Arkana that was



parked inside the garage. She opened the door and she drove out of the garage...

Dalingcebo stood up from his chair as he saw the lady walk up to her looking gorgeous. He smiled and rushed to the chair opposite him as Palesa was standing next to the chair without pulling it to sit down. "You may sit, mam." He said to Palesa politely and she sat down.

Dalingcebo: "You look amazing."

Palesa: "I did the opposite of what you said."

Dalingcebo: "I like the opposite and look, I have ordered your wine."

Palesa: "And who told you know I like this one?"

Dalingcebo: "I have my ways. We can have the starters that I have already ordered while we wait for the real order." He said and raised his hand for the waitress to give them service.

Palesa: "I was going to faint if you have ordered

the main course as well.”

Dalingcebo chuckled. “No, I am not like that and I know what that means.”

Palesa: “It’s better if you know and don’t worry I won’t keep pushing about the wine. I will just gladly have the wine and the starters.”

Dalingcebo gave her a sleepy smile her words awakened pleasure in him. He wasn’t really prepared to be interrogated about the wine. “Where’s the big guy?” He asked after they’ve placed their order.

Palesa: “He asked that I leave him with his grandfather and family.” She figured after her response that she was selling herself now. She wasn’t supposed to tell him that Phemelo wasn’t in her house. But he wouldn’t dare to request to go to her house after this, would he?

Dalingcebo: “Oh! Do you enjoy living alone?”

Palesa: “Yes, don’t you enjoy it?”

Dalingcebo: “Not really. I have lived alone for too long but it’s better now because I get fully company from my son.”

Palesa: “His nanny lets you bath him now?” she asked and laughed, Dalingcebo joined after her. They smiled after laughing with their eyes craving each other.

Dalingcebo: “Hmm! Hmm! She doesn’t but she does let me sleep with him if I want to sleep with at night. I think she’s too uptight.”

Palesa: “She cares. And I really didn’t think you’ll come.”

Dalingcebo: “A boyfriend got to check his girlfriend.” He said creeping his left hand to take a hold of her hand and Palesa’s eyes looked at his hand.

Palesa: “Yes, friends need that.”

Dalingcebo laughed. “You can play the game I won’t chase but I will just follow through in my

own pace.” He informed her and Palesa changed the subject...

“I had a good time with you and I can drive you to the hotel.” Palesa said to Dalingcebo as they marched to Palesa’s car after their fun dinner date.

Dalingcebo had his phone on his hand. “You are not rushing to your bed, are you? I wouldn’t mind if we can spend a few minutes in your car. I won’t be going to the hotel but I am going to Banele’s place. He invited me.”

Palesa: “We can.” She agreed to it and opened her car. They both hopped in at the back of the car as Dalingcebo had suggested. Dalingcebo pushed the front seats forward to give them some room in the car and Palesa took off her heels. She sat comfortably with her legs folded on the seat...

Dalingcebo: “I don’t bite.” He said shifting to

give the car window his back and pulled Palesa to his arms. She didn't protest as she was being pulled. Dalingcebo held her into his arms just to feel her presence and smell her sweet scent... Lazily, they conversed and allowed the hit of their bodies to keep them warm on the chilly Saturday night...

"... But, it's no use dwelling in the past." Palesa said to Dalingcebo and she raised her head to look at him as she could feel the heaviness of his eyes. The lights from the parking lot were gracing them inside the car and seeing her eyes, Dalingcebo held her chin and he laid his lips to rest on her lips. His hand loosened up on the chin and it held her smooth cheek as their lips exchanged. Her free hand held on to his broad arm as his lips intoxicated her and she appreciated all the heightened emotions and her heart woofed and woofed repeatedly as their tongues grazed...

“This is not friendship but a relationship and we can gladly take it at your pace.” Dalingcebo whispered into her ear as she’d hidden her face into his chest after she’d broken their kiss that she felt was going to let her emotions go ‘rogue’ and that was not what she wanted... Palesa didn’t comment...

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“We loved the song and your soothing voice Nandipha, it got people wishing to hear more of you. What can you say about that? Is there hope?” The radio DJ asked Nandipha who was seated opposite him along with Mujo on a Friday afternoon of their radio interview. They’ve been asked basics of the interview on how did they come about to make the song together, how was working together? How they tackled problems? And the two answered honestly that they were brought together by a voice note...

Nandipha: “There’s definitely no hope.”

“AWWWW!” The DJ and Mujo disappointed at the response Nandipha dished.

Nandipha tittered. “I am married to a musician and I have seen how demanding his career is. I can’t imagine how our children would feel if we can be those parents who would be away as often as he does. Being a mother comes first to me before being a wife and before being an author.” She replied.

DJ: “But some people make it work.”

Nandipha laughed. “Yes, and they’re doing a great job but I can’t. Those five came into my life like a tornado and they changed everything in my life. I always have to put them first. And it’s better that I stick to what I do best which is writing because I am not up for any kind of foray.” She replied politely.

DJ: “I think we all can understand that because

being a mother is automatically taking an oath and the song! What does it mean to you, Mujo? You have a son and I think we all know your story of how you had it difficult growing up.”

Mujo: “This song means a lot to me and I have been focused on giving my son a life that I never had. I want him to know that nothing is impossible in the world of dreams and dreaming is what keeps us alive. It’s what kept me alive.”

DJ: “That’s true because most of us are here because of dreams. And the song, there comes the negativity. How did you take it when you were said to take Prince Tee’s shine?” he asked looking at Mujo and Nandipha last.

Mujo: “It didn’t come hard because we are both in different lanes but in one genre and I can’t really always be worried about what people say. It didn’t really get to me bad because I was doing my work.”

Nandipha: "It kinda felt bad that they said he was using me to divert their attention but I just told myself they're different brands and working independently. It no competition but it's work."

DJ: "And we can see that you've eaten raw flour. What's cooking in there? I am connecting this to the song, what does it mean to you? But let's start about the raw flour. Are we baking or we are just gaining?"

They all laughed in studio and Nandipha shook her head. "I didn't know that was part of the song." She commented and they laughed. They haven't announced her pregnancy with Ngcebo and she didn't feel like it.

DJ: "It's a follow up question since we've had that cover."

Nandipha laughed. "Uhm! We are just gaining and no raw flour eaten." She replied knowing she didn't want to do what they didn't agree on

and didn't even discuss... They laughed in studio as she was dodging the obvious. "But the song means everything to me and the fact that I contributed in writing it. That's just a cherry on top of being proud." She replied...

The DJ then moved with the interview and they highlighted on the new song. And the highlight of Nandipha writing the whole second song had listeners keen and longing to hear the song. They sang the chorus of the upcoming song and in their interview they dodge the compromising questions...

"Thank you so much, working with you have been a blessing and it's sad that you don't want people to hear more of your voice. You don't just sing music but you also write it." Mujo said to Nandipha as they walked to the parking lot after their successful radio interview on a Friday afternoon.

Nandipha: "I think they got that being a mother

for me comes first and I really can't afford to have such a career."

Mujo: "Yeah. Good luck and thank for pushing for this interview." He said and they shared a brief hug as they've reached the cars...

Nandipha hopped inside Ngcebo's Porsche and she drove it out of the parking lot. She felt the relief that she'd done that interview and it was out of her way...

She stepped out the car and she marched inside the house with her ears already graced by the noise of her children. Their tiny sharp laughter filled the room with their father's bass behind them and she suspected that Ngcebo was running after them... Nandipha giggled as Ntokomalo was hiding behind her long blue stretchy maternity dress with long sleeves.

"MAMA!" Thando laughed as she ran to her mother and her steps had her mother worried she was going to fall but she didn't fall she

landed on her legs.

Nandipha: "It's a party here."

Ngcebo: "We were exercising in your absent."

Buhle: "Thina futhi beshikulalele ukhuluma mama." (We were listening to you)

Others: "EHE! KU RADIO"

Nandipha smiled and she looked at their father shortly knowing he was the one who could have tuned in on the radio. "Really? You heard what I was saying? Your mother was speaking English, phela." She asked.

The girls giggled. "EHE SHIZWILE!"

Ngcebo: "Ewu, lies! And I didn't say you shout tell your mother that we listened to her. You naughty rats!" he exclaimed and tapped his feet on their direction to scare them. The girls laughed and they pushed each other to get to their mother's back. "Why did you dodge the

question about eating raw flour?" He asked pulling her single ear and he kissed her briefly.

Nandipha: "We didn't agree on announcing the pregnancy. Whoever sees it will just see it. It's better that way because not everything should be announced, right?" she asked with her eyes looking at him as he was pulling the children behind her dress and they were giggling.

Ngcebo: "Yes. Daddy's princesses, go and sit down. I want to go with your mother to our room." he instructed the girls showing them the way to the couches' side and they pushed each other forward without any protest... Ngcebo held Nandipha's hand after calling out for Thula to come to the children. "I have been thinking about your morning tweet the one that says 'Inviting the power of your profession into your relationship is the end of it.'" He looked at her shortly as they climbed the stairs taking them to their room.

Nandipha: “What about the tweet?”

Ngcebo: “It got me thinking that I might have done that even though it didn’t find power to destroy our relationship but the fact that my career is a big contributor of our expenditure is something that I was wrong to bring up.”

Nandipha: “But we are no longer there and I didn’t have us in mind when I wrote that. It was just something I had in mind.”

Ngcebo: “I am not saying you were directing it to us.” he said opening the door to their room and he entered the room first. Nandipha followed behind. They sat on the bed. “We have unique roles in our lives it’s just that sometimes I can’t help but feel like I am not giving you enough of myself.” he added.

Nandipha: “No, I appreciate that you are a partner who doesn’t try to overpower me because I am your wife. We have our flaws, you

have yours and I have mine but I don't fear expressing my feelings to you because I know you are inclusive of me as your wife. There's no 'Your word is final' I appreciate that I don't have to always hear that you are the man in this house. I believe we are just two people in a relationship with no need to express power and I will always need you Ngcebo as the father of my children, as my husband, and as my partner."

Ngcebo smiled looking at her. "I am appreciative of you and how you've been not just my partner but you are behind my work. How you stay up late with me and we scribble songs, fight about who's right and who's wrong and at the end of the night we come up with great stuff." He said to her and pecked her smiling lips. He looked at her and he felt a little worry creeping in, he'd been worried since his parents refused to get them married. He didn't

know what this meant because even after he'd secretly consulted he saw nothing.

Nandipha: "Okay, you are doing it again. What's happening?"

Ngcebo: "What am I doing?"

Nandipha: "You're giving me those eyes."

Ngcebo: "No, I got you something."

Nandipha: "No, let me go first because I have something that will make you happy." She said delightedly but her heart jerked as she feared he might turn this idea down after everything that happened.

Ngcebo: "Okay, tell me what it is."

Nandipha: "I know that this year you are not releasing any album but you've been doing more gigs and touring. And I am really not thinking of being a singer I was just taking a chance of testing the waters. But let's have an

album together just one piece of offering from you and I.” Ngcebo looked at her and he folded his lips without saying anything. Nandipha kept her eyes fixed on him with her heart racing giving her a rush of warm blood. She was hoping he wasn’t going to be that Ngcebo that was just going blurt crap to her now.

Ngcebo: “You are not serious, right?”

Nandipha: “I am serious! I know an album together will be expected to be all about love but we won’t just do love songs but we will construct the album to perfection and it will definitely be a bang! If I have to sing with you this once I don’t want just a mere song, or two but I want a whole bonded craft. This will be my way of saying I am sorry for hurting you.”

Ngcebo held her face and his lips encounter hers into a ravenous kiss. Nandipha didn’t waste time and she didn’t care if he was just kissing her randomly like he enjoyed doing but

she didn't just want a random kiss. She discarded his vest from his body and Ngcebo allowed her to. Knowing his way through the dress she was wearing, Ngcebo sent his hand at her back and he unbuttoned the button of her dress... Both naked and ready, Ngcebo lifted her legs and he placed them on his shoulders. He invaded her privacy and Nandipha closed her eyes allowing him to take full control of their loving making. Ngcebo's head looked up as his pace tightened...

Nandipha smiled. "That was definitely not on the plans." She commented looking at him as they laid parallel to each other.

Ngcebo exhaled. "I was just kissing you and you got carried away. And I like your way of asking for forgiveness. We will work together." He winked at her.

Nandipha giggled. "That's awesome and what do you have for me?" she asked.

Ngcebo: "I made an investment for you..." he told her all about the investment and he saw her priceless smile showing on her face.

Nandipha: "Ha! Rasta, I don't know what to say. Thank you... Thank you... Thank you..." she gave her 'thank you' in a row accompanied by kisses. Ngcebo laughed and held her face to stop her now. "Ah! Yini!"

Ngcebo: "You'll get carried away once again." He said and stretched his arm to take his ringing phone that was on the bedside drawer. He sat up straight and he answered Dalingcebo's phone call.

Dalingcebo: "How are you, ndoda?"

Ngcebo: "I am all good and how are you? Ahhh!" he sighed and placed his hand on Nandipha's head as she had her mouth covering his penis.

Dalingcebo: "What are you doing over there? We are coming to Johannesburg and we will

obviously come to your house. Are you home so that I will make my other plans if you're not home?"

Ngcebo: "Eh... Why are you coming to Jozi and who's 'we'?"

Dalingcebo: "We are heading to Mthimkhulu's house. It's me, and our parents along with aunt Nomkhosi. We will have a meeting with Mthimkhulu tomorrow morning."

Ngcebo: "Oh! Ey, my vrou and our girls we are out and about in Pretoria. We are not in our house." He lied deliberately and Nandipha rose her head to look at him with a surprise look on her face. 'Don't stop, babe!' he whispered.

Dalingcebo: "Are you coming back?"

Ngcebo: "No, we'll be gone for the whole weekend and I can't cancel because I have put my money in these plans. But you'll drive to Banele's place to take my spare house keys and

you can occupy the house.”

Dalingcebo: “Alright then. I guess I won’t be able to dodge them if the girls are not in the house.” He said and Ngcebo laughed.

Ngcebo: “Stick to the plan bafo.” He encouraged and Dalingcebo supported, they hung up the call after their goodbye. Ngcebo threw the phone on the bed and he laid back to give all his attention to Nandipha...

“Why did you lie? Let’s go and shower.”

Nandipha asked Ngcebo when she was done servicing him and she got off the bed butt naked.

Ngcebo: “I didn’t lie but we are going to Pretoria just for fun.” He said taking his phone to text his assistant to make the arrangements for them because he was in no mood to entertain his parents.

Nandipha: “I can’t say no to fun but ain’t you

spending too much now? We are still going to have to drive down to KZN for the ritual that costs money.” she looked back sensing he wasn’t following her and he was busy on his phone.

Ngcebo: “No, babe. Don’t worry about your husband’s pocket but get to the bathroom to run the water I will join you shortly. And you won’t be going with me and the girls.” He replied without looking at her but his phone.

Nandipha: “Ah! Why? Who will look after my babies because you’ll be with your family? You can’t tell me they’ll be alone with Thula.”

Ngcebo: “The ritual will be held in grandpa’s house and that means I will be going there with them. And you’ll stay behind.” He said and threw his phone on the bed as his assistant had agreed to make plans for them. He pushed Nandipha to the bathroom.

Nandipha: “Why am I staying behind?”

Ngcebo: “You’ll stay behind just to have your rest. You see, I told you run the water and now we supposed to be inside the shower.” He said without dwelling on not going to KZN with her. He didn’t want to go home with her because there was no need for her to go there in his eyes and so, he’d decided he was going to leave her...

They stepped inside the shower and Nandipha stood behind him.

Nandipha: “Don’t let the water be too hot.”

Ngcebo: “You’ll stay, right?” he asked giving the shower gel to her.

Nandipha: “Yes, I will.” She replied and they showed up making crazy noise of singing and senseless fun until they were done showering...

“There’s this movie I was watching and it got me thinking about the future.” Nandipha said to Ngcebo as they were dressing up for the road

inside the closet. Ngcebo was busy fixing the laces of his sneakers.

Ngcebo: "What is about and what are your thoughts?"

Nandipha: "It's a couple who put it in writing who was going to take custody of their children should they die. It got me thinking that we don't know what can happen tomorrow and it would be best that we ask the girls who can they wish to stay with, should mom and dad go on a long trip. And we can also write the person we prefer to take them into their custody." she shared her thoughts but she didn't hear a comment from Ngcebo as she was seated on the chair now fixing her head. She turned back to look at Ngcebo because he was quiet. He was no longer concentrating on the laces but he was looking at her direction feeling negative to why would she talk like this? "Why are you quiet but looking at me like that?" she asked and stood

up to look for her sandals.

Ngcebo: “Why would you just think about death?”

Nandipha: “It’s the movie that got me thinking and that found a place in my heart. We can’t control the future but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t plan for the future and it’s important that we plan our babies’ future.”

Ngcebo: “I am in no mood to talk about death. Just fix bags for us.”

Nandipha: “Hawu, Ngcebo, it’s not talking about death-”

Ngcebo: “No, Nandipha, I am not planning anything and writing anything at this stage about death. I don’t know why would you talk like this.”

Nandipha: “It’s just-”

Ngcebo: “Just pack and don’t bring this up

again. I will go tell Thula to fix the luggage for the girls. We will have to leave right away.” he said and left the closet without waiting for Nandipha’s response.

Nandipha: “Hawu!” she disappointed as she didn’t expect that...

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“He couldn’t even come back but he knows that we are inside his house. Pretoria is not even far. It’s not like they’re in another province.”

Thembelihle complained to her husband on a Saturday morning. They were driving to Mthimkhulu’s house for the meeting. Dalisu was driving the car and Thembelihle was seated on the passenger seat with their guards’ car driving before them and Dalingcebo was driving at the back with aunt Nomkhosi.

Dalису: “He was wrong to do that. They were supposed to come back with the children not to

stay over there like we are not in the house.”

Thembelihle: “And even after I have called him he told me they won’t be coming back.” She commented and clicked her tongue. Dalisu accompanied her by clicking his tongue after her.

Dalisu: “Ukudelela nje lento ayenzile uNgcebo nomfazi wakhe kuyacaca ukuthi akazange ambonise ukuthi kukweyisa lokhu.” (What Ngcebo did is disrespectful and it’s clear his wife didn’t tell him that)

Thembelihle: “Ubezobe exakwe yini? Bazi kahle ukuthi izingane asihlali nazo thina noma besekhaya azizi esgodlweni kodwa hhayi wagoliz’ bhadi uNgcebo ukuthi nje babuye sizobona nezingane.” (Why would she have bothered? They know that we don’t see the girls regularly and Ngcebo refused bluntly to come back with the children so that we can see them)

Daliso: “Naye umfazi wakhe lo ukhulelwe askaze simbone mina ngimbona nje ngoba skhuluma le ndaba ka Vusuzulu.” (And even his pregnant wife, we haven’t see her. I only saw her because of Vusuzulu’s matter)

Thembelihle: “Nakho ukuthi afonele wena Ndabezitha angafoneli mina ukuthathaphi lokho? Yini leyo?” (And why did she call you not me?)

Daliso: “Alikho ke iphutha lapho angithi ngiwu babezala wakhe angisona islwane? Umfowethu lo obekumele ngikhulume naye. Akenzanga phutha lapho ngoba angikazi ngithi angangishayele ucingo.” (There was no mistake there because I am her father in-law. It’s my brother that I was supposed to speak to. And I never said she shouldn’t call me.) He said to her clearly.

Thembelihle: “I didn’t know it’s done like that.”

Daliso didn’t comment further but he stopped

the car inside the Mthimkhulu residence that they've reached. They stepped out of the car and followed each other to front door. Mnotho wasn't with them but they were here on his behalf. They didn't see it as appropriate to bring him...

## THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

### S6 == EPISODE 24

"I think what we will talk about is my daughter spending months in your homestead without confirming with me." Mthimkhulu said to aunt Nomkhosi as she'd said that they were in his home to speak about Happiness.

Happiness: "Baba, please, I told you about that."

Mthimkhulu: "I am not talking to you, Happiness and it's better that you leave this table because

I will have you interfere.”

Thembelihle: “I don’t think that’s a good idea because we are here to speak about her. And she needs to be here.”

Aunt Nomkhosi: “Mama’ ndlunkulu is right.”

Daliso: “No, I think Mthimkhulu is right. We need to discuss this alone.”

Dalingcebo: “Yes, just as bhut’ uMnotho is not here.”

Mthimkhulu: “Thank you, Ndabezitha.”

Happiness’s aunt: “Happiness excuse us.” she instructed and Happiness got up from the chair with worry that her father was going to refuse them if she was not in this dinner table with them. He was angry with her when she got back with the children and he was still angry even now...

Mthimkhulu: “We can talk now.”

Daliso: “Mthimkhulu, you know that your daughter is still our daughter in-law and these months that she’d been in her house gave her and her husband time to mend things between them-”

Mthimkhulu: “Hhayi! Ndabezitha! Wasn’t she doing damage control?”

Thembelihle: “Yes, she was there for that but-”

Mthimkhulu: “You are here to tell me that my daughter wants to go back to her abuser, huh? How can you even come in my house to request that?”

Dalingcebo: “I think that you heard MaMthimkhulu confirm that bhuti Mnotho wasn’t a monster but it’s a forced marriage that changed both of them.”

Aunt Nomkhosi: “And now, they have seen that they need each other. We can’t stand in their way like they are teenagers but they’re adults

who know what they want.” She told Mthimkhulu.

Thembelihle: “And we will not start things afresh because we have paid ilobolo for Happiness but we just need to give them our blessings that they give their marriage another chance. They will have a wedding ceremony.”

Happiness’s aunt: “Don’t be hard headed about this bhuti. Happiness is a grown woman now and she has children with the Prince. She must raise these children in a warm home and the children love their father.”

Mthimkhulu: “Happiness is my daughter and I will not agree to this. I don’t trust the Prince to treat my daughter right.”

Dalingcebo: “What can be done for you to trust him?”

Mthimkhulu: “I can never trust him and that is why I don’t want her to go back there. I am not



going to give her my blessings.”

Happiness’s aunt: “You will not stand in your daughter’s way because you’ll lose her when you do that. And she has your blessings because you’ve long given her out. This legal marriage thing is a new thing that we do because things have changed but what matters the most to us, is the traditional wedding and Happiness has your blessings. She can go back to her house and that won’t be cohabiting. You don’t want that.” She said a mouthful to her brother and it didn’t fall on deaf ears but Mthimkhulu digested her words...

Mthimkhulu: “I will think about it.” He said finally and everyone sighed in relief because that only meant there was hope...

Happiness sat next to her father after dinner as Mthimkhulu had called her as means to speak to her. He’d thinking about the meeting they had in the morning. “What’s wrong?” She asked.

Mthimkhulu: "How can you want to go back to Mnotho?"

Happiness: "I love him." She answered and looked down.

Mthimkhulu: "He will hurt you again. How can you trust him?"

Happiness: "He won't do that. Baba, please trust me." she said looking at her father and she was confident that she was going to be happy with Mnotho.

Mthimkhulu: "I give you my blessings then."

"THANK YOU!" She unexpectedly jumped to hug her father out of happiness...

Happiness grabbed her phone from the bedside drawer and she dumped her body on her covered bed. She crossed her legs and dialled Mnotho's number. She placed her phone on her ear and she waited as it rang.

Mnotho: "MaMthimkhulu?"

Happiness: "I was about to hung up."

Mnotho: "I am coming from the bathroom. How are you?"

Happiness: "I am fine and how are you?"

Mnotho: "I am worried about your father. And hey! What's happening tonight? You don't call me but I am the one who calls you."

Happiness smiled and pushed her head to the pillow. "Why should I call you because I know that you'll always call me?" She asked with a smile kept still on her face as she laid in waiting to hear his deep soothing voice respond to her.

Mnotho: "Hhayi, I should call you but you also need to call your husband just to show him that he has a place in your heart unless if he doesn't."

Happiness laughed. "Oh! So, you call me

because I have a place in your heart?" She asked and rose her ecstatic body to sit back on the position where she crossed her legs and her eyes stared at the white closed door.

Mnotho: "Yes, and if you didn't have a place in my heart I wasn't going to call you now and again. I miss you. When are you coming back?"

Happiness felt her heart jump to her throat not negatively but delightedly. "Do you miss me or you miss our children?" She asked feeling wanted and she testified to herself that it was good to hear that.

Mnotho: "I miss my whole family but I will just have to admit that I miss their mother the most. You've gone for more than a week."

Happiness: "Yes, I know but I was with my father even though he was angry with me. I couldn't actually leave while he's angry with me."

Mnotho: "My father tells me that he said he will think about it. You don't know how that response stresses me. I don't want us to separate ever again. You should come back home, MaMthimkhulu. And the children told me that they miss their father and their siblings."

Happiness: "I will come back home because my father has given me his blessings and we will be a family once again."

Mnotho tittered in absolute delight and Happiness giggled. "You are not playing a prank on me, right? He gave you his blessings?" he asked.

Happiness: "Yes, he did and that means there's nothing standing in our way now because I will come back home. I will have to call MaNkosi about the dress because we will get married."

Mnotho: "You don't even have to tell her because I saw her buy wedding magazines

yesterday. We were in Richards' bay."

Happiness laughed. "Who would have actually thought?" She asked laughingly.

Mnotho: "I don't think we would have thought. When are you coming back I will be home and cook for you and the kids that day."

Happiness smiled. "Please, don't cook burnt food." She said knowing that he'd cooked such for food for them the time they were together.

Mnotho laughed. "Can please let that go? I will perfect the dinner because Nonjabulo will complain." He said and they laughed.

Happiness: "I have to sleep now, Mageba. Goodnight."

Mnotho: "Goodnight, mkami." He said politely and Happiness melted completely as she said the 'goodnight' back...

She removed the phone from her ear and she

laid back on the pillow. “I can’t believe we have been given another chance. Please, God protect our marriage. I want us to be happy this time around.” She spoke alone with her eyes closed...

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“Before you go ntwana, I want to talk about something.” Buzwe said to Mntwana as they were gathering their documents and files after the business meeting they’ve had with a client they were working with jointly.

Mntwana: “What’s wrong? We will talk while heading out because I have to check on Simthande before I head out to KZN.”

Buzwe: “You are still checking on Simthande?” he asked placing his bag on his shoulder and they headed out of Mntwana’s office where their meeting was.

Mntwana: “It’s been a while since I last saw her. What’s up? We will not talk about Simthande

but we will talk about this issue you have.”

Buzwe: “It’s my mother, bro. Mom is driving me crazy now. She wants my son to come and live with her but she knows that she’s old now that she can look after him. And his mother can never allow that.”

Mntwana: “She gets lonely and maybe that’s the reason she wants him.”

Buzwe: “But she knows the situation between my baby mama and I. We are just water and paraffin and how can she even think she’ll allow me to take my son from her so that she can live with my mother?”

Mntwana: “Have you tried speaking with her and show her that she’s asking for the impossible? Your baby mama gave you hell last year.”

Buzwe: “That’s the other reason she wants my son to come live with her. She says she doesn’t trust his mother and I don’t know what to do

because mama knows that my baby mama takes good care of our son beside the issues we had. It's not that she's lonely." Mntwana laughed realising that Buzwe was stuck in a situation. "Why are you laughing?" he asked.

Mntwana rammed his hands on his pockets and came back with his car keys. "I am laughing because you are making this a mountain. Your mother must know that your son can only visit her but can't stay with her. She's old even and she lives with older grandchildren for a reason." He replied opening the door.

Buzwe: "You are making this sound easy because you are not in my situation."

Mntwana: "Just make your mother understand, ntwana."

Buzwe sighed and gave Mntwana his hand, they shared a fist bump and hug. They wished each other well and separated... Mntwana stepped

inside his car and his mind thought of Buzwe and his baby mama situation. He stamped that he never wants to have children because they always complicate things... He drove through the busy streets of the city playing jazz with his head building and destroying, writing and erasing until he reached the block of flats...

He took his phone and called Simthande... He'd never called her since she left his apartment and Simthande had also kept her distance. He didn't want to bother her and nag her but today, he felt he needed to see her before driving home. "Hello, how are you?" Mntwana greeted Simthande back as she'd accepted his phone call that he didn't expect she would...

Simthande: "I am fine and how are you?"

Mntwana: "I am fine. Where are you?"

Simthande: "I am at our place."

Mntwana: "Can you come out? I want to see

you.”

Simthande: “You want to see me! For what reasons, exactly?”

Mntwana: “Do I need reasons to see you now?”

Simthande: “Yes, you need reasons because I am no longer your girlfriend. You lost every right whatsoever the day you broke up with me.”

Mntwana chuckled. “What’s wrong with you, Simthande? When did I break up with you because I told you to choose and you chose Nikhona.”

Simthande: “That was your way of breaking up with me. Do you think that I am a fool, Mntwana? I am not a fool. You just didn’t have the balls to tell me that you want us to break up because you are hoping that you’ll get my sister. But it’s too bad for you because she doesn’t want you.”

Mntwana: “Yes, right! I have always tried to give us a chance and ignore the fact that you are

this insecure person but you still don't see me for who I am."

Simthande: "I have seen you for who you are."

Mntwana: "And what's that? Let me guess, a liar, a cheat who wants your sister? Can you please think this through? I miss you."

Simthande: "You miss me or you just want to be closer to my sister?"

Mntwana: "Ey, I am sorry to bother you, neh? I just thought we could talk like adults but I was clearly wrong hey." He removed the phone from his ear and he clicked his tongue regretting calling her and thinking he would talk something sensible with her. He couldn't understand how such an old woman would behave like she was behaving. She didn't even want to take a moment and think about how her sister had hurt but she saw him as the devil!

"Tsk!" He clicked his tongue repeatedly as he

drove to his apartment now with a darkened heart. The hate inside his heart went all out for this Nikhona. "I was supposed to meet Neliswa first and just roll with her even with no love in our relationship. But I just had to meet Simthande and even loved her. I crossed the line I didn't need to love her while helping her. Gha!" he clicked his tongue repeatedly and bashed his steering repeatedly feeling the fury... He looked at his phone as it was ringing while he was inside the alleviator taking him to his apartment. He looked at his phone as it rang, Nikhona was calling him and he didn't even want to answer her call because he knew what all he was going to do was nag him with wanting something he didn't even dream of giving her...

"Baba?" Mntwana answered his father's call while he was undressing.

Dalису: "Are you coming home or you are not?"

Mntwana: "Hawu, baba? Why would you ask me that? You didn't even ask your son how he's doing but you jumped-"

Dalisu: "I am your father, Mntwana not your friend."

Mntwana: "But Mageba that doesn't mean don't ask me how I am."

Dalisu: "Are you coming home?"

Mntwana: "He surely woke up on the wrong side of the bed and now he's taking it all out on me.' (He mumbled to himself) Yes, baba, I will be coming home." he replied to his father out loud.

Dalisu: "Where are you then? You should be here by now but you are not."

Mntwana: "I told mama that I was going to have a meeting today but I am preparing myself now for the road."

Dalisu: "Take the plane don't drive. I will have

someone fetch at the airport in Durban. Your mother didn't tell me that."

Mntwana: "You miss me, baba?"

Dalisu clicked his tongue without answering him but he dropped the call. Mntwana laughed and shook his head wondering what was going on with his old man because he was surely grumpy...

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"What's wrong now?" Ngcebo asked brushing Nandipha's back softly. She was standing before the bathroom sink holding on to it tightly with her left hand and her eyes pressed together while her right hand was on her chest.

Nandipha: "It's the... heartburn..."

Ngcebo: "What do you need? What can I do for you? Don't you have the medicine for it? Where's the Gavscon?" he asked opening the tablet cabinet as he could hear that Nandipha

was crying now. He didn't know if this heartburn was hurting or she was just being his pregnant crying wife.

Nandipha: "You should go home."

Ngcebo: "Yes, we will leave but I can't leave while you are not fine. Where's your medicine, Nandipha? I am asking."

Nandipha: "I will buy it on my way to mama's house."

Ngcebo: "You'll buy it? Ayi, man Nandipha. You know heartburn bothers you but you don't have the medicine with it. You'll have me thinking you are enjoying it. Come." He said and held Nandipha's wrist. He dragged her out of the bathroom and she didn't protest but she allowed her body to follow him.

Nandipha: "What are the girls going to say if you drag their mother like this?"

Ngcebo: "I will only tell them that she's acting



childish.”

Nandipha: “I am sick and you are telling me that I am childish.”

Ngcebo: “You are not sick but it’s your carelessness that’s bring this heartburn that makes you cry because you didn’t tell me you’re short of medicine.” He stressed and Nandipha didn’t breathe as they climbed down the stairs.

“Hawu, baba! Udonsa umama kanje!” Thando exclaimed seeing her father dragging her mother to the kitchen that she was leaving. She had her bottle in her hands and was leaving to get to her sisters.

Ngcebo: “Thula wena. Hamba kosisi bakho.” He said to his daughter and he stood before the container of sugar. He looked back at Thando and she hadn’t left the kitchen but she was looking closely at her father. “I said go to your sisters Thando. Why are you here alone?” He

asked Thando.

Thando: “Ubekhona yena ushishi Thula kodwa uphumile.” She replied and ran out of the kitchen after she’d told her father.

Nandipha: “At times you become dramatic for no reason at all. You chased Thando out of the kitchen for what exactly?” Ngcebo laughed and shrugged his shoulders as he didn’t know why he chased their daughter out. Nandipha laughed. “Are you sure you’ll cope over there without me?” she asked.

Ngcebo: “These five won’t give me a heartache. Don’t you want this break that I am giving you as you keep asking if I will be alright?” he asked pouring sugar on the spoon and he pointed it to Nandipha’s mouth.

Nandipha: “I like it... Why should I eat sugar?”

Ngcebo: “It will help with the heartburn just have it.” He replied and Nandipha opened her

mouth widely allowing him to give the sugar to her. “My grandmother did that whenever she had heartburn and there was no medicine for it. I am pretty sure you’ll feel better. I am sorry that the boys are bothering you. But the girls bothered me too.” He added and placed the spoon away.

Nandipha: “You were not sick. Let me go check the girls. Did Thula put them on their diapers?” she asked leaving the kitchen with him.

Ngcebo: “Didn’t we agree that we are saving money for the two coming babies by putting the girls off diapers only when they sleep? And I think we should also cut the milk out.”

Nandipha: “You are travelling and it will be for hours that means they will sleep in the car. I don’t think we want their seats to be reeking of their urine.”

Ngcebo: “You are right. We will put them on.”

Nandipha: “And children shouldn’t stop drinking milk because it’s good for their health, the proteins and calcium they need it. What we can do is, just give them two or three glasses a day. But giving them no milk is out of question and you know that they need all the proteins especially with conditions you know they were born with.”

Ngcebo sighed. “We will be buying milk for seven children! Don’t you think that we should think of some other way to give them milk?” He complained.

Nandipha looked at him. “We can just give them cow milk then not formula. How’s that?” She asked still looking at him as they’ve reached the lounge.

Ngcebo: “That’s better we can just buy it in bulk not like we buy ours because Ntokomalo loves milk compared to juice and other liquids.”

Nandipha: “Yeah, we will change the routine. We agree on that?”

Ngcebo: “Yes, boo, boo.” He said and Nandipha laughed. They then announced to the girls that they needed to stand up...

“Mama, ungakhali shobuya thina yezwa?”

Nongcebo said to their mother who was looking at them as their father was buckling them inside their seats.

Others: “EHE! SHOBUYA!”

Thando: “Shokuphathela nenyama udle no boy, boy!”

Nandipha laughed. “Okay, I will not cry my angels and I hope that you won’t bother your father because I will call and shout at you.” She said and they laughed looking at each other on their seats.

Ngcebo: “What’s funny about that?” they giggled.

Similo: “Shodlala thina neke shihluphe!”

Nandipha: “Okay, I am happy to hear that. Bye, bye.”

Girls: “Bye, bye mama.”

Nandipha turned to Ngcebo. “They’re just happy that they’re leaving and they’re not even crying that I am staying behind.” She said giving him her hands and Ngcebo embraced them.

Ngcebo: “They just love the road and you know that.” He said and slipped his hands away from hers. He held her face and kissed her. “I love you.”

Nandipha: “I love you too and drive safe with them.” she said walking him to his seat after she’d said goodbye to Thula...

The big cousin giggled as Ngcebo had encouraged her to hug the little ones. Qalokuhle began by hugging Buhle and down to Nongcebo. Ngcebo was standing by their side looking at

them... They were inside Ndabezitha's premises by the main house where Ngcebo had called Qalokuhle to take the girls on a Friday morning which was the morning after their arrival.

Qalokuhle: "Uphi umama wenu pho?" she asked looking at them.

Similo: "Akekho yena, ushele. Ashambe, bye, bye, baba." She replied and suggested that they leave while she was waving at her father.

Ngcebo waved.

Qalokuhle: "Usele yedwa pho umama wenu?"

Nongcebo: "Umama uye ekhakubo naye."

Others: "EHE! BYE, BYE, BABA!"

"Bye!" he said back and waved as they followed Qalokuhle who was leading them at the back yard where other children were... Ngcebo sent his hand inside his blue jeans and he got back with his phone that was ringing.

Ngcebo: "Nothing is wrong. We are fine."

Nandipha: "Hawu! That's not the way to greet."

Ngcebo: "I know why you are calling."

Nandipha: "I am calling to check on you. I last spoke to you last night and you didn't even call me, now, I am calling."

Ngcebo: "I didn't call you because I knew that you would be sleeping by the time I was up. Ntwana!" he replied and gave his hand to Mntwana who was standing before him. And they shared a hug.

Nandipha: "You are calling me, Ntwana?"

Ngcebo: "No, I am speaking to Mntwana."

Nandipha: "Oh!"

Ngcebo removed the phone from his ear as he heard the beeping sounds signalling that she has dropped the call. "Ey, incane into ecika lo muntu these days." He spoke still looking at his



phone and Mntwana laughed.

Mntwana: "Call her again. They sent me to town, let's go together." He said pointing the direction to his car and Ngcebo nodded his head while he dialled Nandipha's number to call her. "How are you anyway?" he asked.

Ngcebo: "Stop talking phela angithi I am calling her now."

Mntwana: "Yes! Yes!"

"Hello?" Nandipha answered Ngcebo's phone call.

Ngcebo: "Why did you drop the call now?"

Nandipha: "I figured you're busy."

Ngcebo: "I wasn't busy but Mntwana was greeting me." he informed her and he took the passenger seat inside Mntwana's vehicle.

Nandipha: "Oh."

Ngcebo: "How are you? How's the heartburn?"

Nandipha: “I bought Gaviscon last night. I am fine and how are you? And the girls, how are they?”

Ngcebo: “We are fine, you got nothing to worry yourself about but just relax over there and don’t stress about us. They’re with Qalokuhle and other children. Thula is also around.”

Nandipha sighed. “Okay, please call me before you go to bed.” She requested.

Ngcebo: “I won’t forget, have a good day with my boys, okay?”

Nandipha: “Thank you, and you too have a good day.”

Ngcebo removed the phone from his ear and he placed it back on his pocket. He then gave all his attention to Mntwana, they catch up...

“Where’s your mind?” Mlamuli asked Ngcebo standing next to him as Ngcebo had his arms resting on the woods that made the kraal inside

their grandfather's premises. It was in the afternoon and he saw him alone.

Ngcebo looked at Mlamuli shortly. "Ndabezitha, I am here." He replied.

Mlamuli: "You were not talking much when we were together with other men. Is there something bothering you and why is your wife not here?"

Ngcebo: "I am bothered by her..." he honestly told him everything that was bothering him about Nandipha's safety and the wedding that was requested.

Mlamuli: "Hawu! Baba, let mama make that decision?"

Ngcebo: "Yes, and it's clear that it's their final decision because they never called to tell me that they have changed their mind."

Mlamuli: "Did you speak to Banele and get his say? We understand that he has been kept

waiting but this is about the safety of three people.”

Ngcebo: “I was told not to speak to him and so, I figured I shouldn’t speak to him because what can it change? If they don’t want my wedding to happen first they just don’t want it.”

Mlamuli: “Let me speak to them and see what they will say. I don’t know how dad operates these days because mama just decides nje and he lets it slide.”

Ngcebo: “He doesn’t let it slide if it’s something that he doesn’t want. He has never done that and so, if he let it slides that simple means he doesn’t have a problem with that decision.”

Mlamuli: “You are right about that but besides this. How’s everything at home? The girls are happy there’ll be additional members?”

Ngcebo chuckled. “They were angry but now, they are welcoming. I don’t know if they’ll be like

that even when the babies have arrived.”

Mlamuli laughed. “Prince didn’t even want to see his brother for a while. I don’t know if he was scared of him or what.” He reflected and they laughed.

Ngcebo: “I understand Prince because hheyi! Bongani came very fast.”

They laughed. “The fun and level of enjoyment was on another level.” He commented and they cracked until someone disturbed them.

“Baba’ omncane uyakubiza umkhulu uku round lo phezulu uthe woza khona manje.” Bongani told Ngcebo that Dalisu was calling him.

Ngcebo: “Okay, I am coming. Bafo, I will see you.” he looked at Mlamuli.

Mlamuli: “Alright. Come, Bonga let’s go.” He said placing his hand on his head and they followed each other to Mlamuli’s car...

“Bongani said you are calling me.” Ngcebo said to his father who was seated on the couch inside the hut with his phone on his hand and food before him.

Dalису: “Yes, I called you. I last saw you when you came to the palace and when we were in Johannesburg you didn’t even think of coming back.”

Ngcebo: “I have put my money on that small trip baba. I couldn’t just stop it halfway and I wasn’t going to get any refunds.”

Dalису: “Since when has money been so precious above your family?”

Ngcebo: “I was with my family.”

Dalису: “You know what I mean! Don’t play smart with me.” he shouted at him and Ngcebo didn’t breathe another word. Dalису clicked his tongue. “Where’s your wife because I said you must come back with her?” he asked.

Ngcebo: "I left her."

Dalisu: "Why? Are you looking for reasons to constantly fight with me now, Ngcebo? Is that what you are trying to do?"

Ngcebo: "No. I figured I should leave her because she doesn't feel well and it's not like there's something that needs her here."

Dalisu: "There's nothing that needs her! Isn't she part of the family? I told you that we will have a meeting that will need everyone."

Ngcebo: "She won't be coming. The meeting can proceed without her. And Nandipha got no grudges with anyone. If someone has a problem with her, they will just have to say it in that meeting and I will tell her."

Dalisu: "Hhaybo! Ngcebo!" he exclaimed looking up at him as he stood up.

Ngcebo: "Yeah, she must be here when there are meetings but when her safety should be

made a priority nobody cares about her.  
Nizomenzani kuma family meetings?” he  
mumbled under his breath as he was taking his  
way out of the hut and his father heard him...  
Ngcebo clicked his tongue as he was outside  
the hut... He couldn't shake off the worry he had  
on his shoulders and he didn't even know if this  
meant he must just let Nandipha stay in  
Johannesburg in December as she'd playfully  
said she wasn't going to come...

## THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 25

“What's wrong? You look upset.” Thembelihle  
asked Ngcebo as they bumped into each other.  
Thembelihle was on her way to Dalisu.

Ngcebo: “Nothing is wrong.” He replied and  
passed his mother without stopping...



“What’s wrong with Ngcebo? You haven’t eaten even now.” Thembelihle commented looking at Dalisu who was still seated on the couch but he was searching for a number on his phone.

Dalisu: “I need to make a phone call MaSthole and I don’t think we will have the meeting that will bring peace amongst this family while some of us are not here. We will have to postpone that.”

Thembelihle: “Hhaybo! Ndabezitha, why would we do that? And who’s not here.” she asked and sat on the couch that was next to Dalisu.

Dalisu: “Ngcebo’s wife is not here.” He placed the phone on his ear as his phone was dialling Nandipha’s number. “I am making a phone call, take the food because I won’t eat but you can leave the juice.” He said raising his hand for Thembelihle who was trying to speak...

Thembelihle got up from the couch, she took the tray and left the juice like he’d said. She left

the hut...

“Sawubona, baba.” Nandipha accepted Dalisu’s phone call.

Dalisu: “How are you? Your husband told me that you are not feeling well and that is the reason that you are not here with us.”

On the other side of the line, Nandipha frowned as she didn’t know about this and it made her wonder why Ngcebo would say that. But she wasn’t about to go opposite her husband’s words. “Yes, I am not feeling well and he suggested that I stay behind because it will get busy over there and it wouldn’t be right for me to sit down while everyone is busy preparing for the ritual. But I am fine, I am not bedridden.” She said to Dalisu.

Dalisu: “Oh, that’s better. We were going to have to sit down as a family and find a way to resolve our issues to restore the peace again. And if

there's someone who has a grudge with the other maybe we were going to talk it out even though I am not sure about speaking out because your mother in-law and I fear that might make things worse. But I figured that we can't do this while you are not here."

Nandipha: "No, please don't stop the family plans on my account and I don't have a problem with anyone in the family. And I can ask my husband to listen on my behalf if there's someone who has a problem with me."

Dalису: "No, we should all be present and I have been thinking of solutions to this matter of us talking without damaging things between us."

Nandipha: "But baba, it is said that 'Okoniwa ngomlomo kulungiswa ngomlomo' what other way can be there beside talking?"

Dalису: "I hear you but talking can also damage."

Nandipha: “My aunt used to tell me that in the past families will do ‘Ukuthelana amanzi’ (Reconciliation) I don’t know whether to call it a ritual or-” she was broken off by Dalisu.

Dalisu: “Yes, yes, the family would sit outside the gates of the premises, if they have a tree outside their residence they would sit under that tree and they would talk about their problems, confess if someone has a confession and reconcile there for peace’s sake. And some would even talk with an animal present and slaughter that animal when they were done.”

Nandipha: “Yes, exactly that and even if there’s a matter to be addressed between two or more family members that would be done. We have elders in the family and they know this tradition and when we reconcile we should talk things out we can’t reconcile without talking. I can’t say let’s do this type where we write down on paper everything that bothers us and have

someone who will read out and discuss each problem written and burn those papers after that as sign of letting go because maybe old people won't be up for it. So, I think a traditional way should be done because we are a traditional family. What can be more right than our traditions?"

Dalisu sighed strongly feeling that she was right and there was no other way they could do this. "You're right, MaZondi. I didn't go wrong when I thought of calling you and we will do this but I cannot let this happen without you because I can see that something has gone wrong between you and your mother in-law and it would be better that you'll be there."

Nandipha: "But, baba I don't want to stand-"

Dalisu: "No, my word is final on that one. Look after yourself there."

Nandipha: "Yes, I will. Thank you."

Dalisu then removed his phone from his ear and he made a decision that he was going to have run this by the elders and if they support it. They were going to have to postpone 'ukuthelelana amanzi' He lifted the juice from the table and he sent it to his mouth. "My son found a wife and that day after that ritual I will have to allow her back into my premises. Her character has shown that she took a decision that was out of her character when she aborted my grandson. What's there to reconcile if I don't lead by example as a family leader?" He made a decision and he stamped on the decision with a nod supporting himself... Dalisu then stood up from the couch and he went to the elderly men of the house...

"Your mother asked me if you are alright. Ey isinda kakhulu ke le." Dalingcebo said to Ngcebo as they were heading to the viano with Dalingcebo carrying Ntokomalo and Ngcebo

had Similo and Buhle. The other two were already buckled up on their seats. They were also sleeping... It was a Saturday night after a 'looong' day the black clothes have been discarded off and their mourning period had ended... The elders had decided to stand with Dalisu's decision to postpone the family reconciliation because of Nandipha's absence and they have decided that they were going to do the traditional way...

Ngcebo chuckled. "She eats now and again but consumes her food in smaller portions. If you can notice them, Ntokomalo is chubbier than the others." Ngcebo told Dalingcebo as he'd commented about Ntokomalo's weight.

Dalingcebo: "And Nontobeko always said she was being a lady." He recalled and they laughed with his brother. Dalingcebo handed the baby to Thula who was already inside the vehicle waiting for them... "You didn't answer me." He

reminded him after he'd requested that they stand aside...

Ngcebo: "I am fine but they don't want to get me married for my wife's safety. But bhuti Mlamuli told me that he will speak to them..." he briefed him about had happened between him and their parents...

Dalingcebo: "Weeeh! Do you even think mama will listen to our brother? She won't listen to him. Don't you remember that she said Nontobeko and Nandipha were the biggest mistake of our lives? And what makes you think that she can do something to protect the biggest mistake of your life?"

Ngcebo: "My children then, Dalingcebo. What about them?"

Dalingcebo: "I don't know but don't just wait for them but what you can do is take Nandipha and go to her maternal home. She also has her own



ancestors, you'll need to tell her mother what's going on and go there to plead with them to protect her. And ask yours to protect your children. When you come here in December with your family, we will exchange houses. You'll occupy my house and I will occupy yours just to confuse whoever can have the evil eye on her and the children. Don't put your trust in mom and dad you'll be disappointed."

Ngcebo sighed feeling hopeful. "That will be very helpful bafo and it's totally better than doing nothing and worrying myself to death. But I am not sure about changing houses. I will be putting your life in danger by doing that. What if this danger is someone who'll come looking for her in the house and they find Qhawe and his nanny in the house then they kill them or even you as well? I can't do that, Dalingcebo."

Dalingcebo: "Okay, you must have someone watching over your house then."

Ngcebo pressed his eyes together shortly with his head nodding in agreement. He gave his hand to Dalingcebo and they shared a tight brotherly hug. "Thank you, bafo. I will be on it and I won't even waste time." He said to him.

Dalingcebo: "Don't mention it. Don't drive to Jozi tomorrow without seeing me. We didn't catch up with the busyness we've been caught up in."

Ngcebo: "I won't make the mistake and the girl?" he asked moving away from Dalingcebo, they head back to the viano. But Dalingcebo was heading to his car that had his son and MaNxongo...

Dalingcebo: "She's definitely mine that one!" He shouted the response as he jogged to his car...

Ngcebo laughed and stepped inside the viano. He held on to the steering and drove out of the premises making a mental note to call the wife before taking his rest of the night...

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“Ey, old people will shock you!” Banele said and they cachinnated senselessly as they were seated inside the lounge just the two of them. They’ve just gotten back home on a Saturday night and they were having meat from the ritual and drinks while revoking the funny events of the day.

Mntwana: “And our elders are really passing with time and as they grow older it’s like their brains are rusting off and they become comedians on some kind of pro-bono. I don’t even know if there’s such thing.”

“Is this how you speak about your elders when you are alone?” Dalisu asked his sons appearing from the main door followed by his wife. But he didn’t sit on his seat, he instead passed the seat while his wife was sitting.

Mntwana and Banele: “Sawubona, baba!” they

chanted instead of giving out the answer to their father's question. And they smirked at each other with little sounds blocking their laughter as their father clicked his tongue.

Thembelihle: "Are you two drunk?"

Banele: "Hawu, No! Why would we consume alcohol in such a day?"

Thembelihle: "How should I know?"

Mntwana: "And we don't take alcohol."

Thembelihle: "I will try to believe that. Banele, where's Candice?"

Banele: "She's sleeping now."

Thembelihle: "When are you two moving into the house that your brother gave over to you?" she asked lifting her feet and pointed them for Mntwana. Mntwana moved from his position to remove the shoes from her feet. She was no longer wearing black clothes but she was

wearing her casual clothes... Mnotho had given his town house that belonged to Elena. He gave it over to Banele and Candice to occupy because it had no one...

Dalisu sat on his chair with a bottle of mineral water. "Mntwana change this thing you're watching." He commanded Mntwana who was busy taking off his mother's shoes while the TV was on with music channel...

Mntwana: "I think I will move in with you."

Thembelihle: "Can you let him answer my question? And do what your father says you must do." she said to him and Mntwana grabbed the remote...

Banele: "I don't know when but we will move in before the first ceremony."

Thembelihle: "She has agreed that you'll have your ceremonies sooner and she'll have to begin with the wedding planning because it

should happen in the beginning of December? The date will be decided as it is done traditionally.”

Banele: “Yes, mama. She agreed to that and that will mean we will be leaving next year February. We are happy that we will have our first Christmas as a married couple. It’s been one hell of a year.” He replied with an honest smile and threw the piece of meat inside his mouth.

Thembelihle looked at Dalisu with talking eyes and he was also looking at her. He saw everything that was reflecting on her face.

“That’s a good thing if the two of you are happy. And I should begin buying gifts you must tell her that they must compile a list with her mother.” She said to Banele.

Dalisu: “She must have a clear picture of how the ceremonies are carried out and it will be best if you ask one of your older brother’s wives

to borrow you their ceremonies' DVDs for them to watch."

Thembelihle: "Your father is right. I have the DVDs here. I think you should also take the one of Mnotho and Elena because she surprised me on how well she carried everything out."

Mntwana: "Ey, wayebhimba kodwa mama." He reminded them and they all cracked up, their father included.

Dalisu: "You are right about that Mntwana. Angikaze ngilibone ibhimbi elinjeyana empilweni yami. Hheyi! Sike sabuka!" he supported Mntwana while he was still laughing and the others haven't calm down.

Thembelihle: "She tried and I give her credits for that."

Dalisu: "Yes, she tried but still failed and I hope your bride will do better."

Banele: "I trust her that she will do better." He

said and they hoped for the same thing along with Banele...

“Did you see that Banele is looking forward to his wedding and this means we can’t disappoint them once again.” Thembelihle said to Dalisu as they were inside their bedroom preparing themselves for bed. She looked at her husband as he wasn’t answering her nor looking at her. “Ndabezitha, can you hear me?” Thembelihle asked and Dalisu raised his head.

Dalisu: “What is it?”

Thembelihle: “I was talking about Banele and how happy he’s looking forward for this wedding along with his wife.”

Dalisu: “Oh! Yes, you are right.” He sighed and hopped in on the bed. Thembelihle joined after him. “We had a long day.” He added.

Thembelihle: “Yes, we should pray and rest.” She suggested and Dalisu supported her. They

joined hands and prayed... “I was thinking that Happiness and Nkosazana along with myself we should take a few days fasting just to pray for the safety of Ngcebo’s family. I can’t include MaNkosi because she’s on medication and Candice is leaving. Ngcebo looked upset.” She said to Dalisu as she was laying on his chest and his arms around her after their prayer...

Dalisu: “That’s a good idea. Let’s sleep now. We will talk tomorrow.” He said to her on a lazy voice as he was heavily sleepy... They slept peacefully...

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“Go to the car Siphosami, I am behind you.” Danielle said to Siphosami and pushed him forward softly as she was standing before Mnotho where they had their cars parked inside the premises of Ndabezitha’s home.

Siphosami: “Bye, bye, baba.” He waved to his

father knowing that his father wasn't going to the house with them. He'd told him that.

Mnotho: "Bye, boy, I will see you." he waved back looking at Siphosami and plodded away from them. "I doubt he'll even bath when you get home."

Danielle: "They're all tired and this lady is sleeping already." she said patting Pearl's bums, she was in her arms and her head laid on her shoulder.

Mnotho slipped his hands into Pearl's underarms to remove her from her mother's arms. "They go nuts when they're together and it was even worse because they had Ngcebo's girls. It was chaotic." He commented.

Danielle smiled. "It was a real chaos. Happiness has left, right? I didn't see her around and I didn't ask Siphosami about her whereabouts." She asked placing her two hands on Mnotho's

arm that was holding Pearl.

Mnotho: “She left the same time with mom and dad. Your housekeeper and guard are not home tonight. Are you sure that you’ll be good alone? We can go home now and I will go to MaMthimkhulu tomorrow because I didn’t tell her that I am coming by her house.”

Danielle: “No, I will be fine and it’s not like she has someone with her. And you must also get a guard for her. I don’t know why she didn’t have one in the first place because Elena and I had them.”

Mnotho: “I will have to speak to the King and get one for her to ensure her safety. How will you sleep tonight because last night-” he pulled her nose as Danielle giggled recalling the fun night they had together.

Danielle: “Don’t speak about last night because I might as well kidnap you now and that would be

wrong because I am pretty sure MaMthimkhulu is as tired.” She said and felt no rush of jealous that she was saying this to him. She’d accepted this, they were sharing a man, he was sleeping with her and he was going to sleep with Happiness. It was easier now to accept this because she’d been close to Happiness and she’d wished that she became closer to her the minute she became Mnotho’s wife. Maybe she was never going to go through that horrible phase she went through with their husband.

Mnotho chuckled uncomfortably as he knew that he hadn’t even kissed Happiness since she returned into his life. It was fear! But he wasn’t about to discuss the matters of his house with Happiness with his other wife. “Let me put this one on her seat then and you’ll go home to have a warm bath and rest. You really need to rest.” He suggested and Danielle nodded in agreement. They crawled to Danielle’s car

having a 'no so important' conversation.

Danielle: "Goodnight, then, husband. I love you." she said to Mnotho and laid her head on his chest as he embraced her into a warm hug.

Mnotho: "Goodnight, wife. I love you too and text me when you get home. I will do the same, alright?"

Danielle: "Yes, I will do that." She promised backing away from him. She opened the door of her car... And Mnotho only moved away from his position after he'd seen Danielle's car driving off the premises...

He chuckled as the house had Happiness's shower voice roaming every room and the water running at the background as instruments to her singing. He was certain the children were sleeping because they were not in the front of the house. He kneaded his neck after throwing his car keys, phone and wallet on the black

leather couch of the lounge. His feet sent him to the kitchen where he decided he was making popcorn before thinking of bed and the shower if possible... It'd been a few days since Happiness got back home from her father's house and as Mnotho had promised her. He cooked dinner for them on their return he'd encouraged that they leave Johannesburg early to get home in time for dinner. The dinner wasn't burnt but it was mouth-watering and lovely dinner of a family of four. That night he didn't share the bed with Happiness but he shared the bed with the two children who'd asked earlier that they wanted to sleep with him. The following day he couldn't spend a night with them as they spent their night in their grandfather's premises... Tonight, he was certain that it was the right time to inform her that he was making his way back to his, to their bedroom.

“WHOA!” Happiness screamed as she wasn’t expecting a human being to be crawling inside her bedroom. She was certain that Mnotho wasn’t going to be with them on the present night but she was wrong...

Mnotho: “I am not a ghost.”

Happiness: “Knocking is not being rude.” She told him and placed her leg back on her thigh to begin massaging her upset feet as she was seated on her bed wearing her purple silk short pyjamas.

Mnotho: “A man can never knock in his bedroom.”

Happiness: “And why is this man bringing popcorn in my bed?” she asked as Mnotho sat on the bed with a bowl of popcorn after he’d discarded his black leather jacket from his body and his shoes from his feet.

Mnotho: “I feel like it. You are trying to massage

your feet, are you?" he asked not seeing clearly what she was trying to do. He sent the first batch of popcorn inside his mouth and the salty taste pleased his tongue.

Happiness: "Yes, but I can't help the smell of this popcorn." She said sending her hand on the bowl but Mnotho held her wrist. Happiness stared into his eyes. "What are you doing? Share." She added.

Mnotho: "Not until you wash your hands. You've been touching your feet for goodness sake MaMthimkhulu!" he exclaimed and Happiness laughed getting off the bed to leave the room because her heart was on that popcorn...

"I have been thinking that I should get a bodyguard for you. He'll only come here at night just like MaNkosi's guard does." Mnotho said to Happiness with his hands rubbing softly on her feet that he'd taken them into his thigh to give her a massage after they've finished off the



bowl of popcorn.

Happiness: "Eh! I will have someone keeping an eye on me?"

Mnotho: "He won't be keeping an eye on you but he will be here for your safety and the children's safety especially when I am not here. Do you have a problem with the guard?" he looked at her and waited for the answer.

Happiness: "I don't like the idea."

Mnotho: "It's really not about liking it but it's about your safety and it's not like I was asking for your permission. I don't get why you would have a problem."

Happiness: "I didn't say I have a problem."

Mnotho: "You'll have the guard then and I am coming back to my bed tonight. I won't sleep alone while I have such a comfortable bed who has a wife."

Happiness laughed. “The guestroom bed is not comfortable?” She asked avoiding the shocks that were sent down her spine by his words that were informing her that he was coming back to his bed!

Mnotho: “No, it’s not even close to comfortable. You must be good now I have to go and take a shower so that I will be sleep easily.”

Happiness: “You can go I will proceed.”

Mnotho: “You’ll proceed! Are you trying to say that I haven’t done a sufficient job here? Phela, your feet are no soft even.” He said and they laughed.

Happiness: “Usuyangiphaphela ke yazi! Just go and shower unuka imbuzi vele.” She joked as Mnotho was getting off the bed and they laughed.

Mnotho: “My cologne is too strong that you can even pick that up and we were not even eating

goat.” He said before closing the door to get to the bathroom...

Happiness got up from the bed and she prepared the bed for their rest. She wondered if tonight they would be that close like they've been before. But he only spoke about resting and that wouldn't be such a nice experience after such a long time apart from him. She couldn't even remember how it felt having him inside her. She'd never experienced it genuinely as she knew that all that he did was sleep with her just to tame her. She shook her head and laid her body down shifting these thoughts away...

“Are you sleeping, already?” Mnotho asked Happiness holding her waist from behind as she was laying on the bed facing the other side... Her body felt warmer than his and he sighed with his breath hitting the back of her neck.

Happiness: "Yes, I am sleeping." She replied softly with her voice not selling her off. Now, she had a smile as his arms wrapped around her waist. She'd loved this man in a very unexpected way and it's only now that she was realising that she'd never gotten over him but she allowed hating him to bury the love she had for him. And that was why right now she didn't feel any bad vibe laying down on this bed with him holding her like this.

Mnotho chuckled. "You can't answer me in your sleep. I am very tired and that means we will just pray with our hearts. I don't know if you still remember that I am not a man who prays every day." He reminded her placing his chin on her back but at the back of his mind, the real thing that he had was, he wasn't sure if he needed to make a move to initiate intimacy with her or maybe just not!

Happiness blushed but... "I remember that and

we can pray out loud without having to get up because I think God can see we are tired.” She suggested.

Mnotho: “Hha! Never! Let’s get up. What can he say?” he said moving away from her body and the laughing Happiness got up from the bed to pray...

## THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 26

“Are you sure that you want to go with her? There’s nothing wrong in leaving her behind and going with the girls. I know we’ve done the rituals but I can’t help but feel uneasy.” Faith asked Ngcebo who was seated on the single couch in her house. Ngcebo was in her house to

take Nandipha and the girls for their trip down to KZN. They've been with Faith and Randall for the three weeks of Ngcebo's absence. He wasn't home with them because of work and Nandipha decided to go to her mother's house with the children giving her workers a three weeks leave... 28th of November which was a Thursday morning they were going to drive to KZN for Banele's second ceremony.

Ngcebo: "I don't want to keep leaving her here because she'll start asking me questions mama. I have told her twice that she will stay behind, the time when there a ritual for the mourning period end and she didn't go with us for Banele's first ceremony."

Faith: "But you gave her a good point that she was going to join the ceremony at Candice's home and we attended the ceremony with Ngcebo."

Ngcebo: "I know mama but Nandipha will begin

asking unending questions if I tell her to stay behind. I know she doesn't like KZN that much but leaving her will raise questions because I have never told her to stay while we are leaving. And I was told not to tell her until I am sure that the wedding is actually happening. She will worry more than I am."

Faith: "Langalibalele advised that because he knows pregnant women worry and at this stage I don't think keeping her in the dark is good for her. She asked questions about the ritual we had back home before doing it. And how are you going to tell her about her wedding that will happen this year while she hadn't plan not even a single thing for that wedding. How's all this fair to her?"

Ngcebo exhaled. "Mama, I understand your point but believe me. We don't want to tell Nandipha about this because she'll be – I don't know how to describe this to you. Let's trust her

ancestors will protect her.” he tried to convince her because he knew Nandipha knowing about this was going to make her to live in the edge and she was going to have the greatest paranoia as she’d been worrying about his words about children and he knew the depth of her worries and reactions to such things...

The following weekend after Ngcebo’s return from the ritual at his homestead, they drove to KZN, eMzingazi where Nandipha was born. MaNtombela, Nontobeko and the rest of Nandipha’s aunts and Faith were present and Ngcebo had asked aunt Nomkhosi to accompany him along with Langalibalele because he didn’t see it as appropriate that he goes there alone. Dalingcebo was there not for the ritual but just to support his brother... Mlamuli had failed to convince their parents that Ngcebo needed to have his wedding sooner. And they gave him reasons that Banele



and Candice had been told about how their ceremonies were going to take place. They gave him reasons that Banele was ecstatic about his wedding and they couldn't stop his wedding but they could only ensure that Ngcebo will get married right away after Banele's wedding. It was a decision that was taken not only by Thembelihle but by Dalisu too after he'd seen that Banele was ecstatic about his wedding...

Ngcebo told Nandipha that Langalibalele saw the need of the ritual that it was vital she connects with her ancestors so that they can be closer to her and protect her in everything. He was surprised that she didn't ask more questions about the ritual but she participated after she understood its importance.

Faith looked back to check if Nandipha wasn't coming their way. She was inside her bedroom dressing the girls for the road. "My daughter is

strong than you can imagine Ngcebo and the only good thing that you can do is just tell her. I know you might not want to tell her because of your family but you don't have to tell her that your parents refused to do the wedding sooner as it was said by the family healer and even after the king had spoken to them, they didn't agree. You don't have to tell her that. I don't understand what was hard there because Banele was going to have izibizo zakhe this weekend and the next weekend you have inqabasondo yenu. But-" She sent her head down feeling her heart break as she'd been stressed since the day Ngcebo told her about this wedding request. She couldn't believe how insensitive Ngcebo's parents would be towards her daughter and her children. It clearly reflected to her that they didn't care about her safety as their daughter in-law. She thought they were at least going to care about Ngcebo but she was dumbfounded when they showed

they didn't. She'd been praying and praying for their safety.

Ngcebo: "I am sorry but we just have to be hopeful-"

"Are you two bonding here or you are discussing serious matters?" Nandipha asked her mother and husband pushing her children forward as they were walking slowly looking at themselves on their new clothes... She'd noticed that Ngcebo and her mother had been seriously talking whenever they were together. She never knew what that they were talking about...

Faith: "Hheyi, onkabi baswenkile phela babuke." (The girls are well dressed, look at them) She pointed the girls with her eyes and Ngcebo looked at his daughters who were still admiring themselves.

Ngcebo: "Naze nabahle wemakhosazana." He

complimented them and the girls giggled, the four sat next to their grandmother while Nongcebo marched straight to her father with her hands packed on the new blue jeans she was wearing with a pink Barbie vest and white woollen cardigan exactly like their mother's. "Nkosazana! Buhlezi is not the only one who's wearing heels today." He exclaimed seeing that they were all wearing black baby block heels. Ngcebo lifted Nongcebo from the floor and he placed her on his lap... He wondered what was going to happen when Nongcebo had to accept that she was no longer the little one in the presence of their brothers...

Similo: "Ehe, baba. Shibahle, gogo?" (Yes, dad. Are we beautiful, grandmother?) she looked at her with a big smile on her face.

Faith: "Yes, you are more than beautiful."

Girls: "SHIYABONGA!"

Ntokomalo: "Mama, hamba uyogcoka nawe."  
(Mom, go and dress up)

Nandipha: "I am dressed Ntoko and we are all ready for the road." She replied and checked herself. She didn't see anything wrong about her tight orange dress that showed her body structure and her six months' pregnancy bump showed perfectly with her cardigan embracing the dress. When she raised her head, her eyes met Ngcebo's preying eyes and she looked at her mother sensing Ngcebo was just lusting her now not appreciating her look. She knew his lustful eyes perfectly and she had never mistaken them.

Faith laughed. "The way the girls are dressed up perfectly I don't blame Ntokomalo for questioning you if you are dressed up or not." She said.

Nandipha: "We will be driving for hours, mama and arrive in the house late."

Ngcebo: “Umuhle sthandwa sami don’t let Ntokomalo and her granny get to you. I love how you are dressed up.”

Nandipha looked at her mother with her tongue out as Ngcebo was opposing her. Faith laughed and shook her head. “Mama, you’ll tell Randall that I am gone. I can’t wait for him.” Nandipha said to her mother.

Ngcebo: “Don’t you think you should stay behind?” he asked Nandipha feeling some type of way now and considering what Faith had said. She was there in Izibizo ceremony and maybe she didn’t have to come now...

Nandipha: “No, I have to see Langalibalele. I really need to go to KZN. And what will your family say when I don’t come and you said we won’t come back because the white wedding will happen the day after Inqibamasondo. But I should see Langalibalele.”

Faith: "Is something wrong?"

Nandipha: "Not really but I have to consult with him, mama."

Ngcebo: "On that case, we should be on the road then. Mama, I will call you and we will finish up our conversation on the phone." he told Faith and he got up from the couch with Ngcebo still in his arms. And the four girls didn't battle off the couch but they waited to be placed down.

Faith: "Alright, mkhwenyana. I will wait for your call." She said and got up to place the children down. She then walked them all out of the house. "Please, look after yourself over there, Nandipha." Faith said to Nandipha.

Nandipha: "Yes, mama." She said and hugged her mother tightly.

Faith: "I love you, my chubby cheeks."

Nandipha giggled as her mother was playing

with her cheeks. "I love you too, Nandipha." She said and held her mother's hand who walked with her to passenger seat of the viano. "You said you'll come for the white wedding?"

Nandipha asked her mother as she held on tight to her hand.

Faith: "Yes, and the traditional wedding. We will come with Randall."

Nandipha: "Alright, I will see you then." She said and her mother nodded.

Faith then waved her hand to them and Ngcebo hooted once...

Ngcebo: "Why do you want to consult Langelibalele? I have missed you." he asked her and pulled her hand with his right hand while the left hand held on to the steering of the viano. He looked at her shortly.

Nandipha: "I have missed you too and I saw you gazing at me like some meat in my mother's



presence Ngcebo. You got no shame.”

Ngcebo laughed. “She didn’t even notice that and you’re my meat, right?”

Nandipha: “Hhaysuka!”

Ngcebo: “Don’t feel that way and please, answer my question.”

Nandipha: “I want to ask him about these words that you repeated before you left for your trip. They’re really bothering me because how can I be told to open my eyes and protect the children while I know nothing about the danger that the children may be possibly facing.”

Ngcebo: “Didn’t you say to me you’ll talk to Nkosazana?”

Nandipha: “I did promise that and I did speak to her and she promised that she will speak to mama about it. She called me weeks back and told me that your mother said Langalibalele is going to warn them if they have to worry about

the children. I can't just fold my arms and wait for more warnings. I have seven children and I don't want to lose not even one of them."

Ngcebo sighed. "Alright, you'll go consult tomorrow morning." He supported.

Nandipha: "Your daughters will sleep and they're dressed up for sleeping." She said looking back at their children who were making noise in their seats.

Ngcebo: "Let them be but have a moment with your husband. Didn't you miss me? I missed you big time over there."

Nandipha giggled. "No, I didn't miss you bad because during the day I would go to the house and use the studio going through the songs we've written for the past two months and I have written another one." She told Ngcebo and looked at his direction with a delightful face.

Ngcebo chuckled. "I wrote one as well and we

should see what we've done when we get home and check if we have an album or not." He said.

Nandipha: "We don't have an album yet, Rasta. We haven't done much and you know that we can't compile an album in just two months."

Ngcebo: "Yes, I know but that doesn't mean we shouldn't check what we have now and work on expanding it."

Nandipha: "Okay, you're right. I didn't even kiss you because mama was just there and why didn't you come take me last night when you arrived."

Ngcebo chuckled. "I didn't know whether you are sleeping or awake and I didn't want your mother to see that he's obviously thirsty for her." he said and they cracked up with Nandipha not minding the noise of their girls.

Nandipha: "She wasn't going to say anything about that and look now, we will wait for hours

until I can even hold your face.”

Ngcebo: “Don’t worry, sdudla sami we will take the breaks we usually take and you’ll hold my face the way you want it and you’ll kiss and kiss me.”

Nandipha giggled. “I missed you so bad and I just lied a few minutes ago that I didn’t miss you badly. I even spat that I hate your career.”

Ngcebo: “Awu, lo mfazi!”

Nandipha laughed. “I was miserable phela, Rasta.” She told him honestly.

Ngcebo: “I will get you off your misery and tell me, how did it go with the Department of Education? We are on next year? You didn’t tell me about that the day I called you. You went on about your crazy stories.” He asked.

Nandipha smiled. “Yes, babe, we are on next year and I am more than grateful. How did your trip go? I want details.” she asked and looked at

his direction knowing that now, he was going to narrate to her all about it...

29th of November, Friday. "... And what worries me is that nobody wants to listen to me and it happened like this when my husband almost died. I know these words won't be said just for the fun of it. What can I do?" Nandipha asked Langalibalele after she'd told him about the words that Ngcebo had been saying for months and they didn't know what they meant. And she had hope that after Gcinile he wasn't going to say these words again but she was wrong because he said them again.

Langalibalele nodded and he also felt the worry that reflected through her eyes. And it bothered him that Ngcebo was still saying these words because they've thought that after they've consulted with Nandipha's ancestors and the Zulu ancestors, the danger that might be around her wasn't going to follow her. But he

needed to read his bones... Nandipha looked down as she saw him convulse his shoulders and she heard him groan deeply...

He raised his head and looked at her but he had the wonder that why weren't the ancestors showing him what was wrong! "A message meant for you is a message meant for you and the people around you may not react to it as you have reacted to it. And that's only because it's not meant for them. I don't have answers for you, Nkosazana and I have been bothered as you and your husband have been bothered." He said the words to her... And Nandipha felt her heart sunk as this was not what she expected. This was no solution.

Nandipha: "I will just have to leave with no answers and clues?"

Langalibalele: "Let's hope you'll find something just keep listening and if your instincts are telling you something talk to your husband. In

this case we just have to use that hidden sense.”

Nandipha: “Thokoza!” she said on a low disappointed tone.

Langalibalele: “Don’t be saddened that people around you may not listen to you but there will be people who will listen to you, there will be people who will listen to your husband. I will keep consulting and opening my eyes for something that can show up.” He said last to her and she accepted his words...

“Did you come back with answers?” Ngcebo asked Nandipha and he started the viano as he was inside the vehicle now. She left the hut alone and Ngcebo was inside the vehicle waiting for her. He’d been the one who drove her.

Nandipha: “No, but he only told me that the message was clearly mine and I shouldn’t be

sad that they didn't react to it like I did."

Ngcebo hit the steering once. "I am so fuckin angry! Why can't these ancestors just tell us what's going on and stop playing these games with us?" he shouted out of anger feeling that worry was the centre of their lives now.

Nandipha: "No! Ngcebo don't speak like that and please, calm down because being angry won't help us, sthandwa sami."

He exhaled. "This have been worrying me and I thought that after the ritual we did at your maternal home we won't get this message again." He said.

Nandipha: "I think praying is what we can do now."

Ngcebo: "Nothing seems to work Nandipha but let's be hopeful."

Nandipha: "Yeah and I am hoping that it won't be this hot tomorrow. Palesa told me that she



will come for the wedding.”

Ngcebo chuckled. “Her boyfriend told me that he invited her for the white wedding and I don’t think that you’ll attend the traditional wedding.”

Nandipha: “I will attend if it’s not sunny. Do you think that we’ll ever have a traditional wedding?” she asked and looked at him.

Ngcebo chuckled uncomfortably. “Yes, we will have it. Why are you asking?”

Nandipha: “I was just asking because I am not welcomed in your family home.”

Ngcebo: “Don’t worry about that because you’ll enter my grandfather’s premises as a wife and you’ll perform your duties as a wife there.”

Nandipha: “Aw! And you are just deciding that Rasta?”

Ngcebo: “No, it’s how it should happen. We are going to the palace now, right?” he asked

moving away from their wedding topic.

Nandipha: “Yes, we are going there. Our children are also there.” she replied and Ngcebo took the road that was sending them to Nkosazana’s palace...

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30th of November, Saturday. “Don’t cry Nandipha.” Ngcebo said to his wife on a Sat night after she’d received a phone call from her mother that Randall’s grandmother had died and they had to fly to London early in the morning. Nandipha wanted to go with them but Faith told her that she couldn’t.

Nandipha: “You didn’t hear my brother cry, Ngcebo and I can’t even go with them. I want to be there with him.”

Ngcebo: “You can’t go because you’ll be seven months just in a few days and you won’t be allowed to fly then. I don’t think you want to give

birth to our babies in London. Is that what you want?" he looked at her and Nandipha shook her head with tears and mucus rolling off.

Ngcebo grabbed the tissue that was on the bedside drawer and she gave it to her.

Nandipha: "Thank you." she took it and wiped her face.

Ngcebo: "Thula is here and today, you attended the ceremony. I don't think that you should attend the white wedding tomorrow. You can just relax here with the girls and I will attend the wedding."

Nandipha: "And you won't come back. You only came back tonight because I called you crying. I want to attend the wedding and see my friend. Why do you keep stopping me from doing things, Ngcebo? What's happening?" She looked at him and Ngcebo held her face.

Ngcebo: "I will come back and you know that

the wedding won't happen here and they said it won't take longer. I will come back."

Nandipha: "Just go and shower." She said to him because she didn't want to keep listening to him promise her what she knew he wouldn't do... Ngcebo got up from the bed after Nandipha had laid down. He was thinking that maybe going to the wedding with her was way better than leaving her behind. He was not worried about her at the ceremony today because she was before his eyes. Yes! It was better that he attends the wedding with her. He stepped inside the shower and his mind went wild about his parents who'd showed him no little concern about his wife! It was his brothers whom he'd told about this who showed concern about her and him. And he wondered how his wedding was going to take place because nothing about it had been said. Or maybe a week would be enough to plan the traditional

wedding only if they could hire people. At this stage he didn't care if it was big or small as long as Nandipha and their sons will be safe. He hissed inside the shower as he felt the pressure growing within him....

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1st of December, Sunday. She kept tossing and turning in her sleep. She couldn't go with Ngcebo to Nkosazana's palace on their return from Richards' bay for Banele's white wedding. She told Ngcebo that she was tired and she needed to go and sleep. Ngcebo allowed her to drive with the girls and he proceeded with Dalingcebo to the palace. Palesa left the wedding venue and headed straight to Durban to the airport she was going to take a plane... It was a beautiful wedding and she had her down spirit lifted a little because her mind and soul was with her brother and mother. She understood that flying to London was going to

mean that she wasn't going to come back until she'd given birth and she couldn't let that happen. She couldn't give birth in a foreign country. But if they knew better... London would have been better!

She gasped sharply and rose up from her bed as she was startled by the loudest roar of the thunder. She quickly turned her head to the window's side as she was certain that she'd seen a silhouette but when her eyes landed on the window side there was no silhouette. She closed her eyes for her a few minutes as she felt her body shiver. It was the thunder, she tried to convince herself that she wasn't scared but it was just the thunder and being alone in the room. But she couldn't help but feel this heavy burden on her shoulders as if someone was there with her! She opened her eyes again and looked straight on that window and she gasped, certain that was a silhouette of a woman and

this time around it didn't move or disappear until she turned on the bedside lights. She touched her wet face with her shaking hands and she looked for her cell phone. She found her phone while she moved her feet from the bed down to the floor as her phone dialled Ngcebo's number. But he didn't answer. He searched for Dalingcebo's number and she reached voicemail!

Nandipha: "Yes! My instincts! I should leave." She supported remembering that Langalibalele had told her to trust her instincts. She moved to the wardrobe to change her night gowns and wore a black long stretchy dress. She opened the other side of the wardrobe searching for a raincoat. She wore boots on her feet and moved faster to get to the kitchen for food...

Nandipha: "I can't just take my children and leave! What about the other children? I wasn't told to protect my own but it was said children

are the future of the kingdom and what kind of a person would I be if I leave other children and two princes in them are the children of the king.” She placed her wet hands on her forehead trying to her best to think. Nobody was going to listen to her and this time around she didn’t want to make no mistake she was going to act and feel unapologetic about it. “But then again Thula is alone and sleeping in here. I must tell her to go home because I can’t pack her in the viano with so many children, the guard will see himself through. But she’ll just stand in my way!” She remembered and marched to the viano that had her sleeping children inside. She knew the children were all in Nkosazana’s palace and getting in there wasn’t going to be a problem. She convinced herself as she held the steering and drove the viano back to leave the premises... She got off the car to close the gate. The guard had locked himself inside the hut as it was raining and



there was thunder. He couldn't see Nandipha was leaving.

She stepped inside the viano planning that she was going to park it at the back gate and head where she knew children normally stay together and take them. It was better to remove them now because she didn't know for how long was she supposed to open her eyes for danger she didn't know. And who's silhouette was that?

"Jesus! This man is not answering his phone. Where's the cable? I don't have battery." She stressed searching for it while she kept looking on the road... She clicked her tongue as the cable wasn't inside the car. "Why me? Why! I am pregnant for goodness sake and I am worrying myself to death now with something I am not even sure about! This family-" she broke off and wiped her unending tears as she was extremely scared and the thunder wasn't making it easy along with the heavy rain. She turned off the

lights inside the viano after she'd checked back on her children and luckily... The two people in search for her passed her vehicle without realising that it was her...

## THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 28

When Nandipha took the children from the palace, every member of the family was inside the main house attending the meeting that Langalibalele had called. She did as she'd planned that she was going to use the back 'small gate' to enter the premises. The palace had been busy because of the wedding and they obviously didn't keep that gate locked... She luckily found the children inside the house where she had guessed they would be. It was heavily raining and there was nobody roaming

around the yard...

Nandipha sighed heavily as she'd managed to pack the frightened children inside the viano. Bongani was seated on the front seat with Nonjabulo seated on his lap. Prince, Nhlakanipho and Qalokuhle had three small children on their laps on the three backseats with a little space left for Similo. Nandipha's other girls occupied the two middle seats with Siphosami.

Nandipha: "Okay, children, I had to take you from the palace because I was told that this lightning doesn't want you to stay in the palace." She said to the children hoping that they wouldn't be further scared as they were already. They were wet from being kept waiting as she was addressing them on how they were going to seat. The girls had already woken up and they were crying because of the thunder. But when their mother returned with other

children their curious eyes forced them to keep quiet because they needed to see what was happening, this, that had never happened before... Their seats had been taken out and placed at the back to open space in the seats...

Bongani: “Soya kuphi pho mama ka Similo?”  
(Where will we go?)

Pearl: “Mina ngifuna umama nimanzi manje!” (I want my mother. I am wet now) she complained seated on Qalokuhle’s lap.

Nandipha sighed. “I will open the heater and you’ll feel warm and to answer your question, Bongani. I know where we are going.” She replied with the answer she saw suitable because she hadn’t decided where to head to. She’d thought of driving back to Gauteng but it was too far. She had MaNtombela’s house or her birth home, eMzingazi.

Qalokuhle: “Mamncane, solala sibambene, pho?”

Ngiyazela mina.” (We’ll sleep holding each other? I am sleepy.)

Nandipha: “Yes, you’ll sleep like that and remember you have waist seatbelts holding you and that means you won’t fall easily.” She assured her and she turned to open the heater deciding that she was never going to finish up answering their questions. She needed to drive!

It’d been a while as she was driving on the road. She was driving the viano trying harder not to speed on the slippery road but she couldn’t help but keep looking on the road for cars following her. And she figured she was even more scared of them because she didn’t know who might be following her. She looked back at the children, they were sleeping not in pleasant positions but there was nothing that she could do. She looked at Bongani and he was awake.

Nandipha: “I think that the others are not sleeping comfortably and it would be better if I

stop the car inside the nearby in lane of the forest. What do you think?” she asked him because he was awake and she didn’t want to scare him. She’d decided that it was better if she stop the car than to keep the car moving because maybe that might mean more trouble for her and all these children.

Bongani: “The thunder won’t hurt us?” he looked at her and Nandipha shook her head, she kept looking around for cars to get to the lane she knew she could hide the car there. She didn’t want to shove the car where she wasn’t sure about because that might hurt the tires... She was feeling her pressure was high but she wasn’t crying. She was frightened and couldn’t possibly believe the situation she was faced with. And she couldn’t possibly see the way out as the rain wasn’t going easy...

“Please, sleep because everyone is sleeping now. Lay your head on the window and close

your eyes. It's warm in here, nothing will happen." She said to Bongani who was still awake even after she'd found the entrance lane that she'd been searching to hide the viano even though she wasn't certain if it was enough. Bongani did as Nandipha had advised him. She sighed and her mind went wild with her left hand on her tummy and her right hand holding her battery less phone. It hit her mind that maybe the danger wasn't a person but this thunder. But no, that was impossible. She closed her eyes feeling further helpless and her heart now, her heart was with her husband as she thought that she was supposed to leave a note for him. He was going to be sick worried about her and their children!

"I can't drive back to the house maybe that silhouette was pressuring me to leave the house. Lord! Please! Protect us." She spoke out loud and she hissed neglecting her head on

back on the seat. She kept her eyes closed and she listened to the sound of the rain and thunder...

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“Please, calm down because we will go to Langalibalele in the morning and maybe he will see something now as the children are not here.” Aunt Nomkhosi said to the three mothers, Nkosazana, Happiness and Ntandokazi, who were crying along with their mother in-law... They’ve searched all over the palace for the children and they couldn’t find them and now, they were seated on the lounge as women with the mothers crying worriedly for their lost children. The other women had their heads forced down as worry had consumed their whole being... The men weren’t with them.

Nomalanga: “You can’t tell a mother to calm down about her children who are not with her, aunty. Please, understand what they’re feeling.”

Nkosazana: "Where could they be?" she asked raising her head as she couldn't believe what had just happened. She could still feel the coldness of the room where there was supposed to be warmth because the children were there. She could still see the emptiness where the eight children were supposed to be filling the house. And her head buzzed with worry.

Mawande: "Nobody knows Ndlovukazi but we need to be hopeful."

Happiness: "Hopeful? Hopeful about what? Our children are missing and all you are telling us, is that we need to be hopeful?"

Aunt elder: "MaMthimkhulu! Get a hold of yourself because we are all worried here but there's nothing we can do besides being hopeful."

Danielle: "We are supposed to be out there

looking for our kids.”

Nomalanga: “The men are doing that. Do you want to get lost while searching for the children? There’s nothing you can do out there.”

Nokuthula: “My sister is right. I will go get some water.” She said looking at Thembelihle who had her head leaning on the couch and tears falling off her closed eyes... Thembelihle was seated on the couch with her ears picking up everything that they were talking about. She couldn’t believe that the eight grandchildren of the kingdom were missing. The men had gone looking for them but where were they going to begin? Why did the ancestors give them last minute warnings? Why did they have to show Langalibalele an enemy on the same night that the children were going to be abducted?

“Sis’ Thembelihle, have some water.” Nokuthula told Thembelihle handing over the glass of water and Thembelihle opened her eyes.

Thembelihle: "Thank you." she took the glass and she downed the water, she looked at her daughters' in-law. They were no longer crying but they were quiet and no one in the lounge was talking. They sat in total silence... She hoped that the Lord and ancestors would bring back the children to their mothers. She didn't even know if she was going to have to call Naledi and Nontobeko to tell them about this or she was going to have to wait.

Thembelihle: "I think you must go and sleep, aunty. We will wait for their return. I can see that you look restless." She said looking at the elder aunts and they nodded in support because they were tired.

Aunt elder: "Let's pray before we go." She suggested and they prayed together, pouring out their worries to their creator...

"Do you want us to go to one of our houses or you'll sleep in the palace?" Mnotho asked his

two wives who were the ones left in the lounge... They have driven around the streets separately and they didn't find the children.

Happiness: "You are talking about sleeping while we don't know if the children are sleeping or what. How can you ask that?"

Mnotho: "MaMthimkhulu, your bodies are restless and that means you need to sleep. I think that we should sleep here. You can share the bedroom."

Danielle: "What will happen next?"

Mnotho: "We will talk tomorrow after we've consulted with Langelibalele."

Happiness: "Let's go." She said taking Danielle's hand.

"You'll sleep and don't worry about the children because we will find them." Mnotho said to his wife as they were both inside his hold having a group hug.

Danielle: "I don't think we will sleep."

Mnotho: "It's said that uma sesifikile isqhwaga kobe sesifikile." He said and he heard weak laughter from the two of them. He let them go and they walked away from him... Mnotho looked at them as they walked away and he neglected his body on the couch after they've disappeared from his eyes...

"Are you going to sleep on the couch, bhuti?" Mntwana asked Mnotho who had his eyes closed seated on the couch. Mntwana was passing the lounge. He was making his way out of the house.

Mnotho: "No, I will go and sleep. Are you leaving?"

Mntwana: "Yes, I am going to Ngcebo's house. I just got off the phone with Dalingcebo and he said that Nandipha and the girls are not there."

Mnotho: "Hawu! What's happening, kanti?"

Mntwana: "I don't know but go and rest." He said and left the room as Mnotho wasn't saying anything but he was staring blankly at the coffee table...

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She woke up in a fright as if someone had tapped her shoulder. She hugged her arms and looked around and all she saw was the still darkness of the forest. It had stopped raining and there was no thunder, the peace and the sounds dwelling on the forest was the only thing that she could pick up.

"What time is-" she placed her phone back where it was, recalling that she didn't have the battery... It was just after midnight but she didn't know, there was something that could help her with the time though. "The radio! I should play the radio and leave this place because I shouldn't be here till dawn. The rain and thunder had stopped, maybe I should

move.” She convinced herself that this was the sign that she needed to move with the children. She had no guide to this and the only thing she had was her brain, and her instincts...

“Mama!” Ntokomalo woke up and she cried, Nandipha was still driving on the main road after she’d taken a decision that she was going to head to MaNtombela’s house and from there she was going to be able to hide the children, call Ngcebo and inform him about her whereabouts. He was sleeping now! She’d concluded that she was going to be the one who was going to wake him with a phone call as soon as she reached MaNtombela’s house.

Nandipha: “What’s wrong, Ntoko? Why are you crying?” she asked and looked back at her daughter shortly. But she couldn’t see her face because it was dark. She turned on the lights inside the vehicle and she slid down the window for fresh air as all the windows of the vehicle

were closed and it was highly warm. And Buhle was waking up now, she and her lungs weren't going to survive being inside the car that had no oxygen coming in.

Ntokomalo: "I am hungry. Mama, Thando uyanicindezela!" she complained about Thando who was seated on Siphosami's lap with her head laying on Ntokomalo's head giving her a hard time.

Nandipha: "Buhlezi, help your sister move Thando's head." She said stopping the vehicle to give food to Ntokomalo who wanted food. She stopped the vehicle confidently because there were no cars on the road.

Buhle: "Yebo, mama. Thando!"

Nandipha: "I said move her! I didn't say wake her!" she raised her voice as she heard Buhle call Thando's name to wake her.

Buhle: "Yebo. Kodwa mina ngizowa mama."



Nandipha: “You won’t fall the belt is holding you.” she assured her and opened the bag that had food. She had a big lunchbox of Polony and cheese sandwiches and the lunchbox of porridge with a bottle of milk and juice...

“Do you see what I am seeing?” MaKhumalo asked the Sangoma that was driving the car on the main road... They’ve patrolled as guests in Nkosazana’s palace when everyone was still going and up down, they saw that Nandipha wasn’t amongst the family members. And when every guest was leaving because of the rain, they drove to her house to abduct her.

Sangoma: “What are you seeing?” he asked looking at her shortly... They were angry when they didn’t find Nandipha inside her house and they thought she might have gone somewhere. They hid the car by the corner of the road, the route that was going to make things easy for them. They were going to see Nandipha easily

and abduct her because it was clear to them that she wasn't with her husband. But they've seen her husband driving down with his brother and Nandipha was still nowhere to be seen. They figured they had to move.

MaKhumalo: "The person we're looking for." She replied pointing Nandipha that she'd spotted on the vehicle that wasn't moving and it had its lights turned on. And the woman they were looking for, looked busy... They were driving on the opposite side of the same road that Nandipha had the viano parked.

The Sangoma laughed, the deep hoarse victory laughter. "She thought she can outsmart us. Where has she been?" He asked, he prepared the car for a stop and he stopped it before Nandipha's viano. This was the best way to get her attention and when they saw her head rising up. They laughed in unison...

"Oh! Jesu! What's happening?" Nandipha

mumbled under her breath seeing the vehicle stopped before hers. She looked back at her two children who were the only the ones awake. She tried to relax and tried to be optimistic about this situation she was facing now. They were just people who wanted to ask why she had the vehicle parked on the road at this hour! They were not thugs! And they were not in any way connected to the danger she was fleeing from...

Ntokomalo: "Mama, ngicela nobisi." (Can I have milk?)

Buhle: "Mina nicela ujusi." (I want to have juice)  
She told her mother after her sister. They were both having sandwiches that their mother had given to them. They were not aware of what their mother had seen...

Nandipha heard her children's request but she couldn't attend to them because she was shivering uncontrollable now, as she was

seeing the man standing before the lighted up car and because of the bright car lights she couldn't see the man's face but she could see the man pointing a gun at her.

"MAMA!" Buhle screamed hearing no response from her mother. She moved her head forward, but still, she couldn't see what her mother was seeing and the lights of the vehicle in front of her parent's vehicle didn't sharply reach their high vehicle.

Nandipha's shaking hands didn't even reach above her head, her body was crept up as MaKhumalo had the cold metal pointed on her head through the window that she'd opened earlier. "What do you want? I am travelling with kids, please don't harm us." she mumbled, her voice shaky as her who body.

MaKhumalo: "We want you and it will be easier if you just step out of the car."

Nandipha snapped her head to look at her as she was stunned to receive this. “You want me! And what about my children?” She asked with tears automatically falling off her eyes, her heart was pounding against her chest and her forehead had formed thicker sweat balls within a few seconds, her light skinned beautiful face was wet and was covered in clearer fear. She looked back at her two daughters who were crying now. The two children couldn’t see what was pointed at their mother but they could hear the second negative voice. And their mother’s fear rubbed off on them...

MaKhumalo: “You thought you could outsmart us. We saw you were-”

“IS THAT WOMAN GETTING OFF THAT VEHICLE OR NOT? WE DON’T HAVE TIME!” The Sangoma roared as he was seeing no move happening.

“Please!” Nandipha begged as MaKhumalo had

opened the door and was pulling her by her arm like a none person. "Can you at least drive my children to their father? I am begging you. They're just children! How can you leave them crying here?" the anger that was fuelled up by these people's cruelty gave her a robust voice that compelled her to shout at them. How could they be cruel and leave the children in the middle of the night crying inside the vehicle? She screamed in agony as her children's cry wounded her.

Sangoma: "We don't have time for that, girl and you better stop crying because I will take these kids and make them my slaves. I will turn them into my zombies!" he threatened pulling Nandipha from MaKhumalo and he didn't hear another scream from Nandipha but only her heavy breathing.

MaKhumalo: "I think that can be a very good idea, mkhulu."

Sangoma: "That was not on the plan and go close the door of that car. We need to get out of here." He reminded her shoving Nandipha at the back of the blue TAZZ that they were driving. He shoved her inside the vehicle as if she wasn't a pregnant woman but just some... MaKhumalo rushed back to the viano to close the door as she'd been instructed. She felt no pain that the children were screaming but she rejoiced in that...

"Can you please give me a chance to call my husband so that he can drive to the road and take the children? Mama, please, I think you're a mother as well and you can never-" She was cut off by MaKhumalo.

MaKhumalo: "Don't even try to guilt trip me! I don't care what happens to those brats and it would be much better if beasts see them and kill them." she replied seated next to Nandipha on the backseat of the TAZZ that was moving.

Sangoma: "Give her the phone!"

MaKKhumalo: "Hhayi! Kanjani? Am I paying you to have mercy on these people? Are you having a soft spot for this girl, now?"

Sangoma: "I SAID GIVE HER THE PHONE!" He snapped and turned his head back at her direction... MaKhumalo quickly opened her bag to search for her phone. "You'll say those few words and drop the call. And you'll take off your sim card when she's done, destroy that sim card." He gave clear instructions.

MaKhumalo: "Did you hear that girl?"

Nandipha: "Yes, I heard it." She replied giving out her shaky hands to take the phone but her head was looking back even though she wasn't seeing the viano now. She looked at the phone as she felt it being placed on her hands. She quickly dialled Ngcebo's number trying harder to calm down. She placed the phone on her ear



and she waited as the phone rang. She prayed and hoped that he would answer the phone this time around. Maybe he was sleeping but she was hoping that he would wake up when the phone rings... It didn't take long for the phone to be answered and she closed her eyes hearing his voice. She wished that when she called him the last time he would have...

"Hello?" Ngcebo accepted the phone call.

Nandipha: "Rasta-" her shaky voice called out to him but he didn't give her a chance to even construct a sentence with that shaky voice.

Ngcebo: "Nandipha! Babe, where are you? And why do you sound-"

Sangoma: "I SAID BE BRIEF!"

Ngcebo: "WHO'S THAT? NANDIPHA!"

Nandipha: "Rasta, please... drive to the... main road of... Queen Nkosazana's palace... and take the children... I need you to be fast... because

our two girls... are awake... and crying. I don't know... if I will... ever see – you... again – but... I love you-”

Sangoma: “TAKE THAT PHONE!”

“NANDIPHA!” that was Ngcebo’s voice that she heard before MaKhumalo could the phone forcefully from Nandipha’s hand.

Sangoma: “I show you mercy and you do things I didn’t tell you to do!”

Nandipha: “What do you want from me?” she screamed at them.

“Take this mfazi and blew it to her direction she will sleep!” he instructed MaKhumalo throwing muthi back at MaKhumalo... And MaKhumalo did what the Sangoma had instructed after she’d disposed the sim card...

MaKhumalo: “Do you think that it’s wise that you allowed her to call her husband and while she was on the phone, you spoke to her. I am

pretty sure that he heard your voice.”

Sangoma: “I told you I will cloak us and they will not find us. We will perform everything, every ritual on Tuesday night and you’ll see the distraction that will follow after her death and her children.”

MaKhumalo: “I have waited for years to cripple them as they’ve done with my life. And the time is here.” She testified lighting Nandipha with her phone’s torch. She smiled over her sleeping body...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 27

He woke up from the nightmare panting and her screams were still ringing in his ears. He closed his eyes shut and he saw her drowning as he’d

seen her in his dream. He opened his eyes and got up from his bed. He was soaking wet and the thunder was doing no justice but he couldn't just sleep now. He had to consult maybe he was going to see something... Langelibalele left his four room house without an umbrella or raincoat to protect him from the rain. He walked barefoot to get to his hut...

"Hawu, mkhulu, you are here. You're drenching!" Thembelihle commented looking him as she'd been the one who opened the main door in response of the knock in Nkosazana's main house in the palace.

Langelibalele: "Mama' ndlunkulu, I need to see the family." He said to her with his head looking down... After consulting in his hut, Langelibalele didn't head back to his comfortable bed but he opted to walk to the palace as he couldn't wait through the night to inform them about what he'd seen when he consulted. And he needed to

inform Ngcebo about the dream he saw regarding his wife. Things were not clear but he was going to tell them...

Thembelihle: "Alright, please, come inside." She stood aside allowing him to come inside the house. Langalibalele didn't move until Thembelihle moved from the door and she led him to the lounge where she was seated with her daughters' in-law and sisters' in-law along with other aunts. "You're not coming from my palace, are you? We are still here because of the thunder." She asked him and looked back at him shortly.

Langalibalele: "No, I came straight here."

Thembelihle: "You didn't even drive, mkhulu bakithi."

Langalibalele: "I was already wet."

All the ladies chanted the surprise 'HAWU!' as they saw the drenching Langalibalele. He

greeted them and they greeted back while Thembelihle left them to call Dalisu, their sons and the other elders who were on the hut.

“Ndabezitha, Langalibalele is here and he wants to see everyone.” Thembelihle informed the house but her eyes were on her husband. She was standing by the door with her hand holding the umbrella that was dangling out of the hut.

Dalису: “Hawu, he’s here in this rain?”

Thembelihle: “Yes, and we shouldn’t waste time because he’s drenching I am afraid he will catch the cold. It will be better that we don’t keep him waiting. The guard will have to drive him back home.”

Dalису: “Alright, let’s go, Zulu.” He said and the men stood up from their seats. They were conversing while having tea and cakes and others were having tea and the meat prepared for them...

Mntwana: "Mama, should I take the children?"

Thembelihle: "No, let them be because they will disturb us with the noise." She replied holding on to his hand as Mntwana was walking beside her, seeking shelter on the umbrella that Thembelihle was carrying.

Mntwana: "Alright."

The family dissolved down on the chairs inside the dining room where Langalibalele was seated down having tea prepared by the Nkosazana. He stopped having his tea and cakes in their presence and he looked around to check if Ngcebo was amongst the family members and he sported him.

Dalisu: "What's wrong, mkhulu? What can bring you here in this rain?"

Langalibalele: "I was woken up by a dream and I saw the need to consult."

Uncle elder: "What was the dream about?"

Langalibalele: “My concern is on the revelation I saw when I consulted because the dream is something that will be of concern only to Prince Ngcebo.” He said and Ngcebo raised his head to look at him. Their eyes met.

Dalisu: “What’s wrong?”

Langalibalele: “It didn’t appear clear but it seems the royal family has acquired an enemy because I saw a spear pointed at the throne to threaten it but I didn’t see the face nor the figure holding this spear. And this can only mean that this person has cloak himself/herself.”

The family members gasped and looked amongst themselves. There was total silence in the house and the only loudest common scream was their worry and fear that was showing on their faces. “Oh! Nkosi yami, does this mean we should be worried about Banele’s traditional wedding that’s coming this weekend?”



We've had tragic events in traditional weddings and I am feeling concern about his wedding now." Aunt Nomkhosi asked the relevant question and her question was followed by supporting mumbles.

Langalibalele: "No, if there was danger in the upcoming wedding I am sure a warning was going to be sent out to us just like Prince Ngcebo had seen the danger in Prince Mnotho's wedding but it appeared as if it was his wedding."

Dalisu: "Oh! That means we don't have to stop his wedding?"

Langalibalele: "No, I am confident that you don't have to do that."

Uncle elder: "What can we do then about this enemy? Do you think it's the enemy that we have acquired just recently or an old enemy?"

Langalibalele: "It's not clear as yet but I believe

the ancestors will reveal things to us. And while we're still waiting I ask that we stay woke, our eyes should be on the lookout about everything. We need to be careful. I couldn't sleep without telling you this. I had to."

"THOKOZA MKHULU!" Most of them chanted as Langalibalele was rising up from the chair with his eyes looking at Ngcebo... Ngcebo got up from the chair and he followed Langalibalele.

Mlamuli: "Don't walk back home, mkhulu. Ngcebo you'll tell one of the guards to drive him back home." he said to them as they followed each other out.

Ngcebo: "I will do that."

Langalibalele: "Ngiyabonga, Ngonyama." He said sending his head back to him but without looking at him, he bowed his head and left after they have wished him a good night and safe drive back home...

“Should I be worried?” Ngcebo asked Langelibalele who was walking with him to the guards, they were under the shelter of the umbrella.

Langelibalele: “You really need to worry because I saw your wife screaming ruefully as she drowned in the darkest lake. I couldn’t make sense of the surroundings and I was too far to reach out and help her.” Ngcebo hissed and he pressed his teeth together. Langelibalele looked at his direction as he wasn’t hearing a comment from him and the light generated by the lightening made him see the strong jaw lines reflecting his emotion. “It is unfortunate that you’ll have to worry yourself this much with something that would have been avoided and I am afraid that your ancestors might show their anger.”

Ngcebo: “They’re angry?” he looked at him.

Langelibalele: “Their request hasn’t been

fulfilled Nkosana and do you think that they're happy about that?"

Ngcebo: "I am asking the obvious but I hope they don't reflect their anger in my children or their mother. I have done everything in my power."

Langalibalele: "We must hope." He said as they've reached the guards...

"My concern and worry now are on the children that was said that they should be protected. What if this enemy get to the children first? I know the ancestors won't just say this through Ngcebo just to pass time." Nkosazana voiced out her concerns to the family as they were talking about what Langalibalele had warned them about.

Uncle elder: "What was said?"

Nkosazana: "Nandipha had been hearing Ngcebo talk about protecting children because

the kingdom's future is dead without children.”

Uncle elder: “Hawu, and what did you do about that?”

Nkosazana didn't answer him but she looked at Thembelihle hoping that she was going to give them the answer that she'd given to her. “She told me about it and I told her Langalibalele was going to warn us if we have to worry. And I was right because he has done that.” Thembelihle responded seeing that Nkosazana was expecting her to respond.

Aunt Nomkhosi: “Even if so, MaSthole, you were supposed to inform the family just like you and your husband had refused to let Ngcebo marry his wife traditionally for her safety and the children's safety. You refused an order that was from the ancestors and even after I have spoken to you, Dalisu. You didn't listen to me but you insisted your stubbornness.”

“HAWU!” Those who didn’t know about this chanted in surprise.

Dalису: “There was no danger that was said aunty and Banele had been the first person who as going to get married because he had to wait before.”

Banele: “Ngcebo was supposed to get married because the ancestors said so?”

he asked and looked at his father because he didn’t know about this.

Dalingcebo: “Yes, that was supposed to happen but mom and dad said he will get married after you have gotten married.”

Banele: “And he didn’t think of speaking with me about this?”

Mlamuli: “Don’t be angry Banele because he was told not to speak to you. I think you know what happens when you go against their word.”  
He said to Banele as he saw the anger on his

face.

Dalису: “We are your parents Mlamuli don’t speak like we are not here.”

Mawande: “Kodwa, sis Thembelihle how can you possibly refuse that Ngcebo gets married if this came from the ancestors-”

“Dalingcebo, can you drive me to my house?”

Ngcebo’s thick emotional voice silenced the house and his eyes were lingering on his twin brother.

Dalису: “Is something wrong?”

Ngcebo: “No. You’ll have a goodnight bantu abadala.” he replied with his eyes just lurking around their heads.

Aunt Nomkhosi: “Why don’t you sit with us, Ngcebo? We are still talking.”

Ngcebo: “I can’t say MaZulu. I have to go home.”

Thembelihle: “What did Langalibalele say to you?”

Ngcebo: “Nothing to worry yourself about mama. Let’s go.” He said to his brother who was next to him and they followed each other.

Nomalanga: “In my seat I can see Ngcebo is worried and hurt. How can you hurt your other son to please the other?”

Dalisu: “We will not answer to anyone about our decision.”

Nokuthula: “The decision that even Banele is not happy about, Bhuti. How can you say that? What you did is wrong.”

Banele: “I can’t believe this. Candice, let’s go.”

Dalisu: “We are still talking.”

Banele: “I am tired-”

Mnotho: “Banele, don’t do this now. You’re being disrespectful for no reason because you



are supposed to sit down until the meeting is over.” He raised his voice at him seeing he was being disrespectful just like Ngcebo who just chose to leave while he was told they were still having a discussion.

Uncle elder: “Your brother is right, Banele. Don’t leave.”

Nomalanga: “Hhayi, kazi uthini umama ekubuka we MaSthole!”

Daliso: “Nomalanga, don’t even start!” he commanded her because he knew that his sister had never liked his wife and she never hid that.

Nomalanga: “I was just wondering bhuti. No harm intended.”

Candice: “Does this mean we are not having a traditional wedding this weekend?” she asked and her eyes laid on her mother in-law, who didn’t keep the eye contact but she sent it to her

husband.

Dalisu: “You will get married and Ngcebo will have his wedding the following weekend. And about the children, should we have to face war. We will have to put them all inside the safe pit. There’s no other option. When the wedding date has been set it shouldn’t be stopped from happening. The two of you will get married this weekend.” He made the decision as the leader of the family and he looked at the elders seeking approval.

Uncle elder: “There’s no turning back now and we will do as you have said, Mageba. I don’t know if someone has a different solution. Ngonyama?”

Mlamuli: “The invites have been sent and so, that should happen.”

They all agreed in one voice. “Sing MaMthimkhulu and we will pray. We have to go

and rest there's a lot to be done." Thembelihle said to Happiness.

Aunt Nomkhosi: "Call the children in and we will have a prayer together. All children should do what is done by elders."

"I will go and call them." Nokuthula said and she stood up from her chair. She left them to get to the children... And when she got to the one room house where the children normally stay together in Nkosazana's palace. There was no child inside the room and the door was left opened...

"What's wrong?" Thembelihle asked and stood up on her feet, everyone stood up as they were looking at Nokuthula who'd just budged inside the dining room panting without any children following her. Her blue skirt was muddy on her left hip as she'd fell down on her way to the main house.

Happiness: "Tell us what's wrong. Where are the children?" She asked moving forward to Nokuthula who was still panting.

Nokuthula: "The children are not there. I found the door wide opened and there was no child inside the room." she told them and they said no other word but they all left the house...

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"What are you going to do about this?"

Dalingcebo asked Ngcebo as they were driving to Ngcebo's house without speeding because the roads were slippery.

Ngcebo: "I think the only way is, get her on the plan to follow her mother and brother. I know that will mean she wouldn't be able to come back but it's better than having danger following her."

Dalingcebo: "Hhayi! You don't want to do that, Ngcebo. What about the girls? You will send

them to London with her?”

Ngcebo: “No, they don’t have passports and even if they had them I wasn’t going to suggest that they leave with her.”

Dalingcebo: “You are stressed and you are not thinking straight. You can’t keep the girls away from their mother for months. It’s something they’ve never done. Why don’t you let them go to Johannesburg at least? They will go with the guard because London is not a fair option.”

Ngcebo: “Dalingcebo, they will miss her for months and that’s better than missing her on her grave something that they don’t even know and understand.” He said taking his phone that had been inside Dalingcebo’s car along with his wallet. “I have missed calls from her. She might have been scared. Tsk!” he hissed.

Dalingcebo sighed feeling the amount of stress that Ngcebo was drowning in. In his right mind,

he knew that he was never going to suggest this... They had the rest of their drive in silence with their minds building and destroying...

“Why is the gate left opened?” Dalingcebo asked Ngcebo driving through Ngcebo’s premises. The gate wasn’t closed as Nandipha had closed it.

Ngcebo: “Maybe Nandipha left it opened.” He replied and they got off the car after Dalingcebo had parked it before the house.

Dalingcebo: “The guard must be inside the hut.” He guessed looking around.

Ngcebo clicked his hand on the handle. “There’s no security shelter in here but why would he be inside the hut because he’s supposed to be inside the house at least. The huts are both located where it would be impossible for him to see what happens through the gate-” he stopped talking as he saw the muddy footprints.

He looked back at Dalingcebo and he was also looking at them. "FUCK!" He swore and he ran to his bedroom.

Dalingcebo: "I will check the girls!"

"NO! NO!" Ngcebo repeated stressfully, he placed his hand on his forehead as he saw the empty bed and the muddy footprints were inside the bedroom. "Nandipha!" He exclaimed opening the wardrobe and it had just their clothes. Ngcebo rushed out of the bedroom and he bumped into his brother.

Dalingcebo: "The girls are not in their cots."

"Fuck! Let's check Thula!" He exclaimed and Dalingcebo promised to check other room... Ngcebo found Thula curled up inside the wardrobe with her eyes closed as she'd heard the door and wardrobe being opened. "It's me."

Thula: "Nkosana!" she crawled out of the wardrobe and she relaxed.

Ngcebo: “Why are you hiding here?”

Thula: “I was woken up by voices and footsteps around the house. I rushed into hiding because I was scared.”

Ngcebo: “Did you hear what they were saying?”

Thula: “I couldn’t pick a thing because I was scared.”

Ngcebo didn’t say another word but he turned his worried body with his heart racing as he couldn’t make sense of what might have happened. “Where are they?” He cursed the question in the air leaving the house to get to the hut... He banged on the door of the hut not minding the rain that was falling on his body as he wasn’t under any umbrella. He kept banging the door until it was opened. “YOU ARE CHILLING IN HERE AND MY FAMILY IS NOT HERE!” Ngcebo roared his anger seeing that the guard wasn’t even aware of what was

happening. He wasn't looking like someone who'd been on the lookout but it clearly reflected that he was on chilly mood if not sleepy. Ngcebo lost all control of his emotions as he grabbed the guard by his shirt tightly and he pushed him inside the hut until his back hit the wall.

Guard: "Nkosana... the weather..."

Ngcebo: "THE WEATHER WAS WHAT DAMMIT! IT WAS WHAT?"

Guard: "It was bad... and I couldn't... stay in the... rain."

Ngcebo: "AND YOU SAW IT'S BETTER THAT YOU HIDE IN HERE! DIDN'T YOU THINK OF BEING IN THE HOUSE WHERE YOU WERE GOING TO SEE EVERYTHING? OR YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE!"

Guard: "No! No! Nkosana, I don't... I didn't hear them..."

Ngcebo: "HOW ON EARTH WERE YOU GOING-"

"NGCEBO!" Dalingcebo pulled Ngcebo off the guard as he'd found him cornering the guard. He didn't let him go. "You are angry and there's no need for you to kill him." He told him.

Ngcebo: "I HIRED HIM TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM AND NOW THEY'RE GONE! WHERE WILL I LOOK FOR THEM?"

Dalingcebo: "Just calm down!" he pressed his hands around his brother's shoulders as he was trying to get away from him. He was certain that should he let him go he was going to clung his claws on the guard again. "You didn't see anything or heard anything?" Dalingcebo asked the guard.

Ngcebo: "HE SAW AND HEARD SHIT THIS ONE!"

Dalingcebo: "Ngcebo!"

Guard: "Ngifikelwe isthongwana nkosana." He

replied... Dalingcebo then pulled his brother out of the hut before he could cause any harm to the guard...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 29

Ngcebo didn't need to jump off the couch after the call had been dropped because he was already on his feet. He wasn't asleep but he was seated on the single couch inside his lounge while his two brothers were sleeping on the couches. But they've woken up at the sound of his loud voice.

Dalingcebo: "What's happening?" he asked and stretched his arms yawning. Mntwana stood on his feet and Dalingcebo stood after him.

"Let's go! The children are on the road." He

replied rushing to the exit of the lounge after he'd taken the car keys of Dalingcebo's Hilux.

Dalingcebo: "You don't look like you can drive. Give them to me." he said to Ngcebo who was heading to the driver's side and Mntwana was already seated comfortably inside the car on the backseat. Dalingcebo hopped inside the driver's seat while Ngcebo took the passenger seat.

Mntwana: "What happened, bafo?"

Ngcebo: "I got a call from Nandipha and she told me that the children are by the road and the two girls are awake and crying."

Dalingcebo: "Where's she as she's telling you this?"

Ngcebo: "She didn't tell me but judging from the hoarse voice I heard of a man and the fear on her voice. I can conclude that she's been kidnapped." He told them coldly as he could still

hear the echo of Nandipha's voice and he was still puzzled by how just one day, one night, changed within a blink of an eye. Who had taken his wife? Who was that man who had so much authority about how his wife was supposed to speak with him? 'I am not sure I will ever see you again' he didn't want to believe those words that Nandipha had said to him. How could he accept such harsh words? She had to return to him! They had to return to him! He hadn't even set eyes to his two sons. They haven't even hold them in their loving arms. They've only felt their moves and kicks; they've only heard their heartbeats on their Doctor's appointments. He could never accept that he was going to lose the three puzzle pieces of his family. He could never accept that his backbone was never going to come back to him!

The two brothers were found without comments but silence. "Drive faster Dalingcebo,

we don't want someone to get there first.”

Ngcebo said to his brother and Dalingcebo speeded up his car...

The tires of the car screeched as Dalingcebo stopped his car before the viano and even with that loud screech they could still hear the loud screams of the children. “They’re all there!”

Dalingcebo voiced out as he saw Bongani with Nonjabulo seated on the front seat of the Viano that still had the lights on inside... No child inside the viano was quiet but they all awake, terrified and crying as they were stranded.

There was no vehicle that passed by since the TAZZ had driven off and there were no people who’d passed by...

Ngcebo slid the viano’s door down. “Okay, we are here now. Stop crying!” Ngcebo announced looking at the children to check if all of them were there.

Buhle: “Baba! Bamthathile mama!” (They took

mommy)

Ntokomalo: “Uhambile umama washishiya!”
(Mommy left us) She screamed and none of the children stopped crying even in their presence. Ngcebo didn’t say anything to the children but he stepped back on the ground. He closed the door and moved to the driver seat. Dalingcebo was on the passenger side.

Mntwana: “What are we going to now?” he asked his Ngcebo who was opening the driver door and Dalingcebo moved from the passenger side...

Dalingcebo: “Let’s drive them to the palace because we all know that they’re worried about the children. I am pretty sure that they are still there.”

Mntwana: “Yes, I left them all there.”

Ngcebo: “I will drive this-”

Mntwana: “No, I will drive-”

Ngcebo: "I AM NOT DISABLED AND I AM NOT A KID!" he shouted at him and stepped inside the viano after Mntwana had raised his hands in surrender. He closed the door and turned the key of the viano. His two brothers moved to the Hilux. Ngcebo drove before Dalingcebo with the other children still crying while the other children were quiet now...

"Buhlezi, where did your mother put your car seats?" Ngcebo asked Buhle who was standing next to his legs along with the other sisters. He'd just finished buckling all the children off the seats and he'd told them to walk through the gates of the palace. He didn't park his vehicle inside the palace and he didn't walk inside the premises with the children but the guards walked with them.

Buhle: "Umama yena uzibeke nemuva khathi efaka abanye." She replied and Ngcebo moved to the back after confirming that the car driving

forward was his brother's car. The girls followed him behind as he was moving...

"You're not coming inside, are you?" Dalingcebo asked his brother who was buckling his children on the seats after he'd placed them in order.

Ngcebo: "No, I am not. Qalokuhle is also there and you'll need to go. I am pretty sure that she'll need to see you when all the children see their parents." He replied and slid the door closed when he was done.

Dalingcebo: "Why don't you and the girls sleep here?"

Ngcebo: "No, we're good." He said opening the driver's side.

Dalingcebo looked at Mntwana and Mntwana nodded. "I am driving with you then." Mntwana said to Ngcebo and he rushed to the passenger seat.

Ngcebo: "I will see you." he said to his brother

and he drove back slowly without waiting for whomever that was coming by the gate.

Dalingcebo: "Alright, I will come tomorrow!" he shouted and Dalingcebo heard the hoot. He sighed and turned to his vehicle to drive it inside the premises...

"Dalingcebo. What's happening?" Dalisu asked Dalingcebo who was getting off the car. Thembelihle and Mlamuli were standing behind him.

Dalingcebo: "We found the children. Nandipha was the one who took them."

Thembelihle: "Hawu! How can she take the children without telling us! Does she even know how worried we were?" she shouted walking behind them.

Dalису: "Tell us Dalingcebo! And why did Ngcebo just drive away without entering the palace because they were supposed to explain

to us why his wife took the children without telling us.”

Thembelihle: “Ngcebo is beyond being disrespectful now and it’s like he can’t even see that we are his parents. What has gotten over him, huh?”

Dalisu: “Why did she take the children? Answer us!”

Dalingcebo: “I don’t know.”

Mlamuli: “Didn’t you ask her?” he asked stepping inside the house with the rest of them but he looked back at Dalingcebo waiting for a response.

Dalingcebo: “No. Ngcebo is the one who spoke to her on the phone.” He responded looking around the full lounge that had Mnotho and Banele along with the mothers of the children. The rest of the family was sleeping in the guestrooms located in the palace... Dalingcebo

was searching for his daughter.

Dalису: “Why don’t you tell us what happened and stop keeping us waiting?”

“Nandipha was abducted and that’s why we couldn’t ask any questions. Qalokuhle, come.” He replied itchy to his father and he lifted his daughter up as she was seated on the couch looking upset and sleepy... Dalису looked at his wife with a white face and Thembelihle’s jaw had dropped down to her feet. She placed her hands on her suddenly cold face as disbelief clung on her...

“What do you mean she was abducted?”

Nkosazana asked surprised and her head rose up quickly when she heard that. She had her attention on her children as all the other mothers were embracing the children who were back but Nkosazana’s ears picked up what Dalingcebo was saying...

Dalingcebo: "I don't have any answers ndlovukazi because she didn't speak to me but she only spoke with her husband."

Mlamuli: "But Ngcebo must have told you what she said."

Dalingcebo: "Bhuti, I told you that he said Nandipha told him where the children and we drove there to get the children."

Happiness: "Where did you find them? And how did she know where the children were?" she asked looking at Dalingcebo with her two children next to her. And Danielle had Siphosami and Pearl next to her... Thembelihle was now seated down with Nhlakanipho on her lap...

Dalingcebo: "The children were with Nandipha."

Dalisu: "What happened Bongani?" he looked at his grandson who was having hot tea like the rest of the children except Qalokuhle who didn't

want tea... Bongani then told everyone clearly what had happened from Point A to Point B, last to Point Z where they woke up because the girls were crying and Nandipha was not in the car with them.

Mnotho: "How can she take children in here without informing us? Couldn't she have informed us that she thought there was danger following them? We were sick worried about the children!"

Banele: "Maybe she didn't think straight."

Dalisu: "She's at fault here Banele. And we've reported this matter to the police they are going to question her loyalty because who can just enter the palace and take children without informing the elders or mothers of the children about it? All this commotion that we found ourselves in would have been avoided if she told us she was taking the children."

Happiness: “What if something happened to them as they were alone in the middle of the road? What we could have done? Agh!”

Danielle: “We don’t know about that.”

Dalingcebo: “Ngcebo’s wife is missing and all you care about is how wrong she was to take the children? The children that are before your eyes now. Nobody cares to ask how Ngcebo is doing but all you care about is finding wrong in what she did. You’re totally unbelievable! Ghaa!” he cursed and left the lounge without hearing any comments from them... He placed Qalokuhle on the passenger seat of his car feeling that he was maddened by his family. They were so self-righteous even in situations that were impossibly not deserving of their self-righteousness. And all it took for him to realise this was the day their mother vomited her true feelings about their wives with Ngcebo, from that day he’d never expected anything, he’d

never expected any good words and judgement from his mother, especially.

Qalokuhle: “Baba, uyekuphi umamncane? Ubalekile noma umthathile umbani? Uthe kithi uyasthatha ngoba umbani awufuni ukuthi sibe sesgodlweni.” (Dad, where’s Nandipha? Did she run away or the lightning took her? She said to us, she’s taking us because the lightning didn’t need us to be in the palace.) she asked her father who was driving his car out of the palace.

Dalingcebo: “No, she didn’t run away, princess. We will go home to your brother now and I will call your mother to come and take you.”

Qalokuhle: “Baba, you said she won’t take me now.”

Dalingcebo: “Yes, but the wedding has passed now and that means she can come take you. And you’ll have your best holidays with her.” he told her deciding that it was best that

Nontobeko takes Qalokuhle from everything that was happening in the family. She was going to be safe with her mother... He looked at Qalokuhle and he saw a smile on her face. He stamped she was pleased. But asking... "You are happy that you'll go early to your mother, right?" he asked what he saw best.

Qalokuhle: "Yebo, baba. She promised that she'll go with me to see beautiful places in the big city. I am very happy." She said with a pleasing smile...

Dalingcebo sighed laying back on the bed with his daughter next to him in the morning which was a Monday. He was coming from the bathroom. He took his phone and figured it was still early, 6am! But he needed to call Palesa...

"You don't know how much of a saviour you're to me right now." Palesa accepted Dalingcebo's call and she yawned.

Dalingcebo chuckled. "That means I have just played a role of an alarm?" He asked and sent his eyes to his sleeping daughter.

Palesa: "Yes, I am tired from travelling and why are you up because you're supposed to be sleeping? Or you're eating the leftovers?"

Dalingcebo chuckled. "No, but I am afraid that I am calling you with bad news and I am not intending to ruin your day by telling you bad news this early. It's just that I will be busy and I might forget to tell you." He replied to her questions.

Palesa: "Okay! What's wrong now?"

Dalingcebo: "Nandipha has been kidnapped..." he narrated what he knew and he didn't hear any response or sound from Palesa. "Palesa?" he called out her name and the response were the beeping sounds. He tried calling her again but Palesa didn't answer the phone call.

Dalingcebo hissed and closed his just to get some rest before the day begin...

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“Hheyi, stop running because you’ll fall and your mother will shout!” Mnotho shouted at Njabulo and Nonjabulo who were running down the hallway to get to the kitchen. They’ve left the kitchen with Mnotho because Happiness had told them to go and put on their jerseys on the cold Monday morning. Mnotho and Happiness didn’t sleep in Nkosazana’s palace after the return of the children. Happiness told him that she was leaving with the children to go to her house while Danielle was staying behind with Siphosami and Pearl. Mnotho didn’t allow Happiness to leave alone with the children but he drove with them. They’ve all shared the same bed and woke up together...

Nonjabulo: “Let’s go back to the palace, baba and eat more meat!”

Njabulo: “Yes, we ate and ate yesterday!” he supported his sister jumping jolly along with her sister as they’ve stopped running on their father’s command.

Mnotho: “Yes, we will go to the palace but now, we need to have breakfast that your mother has prepared.” He told the children and he placed them on the seats that was next to their mother’s seat.

Happiness: “They want to go to the palace, isn’t?” she asked with a smile directed to her husband who’d just dissolved on his seat.

Mnotho: “Yes, they want that. You know, Nonjabulo loves meat and it’s like she doesn’t even eat meat in her home.” Happiness looked at Nonjabulo and she giggled along with her children. “Okay, let’s eat so that we will go.” He said giving his hand to Happiness and she held Nonjabulo’s hand. They prayed...

“How are you feeling now? You were so frightened yesterday and the children were in a horror. It wasn’t a good night for us all.” Mnotho asked holding Happiness’s shoulders as she had turned to face him after hearing his voice. She was standing before the fridge. Their children were already buckled inside the car, they were all ready to drive to the palace and Mnotho had come to the kitchen to call Happiness.

Happiness: “I am much more relieved now that our children are back and I couldn’t sleep last night without knowing where they were. But I did sleep peacefully as they were back and you were with us.”

Mnotho: “I am glad to hear that. But you look like you need some sleep. Are you sure that you don’t want sleep? Your face looks restless.” He asked her running the back of his hand on her cheek and his eyes scanned her tired face.

Happiness: "I am tired but how can I sleep? We need to go because I am pretty sure there's a lot to be done today for the wedding."

"Yes, but I don't want you to exhaust yourself. I can exhaust you in a good way as your husband not all that kind of exhausting you get from the chores." He said kissing her forehead with his hands holding her cheeks and he kissed her nose. He looked at her and she saw a smile on her face. He testified that this woman loved him and it wasn't going to be hard to make an intimate move on her. He placed his lips on her lips slowly, he moved his lips on her lips, Happiness responded to his sensuous lips and they shared an intimate kiss...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 30

Mntwana looked at him and he saw he was drowning in his sleeping, waking him up was not something he wanted to do because he had the roughest night. But there was no other option that he had because they were not coping with Thula. The girls had woken up and they were crying none stop.

“Bafo, wake up.” Mntwana shook Ngcebo until he’d opened his eyes.

Ngcebo: “It’s a new day or?”

Mntwana: “It’s Monday morning and the girls are all awake. They’re up and crying, we are having a difficult time calming them down.”

Ngcebo sighed. “Okay, there was no call that came through or someone who came by to say they saw something about their mother?”

Mntwana: “No, they haven’t been but I don’t know about your phone. Dalingcebo only called to ask if you’re awake and he said he’ll come

back after Nontobeko had come by to take Qalokuhle. If not, he'll come here with her." he replied looking at his phone that was on the bedside drawer.

Ngcebo took his phone and the only missed calls he had, were the ones that he didn't care about. "Nothing. I will get up now." He said removing the blankets and Mntwana turned to leave. Ngcebo left the phone on the bed and he rushed out of the bedroom for a quick shower...

"What's wrong? Why are you not eating?"

Ngcebo asked the girls who were seated on their blankets with their food before them but they were crying not eating. Thula was seated on the chair next to the girls looking defeated.

Buhle: "Muphi umama?" (Where's mom?)

Ngcebo dropped his head down and he closed his eyes shortly. How was he going to answer that question? Where was Nandipha? He didn't



know.

Ngcebo: “Your mother will come back and you need to eat.”

Ntokomalo: “Bamthathile umama uzobuya nini pho?” (They took mom. When will she come back then?) she wiped her mucus with the back of her hand. Ngcebo looked at Thula and he mumbled ‘tissue’ Thula got up.

Buhle: “Bamdonsile yena!” (They pulled her off the car)

He couldn’t imagine how traumatic it was for them to see that happen to their mother. But maybe they could help. “Who pulled your mother, Buhle?” he asked still seated on his leg before the children.

Buhle shook her head. “Angazi mina baba.” (I don’t know)

Nongcebo: “Bamyisephi baba?” (Where did they take her?)

Thando: “Bamthatheleni?” (Why did they take her?)

Ngcebo: “Buhle, did you hear the voice of the person who took your mother? Was it a girl with a tiny voice, or a boy with a big voice, or a granny with an old voice or grandpa with an old voice?” he asked wiping Ntokomalo’s face with the tissue paper that Thula had given over to him.

Buhle: “Umama, baba!” (It’s a woman)

Ntokomalo: “Baba, shimzwile umama ekhala kakhulu nathi shakhala.” (We heard mama screaming and we cried too)

Mntwana: “Who can be so cruel though? And take a mother in the presence of her children? And it’s a woman!”

Thula: “Nkosana. There’s nobody that you can think of?”

Ngcebo: “No, and how will I even go to the

police and leave them here because they're clearly scared and they want their mother."

Mntwana: "I didn't know children can recall things like this."

Thula: "Children hardly forget, Mntwana and maybe they can remember what that woman said when she took their mother. What do you think, nkosana?"

Ngcebo nodded. "Buhle, did you hear what that woman said to your mother when she took her? Do you remember what she said to her?" He asked looking at her now and Buhle shook her head.

Ntokomalo: "Baba, beshikhala thina." (We were crying)

Ngcebo hissed and he looked at Similo who was no longer crying now but she had hiccups and Nongcebo was still crying. "Okay, don't cry now but let's eat our food so that we can be big

girls. Your father will feed you and you'll sit on the table not on the floor." He said getting up and he lifted Buhle first. Mntwana and Thula then assisted him transport the children to the dining table along with their dishes.

Mntwana: "Why don't you tell them that you'll go to the police and they will have to stay behind? And the police will help find their mother."

Ngcebo: "Will you even manage them?" he looked at both of them.

Thula: "We will try or Nkosana Mntwana you can go get the police."

Mntwana: "Oh! Yes! That's a good idea because they can speak with the children and they can take that number that called the children."

Ngcebo: "I forgot to tell you not to clean the floor."

Mntwana: "Maybe they can still pick up some fingerprints. What will you tell her mother? I am

pretty sure she will call.”

Ngcebo: “Ey, I won’t tell her what’s happening.”

Mntwana: “But Ngcebo you can’t just keep her in the dark, that’s wrong and the elders were wondering why she didn’t come to the wedding because MaNtombela did come to the wedding.”

Ngcebo: “Her mother is in London with her brother because Randall’s grandmother died. Why didn’t they ask me that?”

Mntwana: “Hawu! I didn’t know about that.”

Ngcebo: “I think it’s Dalingcebo that I told. I have had a number of things in my head

Mntwana, ey, tsk!” he clicked his tongue and shook his head with his spoonful hand creeping straight to Nongcebo’s mouth but she shook her head. “Nongcebo, all your sisters are eating, eat your food.” He raised his voice.

Similo: “IDLA!” She commanded loudly tapping

her shoulder and Nongcebo shook her shoulder along with her head. Similo looked at her and she waved forward requesting for her father's ear. "Baba, mtshela ukuthi neke adle khekhe uma engadli ukudla kwakhe. Usho njalo umama." (Tell her she won't have her cakes if she doesn't want to eat. Mom says that) she whispered.

Ngcebo nodded his head and looked at his daughter. "Do you want to have some cakes?" He asked Nongcebo and she nodded her head. Ngcebo then blackmailed her using the cakes and Nongcebo had her food...

"Sanibona." Thembelihle greeted everyone in the dining room and next to her there were two policemen. And Dalisu was with them.

"YEBO!" Everyone greeted back and the children who hadn't fully loosened up, they loosened up as they saw their grandparents in the house...

Thembelihle: "Let me feed the children and you'll go talk in the lounge. Your father and I brought the police." she suggested to Ngcebo, she was looking at him and she saw the restlessness showing not only on his face. She was unable to sleep the previous night because her heart was with Ngcebo and what he was thinking as his pregnant wife was missing...

Ngcebo: "Do you want your grandmother to feed you?" he asked the girls and they all nodded their heads supported by 'YEBO'  
Ngcebo then stood up from the chair and he looked at Mntwana telling him to stand up.

Thembelihle: "How are you, though before you leave?" she asked looking at her son as he was looking at his younger brother.

Ngcebo: "I am fine, ma." He replied and left the kitchen following his father and the policemen along with Mntwana.

Daliso: “Ngcebo, Dalingcebo told us about your wife and we thought that we must bring the police here.” He told Ngcebo after they’ve all dissolved on the couches inside the lounge. He was looking at Ngcebo but he had his eyes on the table... The police then began asking Ngcebo questions and Ngcebo answered all the questions without Mntwana and Dalisu’s presence... In the middle of the question and answer session which was Ngcebo’s statement. Dalingcebo joined them inside the lounge but seeing what was going on he didn’t sit with them. But he went to the kitchen where he’d left his daughter.

“Qalokuhle is telling me that she’s leaving today.” Thembelihle informed Dalingcebo who was joining them in the kitchen.

Dalingcebo: “Yes, Nontobeko is coming to take her here. I told her that she must come today.” He replied and sat down on the dining chair.



Daliso: “And you’re only telling your mother now!”

Dalingcebo: “It’s better that she leaves because I don’t want my daughter being caught up in this mess. It’s not like I needed permission to do that I was going to tell you that she’ll be leaving earlier.”

Daliso chuckled in disbelief. “The level of disrespect you and your twin brother have for us is really getting out of hand. And if you continue behaving this way you’ll have to make a decision whether we are your parents or friends.”

Thembelihle: “Your father is right. Qalokuhle lives with us and you and Ngcebo do things as you please.”

Dalingcebo: “We are not children anymore. Do we really have to report everything that we do to you, mama no baba just because you’re our

parents? Which man in this age reports everything to his parents?"

Thembelihle: "It's not about that but you're disrespectful."

Dalingcebo didn't say anything but he took out his phone from his pocket as it was ringing. Nontobeko was calling. "Hello." He accepted the call.

Nontobeko: "You've reached Ngcebo's house with her?"

Dalingcebo: "Yes, you were already in the area?"

Nontobeko: "No, I was not very far. I am driving home."

Dalingcebo: "She's thinking you'll be taking her to the city." He reminded her and looked at Qalokuhle who was with the girls by the sink. The parents were having a conversation with Thula while Dalingcebo was on the phone.

Nontobeko: "Yes, I promised her that I will be taking her with me and I will definitely take her to the city after Christmas."

Dalingcebo: "Alright, I don't think you'll have to call when you get here."

Nontobeko: "I will come in and see the girls."

Dalingcebo: "Alright." He removed the phone from his ear and he placed it back inside the pocket. "Nontobeko is coming to take Qalokuhle."

Thembelihle: "Hhayi! Ngiyadela!" (I wonder)

"Buhle, no Ntokomalo come to me." Ngcebo told his daughters standing by the entrance of the kitchen and the girls went to their father.

Mntwana: "They said they will question them?"

Ngcebo: "Yes."

Thembelihle: "Is that even fair on the children?"

Ngcebo: "I don't know but anything that can

help me find my wife I will do it.” He replied taking the girls’ hands and he left with them...

“I DID NOTHING WRONG BUT ALL THE ANSWERS I GET IS NOTHING!” Ngcebo frustrated at Langalibalele who’d just told him that he was seeing nothing about Nandipha’s whereabouts... He got up from the floor.

Langalibalele: “Nkosana, this is not the end of the road I will go at any lengths to ensure that we find her. She’s an important part of the family.”

Ngcebo: “Which family? Which family, mkhulu? The one that doesn’t care if she’s found or not? When have they ever care and support her?”

Langalibalele: “Don’t lose hope. I will take the king’s boys and go with them where they say she stopped the vehicle in the forest. I might find something or if I can come to the house if that doesn’t work but I will do anything and

everything to find her because our future depends on finding her and bringing her back alive.” He promised her and Ngcebo didn’t say another word but he left the hut fuming. And he saw nothing better than to drive around shady places until he was tired. He couldn’t just stay inside the house... Nontobeko had promised to stay with them until Nandipha was found and he was grateful for that because the girls seemed distracted from their mother’s absence...

“WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN BRO!” Dalingcebo jumped as a wife waiting for her husband who’d gone in war. He was seated alone in the lounge waiting for his brother. It was after 11pm and Ngcebo was still out and he’d left his phone.

Ngcebo: “I drove around looking for Nandipha and asked around.”

Dalingcebo sighed. “Did you find anything?” He asked following Ngcebo as he was plodding to

the kitchen.

Ngcebo: “I didn’t find her but I learnt that there was a blue TAZZ that was parked up by the corner of this road. I was suspicious of it and so, I drove all the shady corners looking for it parked somewhere, anything! But I didn’t find anything.” He replied opening the pots.

Dalingcebo: “Your food is on the microwave. And about that TAZZ, Mntwana and the guard, had gone to the neighbouring houses and one of them said that there was a blue TAZZ that drove in here. But they didn’t dwell checking out what was it doing here. And Langalibalele was here with Bongani, Prince and Banele. Langalibalele wanted to speak to you.”

Ngcebo: “Did he leave the message?”

Dalingcebo: “Yes, he said something was revealed to him as he was in the forest with Bongani and Prince. Nandipha was taken by a

woman but he didn't see this woman's face. But it seems that this woman is the enemy that he'd been told about. I think that's a clue."

Ngcebo: "It's a clue that we already know Dalingcebo. Buhle told us it was a woman... The girls? They're better?"

Dalingcebo: "They're distracted by Nontobeko and Qalokuhle's presence but they did ask about you. I just told them you went out looking for their mother. Nandipha's mother called and -"

Ngcebo: "I hope you didn't tell her the truth!"

Dalingcebo: "No, I just told her that the two of you gone out and Nandipha lost her phone at the wedding." He replied and Ngcebo sighed.

Ngcebo: "Thank you for being here, bafo. I really don't know if I will find her or I will just have to-"

Dalingcebo: "Don't be negative." He stopped him and Ngcebo nodded.

Ngcebo: “You can go sleep. I will do the same after this.” he freed him and Dalingcebo left him for bed... Ngcebo had his food thinking about the woman who’d taken his wife and thinking about the blue TAZZ...

~~~~~

Mnotho looked at Happiness laying on the bed with her phone on her hands on a Monday night. He’d just taken a shower and wanted to join Happiness in bed now. They’ve had a long day at the palace and he was here now because Danielle had told him that Happiness left with the children. “Why did you leave without informing me that you are leaving?” Mnotho asked getting under the covers with her. He placed his hand on her shoulder.

Happiness looked back at him and she turned her body to face his side. She removed her earphones that had stopped her from hearing him enter the room. “I didn’t see you and I told

the queen and MaNkosi that we were leaving.”
She replied and placed her phone away.

Mnotho: “Those two are not your husband but I am and you didn’t even tell mother about leaving. She didn’t know about it.”

Happiness: “She wasn’t around when I left. I had to come back and bath these naughty children because they were muddy and wet. I didn’t want them to catch the cold. They fell asleep after their bath. And I thought that you’re going to MaNkosi tonight because you were here last night.”

Mnotho: “Alright. MaNkosi is at the palace and when I am with you, it shouldn’t bother you that I should be with MaNkosi.”

Happiness: “I wouldn’t like you to make a mistake of giving one of us too much attention while the other feels neglected.”

Mnotho chuckled looking at her eyes as they

were facing each other. "I won't do that mistake again and there are seven days in a week and that means I will divide three days to each of you a week and if one had the extra day. The other will have the extra on the following week. How do you like that?"

Happiness smiled. "It's fair and I think that time to breathe without a husband around is what every woman needs." She joked and they laughed.

Mnotho: "I can't believe you've just said that!"

Happiness: "It's the truth."

Mnotho: "I hope there'll be no man who'll come between us again."

Happiness: "No, there wouldn't be."

Mnotho: "Yes, because I will treat you right because you are queen."

Happiness: "Do I really deserve to be queen?"

Mnotho: "Yes. You're the chief wife of the king's advisor that means you hold the tittle that you deserve."

Happiness: "I would love to hold that tittle even in your heart." She said placing her hand on his chest and Mnotho held her wrist.

Mnotho: "You're nothing less than a queen." He told her softly and kissed her bare shoulder while holding on to her hand. And he had cold feet recalling what happened the last time they were physical. He was forceful and he didn't want to raise those memories. It was too early maybe, even if she loves him, memories are memories and they might be triggered...

Happiness smiled and closed her eyes. But she opened them when Mnotho didn't go further as she was thinking he would. "What's wrong? Are you scared of something maybe?" She felt the need to ask this tonight.

Mnotho: “No, but are you ready for this?”

Happiness: “It’s not our first time, Mnotho.”

Mnotho: “But the last time-”

She figured his fears and she sighed. “I have dealt with that years ago.” She replied recalling how hard it was for her to be intimate with Lonwabo because of what had happened between her and Mnotho.

Mnotho: “I am sorry. I wasn’t good-”

Happiness: “I said I don’t want to dwell to the past.”

He looked at her and he didn’t understand was this love speaking or it was going to be different when he had to act. “Okay, let’s not.” He said. He held her closer to his bare chest and kissed her. Happiness slowly kissed him back. Mnotho felt her warm hands touch his arm as they kissed intensely.

Mnotho held her slim waist and pulled her closer to him. "I can't believe such a slim waist had carried two people and you didn't even suffer from fat after birth." Mnotho commented as he removed her pyjamas.

Happiness: "I have a good bone." She said on a low seductive tone.

Mnotho: "Do you want more children?"

Happiness: "Yes, maybe two more and the family will be complete."

Mnotho nodded with a smile, he touched her breasts softly, and he heard her moan while they were locked into a kiss. He moved from the kiss to suck the hard nipples slowly. Her hands held on to his arms tightly... He moved up and packed her beneath him. He removed her blue lace panties. He looked at her as he got in between her legs and kissed her while rubbing himself on her wet openings... She moaned as

Mnotho held her waist and invited her closer to him. And she loved being so close to his warm skin under his strong arms.

“You’re comfortable or?” He asked looking at her as he wasn’t sure of her facial expression as he was trying to enter her.

Happiness: “Yes, I am comfortable.” She replied without opening her eyes. “Just continue.” She encouraged. And Mnotho submitted to her command.

He groaned as he felt the warmth of her...

Happiness moaned loudly, held on to Mnotho’s arms. She was enjoying herself and appreciated feeling his fullness inside her. It made her feel whole and she felt divine pleasure...

They both exhaled and Mnotho neglected his body on her chest deepening his hands on her back into a heartfelt hug.

Mnotho: “That was amazing!” he commented

and rose to look at her. And he saw a clean smile on her face. "But I want to see you take control."

Happiness laughed: "Let's not push it now, can we not?"

Mnotho: "Are you trying to tell me that you want to sleep now?"

Happiness: "Yes, you've exhausted me."

Mnotho tittered and he moved from her, he cuddled her naked warm body after they've cleaned themselves. And Happiness was the one who suggested that they should cuddle each other naked. "You'll have a goodnight then my wife. I will wake you up whenever I wish because you've made me sleep naked."

Happiness giggled. "Can you stop talking and sleep?" She requested and smiled as Mnotho's response was a kiss at the back of her shoulder...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 31

He woke up on a new day, Tuesday, he turned to an empty side of the bed and he felt his heart being as cold as ice because of the hurt that he was feeling. It was better when he was sleeping because he felt nothing but the new day came with nothing but more worry and heartache. He grabbed his phone that was ringing and he looked at it as it rang. Palesa was calling him but he wasn't up for answering this phone call... He tapped on his phone after his phone had stopped ringing. He tapped on his gallery and browsed through his camera photos looking at all the selfies that Nandipha had taken with his phone. He chuckled and shook his head.

Ngcebo: "One could swear it's her phone and if I

can delete them she'll ask me who will fill her space. Silly woman I have!" he mumbled to himself looking at the camera photos and he stopped at the photo she'd taken standing before the mirror naked with her pregnancy bump. "My sons!"

He swiped pass and tapped play on the video >> "Hmm! Hmm!" Nandipha's sleepy voice cried and she moved her hand to the phone to remove it from her face as Ngcebo was taking a video while poking her nose to wake her.

Ngcebo: "You need to wake up." His morning lazy voice told her.

Nandipha: "You know I love the camera but I don't like when I am ugly in the morning. Rasta, remove the camera. I will delete that video."

Ngcebo: "You'll do no such thing because this phone is mine not ours."

Nandipha: "That won't stop me from deleting

the video and how can you wake me like this, Ngcebo. You're teaching the boys bad behaviour."

Ngcebo chuckled. "No, I am not teaching them bad behaviour but they must know that a man gotta wake up every morning to hustle." He said and his hand appeared to remove the blankets showing her belly. "I think your breasts have enlarged and I can see the limbs of our babies." He told her touching her.

Nandipha laughed lazily. "They're doing the toyi toyi. 'Asfuni ukuvuka! Hhayi! Hhayi!" She sang showing Ngcebo how the babies were protesting and they both laughed hilariously.

Ngcebo: "That is what I was waiting for and now my crazy some wife is awake. Let me kiss you." the video stopped at Nandipha's loud giggle.>>>

Ngcebo chuckled on his bed after the video had

stopped and he laughed placing his hands on his forehead. “Dear, Lord. I don’t want to look forward to such mornings, where I will wake up to an empty side of the bed without that woman you brought in my life. Why would you bring someone in my life only to take them from me while we haven’t reached – Please, I am not asking for much, really, I am just asking that you bring them home. My girls want their mother back, I want my wife back and our babies. I am hoping that you’ll look into my heart and answer my prayer because I don’t have much to say. Amen!” He said the prayer and he only sighed after he’d finished. He jumped out of the bed as he could hear the footsteps and laughter of the children...

“Hello, mama.” Ngcebo answered the call heading to the kitchen.

“Are you two ignoring my calls?” Faith asked Ngcebo on the phone.

Ngcebo: “No, but we’ve been very busy. How are things over there?”

Faith: “Where’s my daughter I want to speak to her? If you wanted to ask about things here, you were going to call us but you ignoring my calls.”

Ngcebo: “No, mama, it’s not like that but we got back home very late last night and you know how our girl sleeps in the morning.”

Faith sighed. “Are you having flue? You don’t sound good.” She asked.

Ngcebo: “Yes, it rained heavily on Sunday after the wedding and I have flue.”

Faith: “My daughter doesn’t have flue? And how are the girls? Can you give them the phone so that I can speak to them?”

Ngcebo: “Eh! Nandipha doesn’t have flue and the children are bathing right now. They won’t speak while in water.” He replied knowing that he couldn’t possibly give his phone to the girls

because they were going to tell her that their mother was missing and he didn't know how worried she was going to be. They had a funeral to face, worrying about Nandipha wasn't something that Ngcebo wanted them to do.

Faith: "Everyone is busy but I understand. You'll call when you get time and please, just buy a new phone for my daughter for goodness sake!"

Ngcebo chuckled. "I will buy the phone gogo." He promised.

Faith: "Alright."

Ngcebo: "How's my brother in-law?"

Faith: "He's coping but we were worried since we couldn't get hold of his sister. But your brother told us she lost the phone."

Ngcebo: "Alright. I will send a DM to him."

Faith: "Alright, bye."

Ngcebo: "Bye, mama." He removed the phone

from his ear and he sighed, placing the phone on his pocket. And he proceeded with his journey.

“What’s happening in the lounge?” Ngcebo asked Thula and Mntwana who were busy rearranging the lounge.

Mntwana: “Mama, called and said we should make space because they will all come with some women to pray.”

Ngcebo: “Oh! I will proceed with my drive today. Dalingcebo told you where I was last night, right?” He asked looked back and he saw Banele running after Ntokomalo, they were heading to the lounge.

Mntwana: “Yes, he told me.”

Ngcebo: “Boy, you’re here. Dalingcebo told me you came yesterday.” He gave his hand to Banele and they shared a brief hug.

Banele: “Yes, I came and I was angrier

yesterday but the girls have calm me.”

Ngcebo: “I was told not to tell you, Banele.” He replied and bent down to take Nongcebo who was before him now raising her arms for him. While Ntokomalo was getting busy along with Thula and Mntwana.

Banele: “So, what does that mean?”

Ngcebo: “Sawubona, princess.” He greeted Nongcebo and tickled her tummy, he kissed her face making her giggle. Nongcebo greeted her father back. “You wouldn’t understand I didn’t want to do what I was told not to do. I knew you would have understood but after how I was told not to even try you. I didn’t want to go against their word because it didn’t matter to them how important this wedding was.” Ngcebo said to Banele and he greeted Nontobeko and the children who were inside the kitchen with her.

Banele: “You weren’t supposed to care about

that Ngcebo because at the end of the day it was my wedding not theirs and I know if Nandipha knew about this she was going to call me or Candice. Even Candice is disappointed at you and now, your wife is missing.”

Nontobeko: “Calm down, Banele. I understand you’re angry but all that will not help now. Our focus should be on finding Nandipha because I know you all won’t be fully happy to attend the wedding while she hasn’t been found.”

Ngcebo: “Ey, thank you, Nontobeko. He was finishing me off.”

Banele: “You don’t understand.”

Ngcebo: “I do and I am sorry for not speaking with you. How are the wedding preparations?” he asked sitting down for food.

Banele: “I don’t know. But I will go with you in your drive. Dalingcebo told me that you drove around and find some clues about the TAZZ.”

Ngcebo: "Yes."

Nontobeko: "And the police we here, they said that number is not registered under a specific person's name. It's those cards you buy on the street already registered. And it'd been used to call just one number that was a dead end."

Ngcebo: "Eish! We will go when I finish here."

Banele: "Sho."

Nontobeko: "You won't stay for prayer?"

Ngcebo: "No." he replied and Nontobeko nodded. Ngcebo looked at the three girls who were busy alone with Qalokuhle without giving him attention. He thought of calling them but he remembered he was still going to have to leave.

"Bhuti?" Ngcebo answered Mlamuli's call getting inside Mntwana's vehicle with Banele taking the passenger seat.

Mlamuli: "How are you? I called last night and

they said you were not home.”

“Yes, I drove around searching for Nandipha and I didn’t find her but I found the clue about the car that had been in here.” He replied driving out.

Mlamuli: “I was speaking with Langalibalele this morning and I called the police handling the case. The lead is very weak but they are trying to tackle the sets of fingerprints that have touched the handle of the driver’s door.”

Ngcebo: “Oh! Are they getting somewhere?”

Mlamuli: “Yes, there were four sets of fingerprints and they will work on them. But Langalibalele supported my idea of sending two groups of men who’ll go around neighbouring villages and the clue will be this car and a woman. They will ask around. And if they don’t find new clues by tonight they will move to neighbouring places. Langalibalele said he’s

also onto something he won't join them."

Ngcebo: "Thank you, that will be very helpful. But I won't stop my search I ask that you call Dalingcebo, no, I will call him and he will help with structuring the groups of men who'll go searching."

Mlamuli: "Don't worry, I will call him but listen,"

Ngcebo: "Yebo."

Mlamuli: "If you see that you are heading to danger don't even risk it."

Ngcebo: "But-"

Mlamuli: "You don't want to die or go missing while looking for her. What will happen to the children if the two of you get lost?"

Ngcebo: "I know but she won't be in clear out places. I will do anything to-"

Mlamuli: "Ngcebo! Listen, man! Don't think with your emotions but use your brains. I could lose

it too if my queen can get lost but I wouldn't want to be die and leave our boys while looking for her. Who's there with you, give them the phone now." he instructed and Ngcebo gave the phone to Banele.

Banele: "Bhuti?"

Mlamuli: "I am telling Ngcebo that you shouldn't put yourselves in danger that can even kill you. Ngcebo still has children to live for and you have a wife. If you see it's getting risky don't push it. He won't think but you should do that. Nandipha will be found but I don't think she'll want to come back to find Ngcebo dead. That is not something that should happen."

Banele: "Yebo, bhuti. I will do that."

Mlamuli: "Good."

Banele gave the phone back to Ngcebo and before he could speak Ngcebo stopped him from speaking. "I know what he told you."

Ngcebo said.

Banele: "And I will do as he said." He assured him and Ngcebo didn't comment.

~~~~~

"Why don't you let me wake her with cold water just like I did yesterday?" MaKhumalo asked the Sangoma who'd told her they were supposed to wake Nandipha and put her to sleep once again to ensure that she would sleep longer until they were back from the river to perform this ritual.

Sangoma: "Where's the difference?"

MaKhumalo: "I just want to rejoice to every pain and fear that she goes through as she'd under my hand. It gives me pleasure because their late king didn't even think twice before butchering my family and his grandchildren panel beat my son for being on the road."

Sangoma: "Do you even know how evil your father was?"

MaKhumalo: “Why are you asking me that question? My mother and siblings, they didn’t deserve to die because of that and I survived because I was with my grandmother when they were killed.”

Sangoma: “They were killed in war and that was started by your father.” He reminded her as he was busy setting everything in order for the ritual that he was going to do at midnight where all forces of darkness would be with him. The 3am hour wasn’t too convenient for him but midnight was.

MaKhumalo: “Why does it seem like you’ve developed a soft spot for this girl and the royal family? You’ve done this first when you allowed her to call her husband. I have put so much money in this for you to double cross me.”

Sangoma: “Woman! I am asking you questions I have no business caring for anything in this world but myself and the work I do.”

MaKhumalo didn't say anything but she promised herself that she needed to be careful with this Sangoma. She didn't trust him now... The Sangoma woke Nandipha by burning muthi around her face to reach her nose. He didn't listen to MaKhumalo who wanted to wake her with cold water...

Nandipha's heavy eyes opened and she coughed because of the smoke. She pulled her heavy arms and she screamed once again as she realised that she was still tied up by a thick rope. She was sleeping while standing on her feet and her clothes had been ripped off her body. She was only wrapped on a black worn out rag around her waist and she wasn't covered on top. Her breasts and pregnancy belly were visible to the eye...

MaKhumalo and the Sangoma laughed in unison as Nandipha was doing what they've been telling her not to do because nobody was

going to rescue her. And nobody was going to hear scream. They were in the forest.

Sangoma: "You don't listen little girl. Do you?"

Nandipha: "LET ME GO!"

Sangoma: "You're everything that we need and that means?" he looked at MaKhumalo who already had the malicious smile that she'd been giving Nandipha since the night they found her.

MaKhumalo: "We won't let you go."

Nandipha: "My husband will find me and his family will help him."

Sangoma: "Oh! That poor man. You think highly of his family." He rose up with a teaspoon of muthi to kick Nandipha back into sleep until their return to the river. "It's a pity that your in-laws didn't realise what they had in you. I mean you just appeared when I needed someone to use to destroy their future but you don't have to worry because tonight, it all ends. You and your



sons will meet your maker and their distraction will begin.” He threatened and blew the muthi on her crying face as she was screaming again.

MaKhumalo: “Do I really need to go with you to the river? I can stay behind and watch over her to ensure that nobody finds her.” she asked the Sangoma that had told her that it was time for them to leave...

Sangoma: “You’re the reason this ritual is taking place and we can’t perform this ritual without ‘umsebenzi wokuziqinisa’ Kuzomele siziqinise. Do you think you will stomach everything that will happen for this sacrifice? I will butcher this girl alive and you must have a heart of a killer to see that happen.”

MaKhumalo nodded and she followed him to the door looking back at Nandipha who was hanging over there helplessly. “I will dance on their sorrow from tonight.” She promised before closing the door of the hut... They walked

through the forest to get to their destination...

~~~~ "Mama! Mama! Vuka! Vuka!" the child's voice echoed to Nandipha who was sleeping on the floor in the centre of a dark room. The voice repeated, again, again, and again until....

~~~~~ Nandipha forced her heavy eyes opened and all she saw was the blur visions. She closed her eyes again and she felt back to her heavy sleep within a few seconds of closing them.

~~~~ "Mama! Mama! Vuka! Vuka!" the same child's voice echoed to Nandipha who was sleeping on the floor in the centre of a dark room. The voice for the second round as Nandipha was sleeping... ~~~~~

She opened her eyes once again after the end of the dream that she was having for a second time and this time, she clearly recalled where she was as she saw the candles inside the scary hut, she saw the machete and other

things that they've shown her they were going to use to kill her, to sacrifice her not just her but her and her children... She began crying and pulled the robe tying her as she realised that she was alone inside the hut.

Nandipha: "Oh! Jesu!" she cried as she saw that she was fighting a losing battle here because there was no way that as weak as she was, she could even try to break free from these robes. "Please!" She cried as she tried again.

"NGCEBO! NGCEBO! NGCEBO!" She senselessly screamed his name above her voice. She'd been told she was in the middle of nowhere but she didn't want to die without trying. Maybe someone out there! Maybe Ngcebo was going to hear her. Maybe he was going to see a vision if she can try to scream his name. She didn't know which was right and which was going to help her now but she knew that she had to die trying! She had to...

“Can you hear that voice?” a hitman seated on the driver seat of a white dilapidated Toyota van asked his partner who was seated on the passenger seat of the vehicle as they were driving on small road of the forest.

“Yes, I can hear that voice but we are not driving on this shady road to take note of screaming voices. We have a target to kill so that we can get our money. Don’t forget I need this money more than you do.” He reminded him.

Hitman1: “You are right about that. We should focus on the target.” He supported and tried to ignore this screaming voice that he could hear was clearly coming from the forest. “No! I can’t just ignore this.” he added and stopped the car immediately as his conscious wasn’t giving him rest...

Hitman2: “Hheyi, hheyi, mthaka! I won’t have you pulling God stunts on me! We have a job to do. Drive now or I shoot you. I told you we

shouldn't use this route but you were stubborn about it. You had your own agenda, huh?"

Hitman1: "You shoot me you don't get the money. Don't forget that I am the one who knows our client and now, we are following this voice." He made it clear to his partner and he got off the car with his gun and vehicle keys.

Hitman2: "Fuck!" he swore angrily and he hit the car door repeatedly as he knew he couldn't do what he'd threatened to do. He dashed out the car. "Hey, can you use your brain! We can't go play God with this car left on the road like this." He made him aware as he was already moving away from the vehicle making his way inside the forest where the scream was coming from...

Hitman1: "Yes! Yes! You're right about something today." He supported and rushed back to the car to hide the car from the eye...

"We need to move faster because our job is

important than playing God right now.” The second hitman encouraged the first one and they lifted their feet, their feet were covered in boots protecting them from harsh stones and wood pieces of the forest but the branches and leaves weren’t giving them easy time as it was doing a number on their arms and faces as they ran even faster. They could hear that they were closer to the voice... “This person better be a rich motherfucker who’ll compensate us. I can’t be running like this for nothing and have branches hitting me like a fool.” The second hitman added.

Hitman1: “Just focus! The moon is brighter today at least try duck from the branches.” He advised him and he did as he’d advised...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 34

“Yini le emenza ukuthi athi singezi ukuzombona? Uthwele izingane zethu uMaZondi yini lento ayishoyo uNgcebo?” (What’s making him say we mustn’t come to see him? Nandipha is pregnant with our grandchildren. What is Ngcebo saying?) Dalisu asked Mlamuli who’d just informed them briefly as a family that Nandipha was brought back and she’d been admitted in the hospital. Ngcebo had asked that they don’t come to see her. The elders of the family were all present in the meeting, Dalisu’s sons and the wives of his house were all present along with Dalisu’s brothers.

Mlamuli: “The Doctor said she mustn’t be stressed.”

Aunt Nomkhosi: “What’s the meaning of that, Ndabezitha? Ngcebo is trying to say that we will stress his wife? Is that what he’s saying?”

Mlamuli: “No, but he doesn’t want her to asked questions about the incident at this stage because that might rise memories.”

Uncle elder: “We have every right to know what happened and she must tell us why she had to take the children without telling us.”

Banele: “Are you really going to wake that up?”

Mnotho: “Why should we not because she took the children without telling us? Do you think that was a good thing and if we don’t ask her now she will repeat this again and the second time we may not be lucky?”

Uncle elder: “Your brother is right she must know that she was wrong to do what she did. She put the future of our Kingdom in danger by her actions.”

Mlamuli: “This talk right here, is exactly what Ngcebo doesn’t want around his wife. She mustn’t be stressed I am saying this clearly.”

Mnotho: “Why are turning a blind eye to how much disrespectful Ngcebo has become? Him and his wife will do things as they please as if they’re not part of the family and that will be let to slide? Why should they be treated differently? You can’t expect that the family will just let this slide.”

Mlamuli: “Mnotho! Nobody said they mustn’t ask Nandipha questions about her actions but she’s pregnant and she doesn’t need to be placed in court right now. Which part of that didn’t you understand?”

Mnotho: “I didn’t know someone could die by being asked questions.”

Mlamuli: “How can you know because none of your wives had to go through what Ngcebo’s wife went through? How can you know then?” he asked angered by what he was saying and it was added up by how much Mnotho had told him that he wasn’t going to be involved in this

dilemma that Ngcebo was facing because he was disrespectful. He didn't know anyone beside his wife. He was speaking anyhow with their parents because of his wife.

Thembelihle: "Mlamuli, calm down."

Mlamuli: "No, don't tell me to calm down mama, he must answer me. Which wife of yours had to go through what Ngcebo's wife went through? You studied medicine for goodness sake and you know much stress and words can strain a person's body and mind. What's wrong with you?"

Mnotho: "Why are you attacking me because I am just as angry as Ngcebo is? Should I clap hands that my four children were left in danger? Should I? We've all been through things but it's not even once that we have disrespected our parents and the elders of the family just Ngcebo has done."

Dalisu: "MNOTHO! MLAMULI! STOP IT!" He raised his voice as he was seeing that this was getting out of hand. And as a family leader he had to stop them.

Sbani: "You need to get a grip on yourselves and what Ngcebo has asked should happen because should something happen to his wife. I don't think any of us would want to be on the blame end."

Dalisu: "You're saying we don't have a right to see his wife who's pregnant? Why can't he see that he's doing the exact same thing that his wife did?"

Mnotho: "Yes, and you'll let it slide because Ngcebo should do as he please and at the end of the day we should applaud him."

Nkosazana: "I don't get what's the rush in asking Nandipha about the children. She just got back from what we don't even know and we

are here fighting about asking her questions.
What's the rush?"

Happiness: "I also want to know why she took our children without telling us but I don't think asking her that now is a wise thing."

Aunt Nomkhosi looked at Dalisu as the leader of the family. (Let me shed some lights for some confused readers) Mlamuli is the KING of Zululand after his father, he takes decision and make rules for the Zululand. He rules Zululand and he can have a final word/say in the KINGDOM (with support of his council of course and sometimes even without). But his father, Dalisu, he's the LEADER OF THE ZULU FAMILY, meaning Mlamuli doesn't have a final say in the family matters like he has in the kingdom. Dalisu is the one with that right (with the elders' approval of course). I am clearing this so that you stop confusing Mlamuli being a king who seem to have no say. He rules the kingdom not

the family like his father had done after his grandfather's death.

Dalisu: "If Ngcebo doesn't want us to visit his wife. We will do that but we will need to have a meeting with him and his wife to address this as it is said they do things as they please. We will have to address that."

The elders looked amongst themselves and they nodded in support of what he was saying. "Can that meeting happen after my wedding?" Banele requested knowing without a guess that this meeting was going to anger Ngcebo because everything that he'd done was for his family and he'd learnt a lot from that. He knew Ngcebo was going to be angry and he didn't want him to not attend his wedding possibly because he could not if they push him.

Dalisu: "Alright. It will happen after your wedding."

Banele: "Thank you."

Dalису: "Okay, I think the meeting is over now unless if someone has something to add." He announced and looked around them, he stopped at his wife who hadn't say much on the meeting. Thembelihle shook her head... Nobody was found to have something they wanted to say. "We can proceed without plans as we have put them for the day." He freed them and they all stood up...

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"And you, husband, when are you going to see the Doctor?" Nandipha asked Ngcebo and she smoothed his face with her hands as if he was a baby. Ngcebo laughed and he allowed her to touch him the way she wished as she was seated on the hospital bed now wearing the night dress that Nontobeko had suggested she must not leave behind just in case they admit her.

Ngcebo: "I should also have my part of the pregnancy checked up?"

Nandipha giggled, looking at his face now made her feel so much alive. "No, but you have flue and you need to get medicine." She told him.

Ngcebo: "Ay, I may be a little modern but I am still a Zulu man and we don't cure flue with modern medication. Siphuza ibozane, sichathe, sphalaze, sgqume uphele nya umkhuhlane!"  
(We use traditional methods)

Nandipha laughed. "Okay, and how did you get the flue then because I left you without any flue?" She asked placing her hands on her belly.

Ngcebo: "I think it came with the rain and driving around at night looking for you. I was shuttered and I just wanted to find you. I knew I was losing it when I shouted at Thando for crying for you and I left her alone. Nontobeko was the one who woke up and took her but she

didn't calm down still. I didn't want to imagine how life was going to be for us if you didn't return."

Nandipha: "I am back now and we will be alright. I will be fine and our sons will be fine. I believe it's Lethukuthula who kept waking me in my dream when I was heavily sleeping and even the last time when I was in the hospital I was woken up by the same voice. And after a few minutes they came by to take you but I refused. I just don't know if you were even going to find us if I wasn't woken up by him. I don't know-"

Ngcebo: "Hey, it's okay, now and tomorrow, we'll go home and just like we told him to protect his siblings we will do the ritual before you leave."

Nandipha: "I will leave?" she checked because she didn't expect that Ngcebo was going to support that she will leave.



Ngcebo: “Yes, if you have finished everything, you’ll have to see Langalibalele and see if you don’t need any cleansing or whatever that’s needed. We will have that small ritual and you’ll leave with the girls. I will follow you behind after the wedding if there won’t be anything that will need me around. And I won’t leave without seeing those two men.”

Nandipha: “Okay, it would have been nice if I cook for them. That second guy, I didn’t even get his name. Yho! He talks too much and I am sure he loves food.”

Ngcebo laughed. “Oh! So, men who talk too much love food?” He asked.

Nandipha: “Yes, they love food, babe.”

Ngcebo: “Don’t worry if they come before the wedding I will tell them to stick around and if they come after, I will take them to the lodge for food as well.”

Nandipha: “Oh! That’s nice and if they want a car? Awu, phela their van can break down anytime. I didn’t trust it too.”

Ngcebo: “It’s fine, I will buy the car if they want it.”

Nandipha: “Ha! Really?”

Ngcebo: “Yes, do you understand what they did, sdudla-”

Nandipha: “E.eh! awuyeke ukungbiza ngesdudla yazi Ngcebo.” (Stop calling like that) she requested seriously and Ngcebo laughed.

Ngcebo: “I like it but as I was saying, if they didn’t get to you even if we did find you, what we were going to find were your corpse or ashes I don’t know what they were going to do to you but there’s nothing that can amount to your life but what they want I will give it to them.”

Nandipha: “Alright, you’ll drive home now?”

Ngcebo: "They're discharging you I can't leave. I will leave you to rest now and I will go book for the night. I told them the girls and I, won't leave. We will leave with you tomorrow because driving back will be a waste."

Nandipha: "Alright, please, bring food for me when you come back."

Ngcebo stood on his feet. "I will." He promised and kissed her goodbye...

"Did you tell them why they shouldn't come here?" Ngcebo asked Dalingcebo, Ngcebo was standing by Dalingcebo's car that arrived first in the hospital. Ngcebo arrived back for their arrival first. He was no longer in the hospital when Dalingcebo called him to tell him he was closer to the hospital.

Dalingcebo: "I called Bhuti Mlamuli and informed him that Nandipha was back. I told him how she came back and I told him that you

said they shouldn't come to the hospital because the Doctor said she didn't need stress and you were afraid they were going to ask questions and he understood. He said he will tell them." he briefed him.

Ngcebo: "Thank you."

Dalingcebo: "They haven't called you?"

Ngcebo: "No, they haven't but Banele called me. I am asking you told them the reason they shouldn't come because he told me they're angry that I said they shouldn't come and even after Bhuti Mlamuli explained it to them."

Dalingcebo: "Don't mind that. Palesa is also coming."

Ngcebo: "Hawu, she wasn't driving with the two of you?"

Dalingcebo chuckled. "No, I have already promised Qalokuhle that I was going to drive with her and she was going to take the front

seat. So, Palesa said she was going to drive her car after she'd agreed to drive with me."

Ngcebo laughed. "Why does it seem like you'll have women problem? Did they even greet each other?" He asked and looked at Qalokuhle who was sleeping inside her father's car on the front seat.

Dalingcebo: "I didn't hear the greetings."

Ngcebo: "Here's her car." He informed Dalingcebo as he was seeing Palesa's car.

Dalingcebo turned his head to look at the car. He moved away from his brother as Palesa had found a parking spot. "Hhololo!" he whistled.

"Where are the girls' vehicle?" Dalingcebo asked Palesa and he took the plastic bag that Palesa had on her hand along with her handbag as she was closing her vehicle. Dalingcebo was standing behind her.

Palesa: "I didn't see them around."

Dalingcebo: "Where's your luggage?" he asked as he wasn't seeing it as he was picking through the windows of her car. They walked away, side by side.

Palesa: "I left it at the lodge that's where I have booked because I didn't want to sleep in Nandipha's house while she wasn't there. I have planned that I was going to be around for the girls during the day only."

Dalingcebo: "No! You won't sleep at the lodge but you'll sleep in my house. You are not a guest that you can just sleep at the lodge."

She looked at him as how he said that to her stirred something in her but she tried to suppress it. "No, what about your daughter? I don't really want her to know we are dating just like my son doesn't know." She turned him down.

Dalingcebo: "My daughter is with her mother

and I think they'll drive to her mother's house after they've seen Nandipha. I don't know but if she's driving back Kwa Nongoma she'll sleep in Ngcebo's house with her mother."

Palesa: "Okay, I will sleep in your house and see the little Qhawe." She said looking at Ngcebo now who they were approaching and he was looking at them. She figured it was just their thing to stare with interest because his younger brother was just there in the kitchen looking at them. But either way it didn't make her feel comfortable.

Dalingcebo: "That's a good thing. You weren't stubborn about it."

Palesa: "I can still be."

Dalingcebo chuckled and he gave her a short gaze. "Don't think about it."

Ngcebo: "I didn't know you are coming, how are you?"

Palesa: "It would have been bad if I didn't come. I am fine and how are you? And I don't even have to ask you now, do I?"

Ngcebo: "Well, you have to and I still need a favour from you."

Palesa: "Oh! What is it?"

Ngcebo: "I will tell you after you've seen your friend."

Palesa: "Let me go inside now because I know if the girls come by I won't even get time to hug her." she said taking the plastic bag from Dalingcebo as Ngcebo was busy laughing in support of what she was saying but...

"You love her now, don't you?" Ngcebo asked his brother who was looking at Palesa who was walking away after Ngcebo had told her how to get to Nandipha. They didn't follow her but they waited for the others.

Dalingcebo: "Why are you asking?" he looked at



him and didn't answer him.

Ngcebo: "I don't need a reason to ask."

Dalingcebo: "Don't act like a woman and ask such questions."

Ngcebo laughed as he was obviously dodging the question. "I don't think she's going in first because of the girls though. Does she feel threatened by ex-wife?" he asked and folded his lips.

Dalingcebo: "Ngcebo! Voetsek with your questions!" he swore and pushed his shoulder back. Ngcebo enjoyed the moment of laughing at him, he hadn't been doing much of that lately... They moved from the positions as they saw the viano parking. Dalingcebo headed to his car to take his daughter...

"I am happy to see you and where are you sleeping tonight because Rasta and the girls are sticking around until tomorrow?" Nandipha

asked Palesa who was standing on her feet with their hands holding each other. They were happy to see each other and the relief had rained in their hearts.

Palesa folded her lips. "I have booked into a lodge." She replied and she looked back at the door as Nandipha was giving her questioning eyes and the door was being opened. It was best for her to do so...

Nandipha: "My tornado!" she chanted and clapped hands as her girls budged inside the room running and laughing, none of them were sleeping. Nontobeko and the three brothers followed them behind with Dalingcebo holding sleeping Qalokuhle in his arms... Nandipha and the rest of the adults in the room were laughing as each of the girls were trying to climb the bed.

Ngcebo: "What are you doing?"

Similo: "Shiyagibela baba!" (We are climbing up,

dad)

Buhle: “Shishize phela! Baba!” (Help us, dad)

Others: “BABA!” they all screamed but without stopping to try their luck of climbing the bed. All of them were looking forward to sit with their mother.

Ngcebo: “You can’t all sit in this bed because it’s too small.”

Girls: “E.eh! Mama?”

Nontobeko: “Let your baby brothers sit with your mother and you’ll stand.” She tried to convince them as their mother was just laughing happily...

Girls: “E.eh! Mama!” they sulked now because they were deprived what they wanted the most. They all had their hands before their chests.

Nandipha: “Rasta, let me sit on the chair because they can’t sit on this bed with me. I

don't want them to cry now." She requested looking at Ngcebo.

Ngcebo pulled the chair that was empty as everyone was standing. "Please, unhook the drip, Nontobeko." Ngcebo requested and Nontobeko served. Ngcebo then held Nandipha helping her off the hospital bed.

Mntwana: "They're smiling now like they will get candy." He commented looking at the girls and they laughed with Dalingcebo.

Ngcebo: "Come stand before your mother then." He told them and they pushed one another forward until they were standing before their mother.

"Mama!" They called her in unison and they giggled as she was playing with their cheeks and others, their tummies.

Buhle: "Thando uthe yena, uthe neke esabuya loya mama." (Thando said, you said that

woman will not come back)

Similo and the others nodded. “Uthe futhi yena ukugadile thina shavele samcapuza sonke.”

(She also said, she watched over you and we all kissed her.) she narrated and the adults laughed. Nandipha looked at Thando laughing as she recalled how she fell asleep...

Nandipha: “Let your mama kiss you now because I have missed you a lot.”

Buhle: “Ubushikhumbule kakhulu, mama?” (You missed us a lot?)

Nandipha: “Yes.”

Ntokomalo: “Kakhulu kangakanani pho?” (How much?)

Nandipha: “Like the sea!”

“HAAA! ULWANDE LASHETHEKWINI!” (Wow! The Durban’s sea) The chanted in surprise and they clapped hands delightedly.

Ngcebo: "I know what will follow that." He guessed.

Similo: "Baba, shoya oLwandlwe angithi?" (Dad, we will go to the sea, right?)

Ngcebo: "I said it!" he said and they laughed...  
Nandipha held her babies' faces one by one and she gave them big kisses...

"What I wanted to speak to you about is that tomorrow or Friday, Nandipha and the girls will leave heading back to our house in Sandton."

Ngcebo introduced his request to Palesa, he was standing with her next to her car. They were all leaving Nandipha in the hospital. The girls had been buckled inside the viano and Palesa was leaving along with his brothers and Nontobeko but Nontobeko was still inside with Nandipha.

Palesa: "Okay, I will be leaving too then."

Ngcebo: "I ask that you stay with them in our

house and by that I mean, sleep with her on the same bed because of the nightmares that I don't know if they'll stop or they'll continue. If she's having them and you wake her, she doesn't wake up you'll pour a little water on her face to wake her. I know that I might be asking too much but her mother and brother are not here-

Palesa: "Don't be silly Ngcebo, she's my friend and I will do anything for her just like she has done for me. Nothing is too much."

Ngcebo: "Thank you, please ensure that she's not stressed and unhappy. I will call her mother just now and tell her everything that happened before she can call her and she'll get a surprise. I am doing everything I can to ensure that our babies' heartbeats stable back to normal."

Palesa: "Alright, I can do that until you come back."

Ngcebo: “Thank you. Drive safe.” He said and they parted ways. Ngcebo went to Nontobeko’s car as she was buckling Qalokuhle. “Nontobeko, thank you for coming and everything you did for us for the past difficult days.” He said to her as he’d managed to grasp her attention.

Nontobeko: “It’s been difficult but we’re grateful for one thing, she’s back.”

Ngcebo: “Yes, I will call your mother and please, call when you get home.”

Nontobeko: “I will and we will see you at the wedding because we will be coming for it with mama and Qalokuhle.”

Ngcebo: “Alright, drive safe.” He moved away from her after they’ve wished each other goodbye... When he reached his brothers he didn’t say much but they shared a brotherly hug....

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE



## S6 == EPISODE 33

“Ngcebo, please take her because she doesn’t want to sleep.” Nontobeko said to Ngcebo as she was carrying crying Thando. Nontobeko had woken up when she heard the baby cry and she was puzzled to see Thando crying alone inside her father’s bedroom. She’d looked around for Ngcebo and she saw him seated alone in the dark lounge and even when she was inside the lounge with his daughter. Ngcebo didn’t even raise his head to look at her...

But now, as Nontobeko was speaking, he raised his head and he looked back. “Why did you take her because she was going to keep quiet eventually?” He mumbled the question and he stood on his feet.

Nontobeko: "You can't neglect the children because you're hurting."

Ngcebo: "She wants her mother and I don't have her. She was going to fall asleep eventually." He said and took Thando from Nontobeko, he took the cup of milk that she had in her hand. He sat down with his crying daughter.

Nontobeko: "I understand, how you are feeling Ngcebo and you have every right to feel this way but you're the lion to these little cubs and your lioness had been snatched from you. Don't let pain cause damage to your children but just look at them and see their mother. You'll be able to live. I always cried that if God had spared my daughter I was going to be able to live because I was going to see my husband in her. Be positive, Nandipha will come back to you and the two of you will be happy again with your children." She shared the words that she'd been wanting to share with him but she never

got a chance. And now, there was no better chance for her to say this.

Ngcebo: "Thank you." he said politely and Nontobeko left him with Thando. Ngcebo looked at Thando. "Why are you crying? Selishile nezwi uyakhala. Why don't you sleep because your sisters are sleeping?" he asked her while he was busy wiping her face with the pyjama top that he'd taken off her body.

Thando: "Nifuna, umama!" (I want, mom) she cried and neglected her head on her father's chest. She held on tight to his vest that he was wearing.

Ngcebo sighed. "I want her back too princess." He said softly and he lifted her cup up. "Your mother won't be happy if you don't drink your milk and sleep." He told her sending the milk to Thando's mouth and she drank it...

"Oh! She will sleep in my chest tonight,

definitely!” Ngcebo exclaimed as Thando was crying and holding on tightly to Ngcebo who was trying to put her on her cot along with her sisters who were peacefully sleeping. “Okay! You’ll sleep with me. Okay!” He said to her and he moved out of the room with her. As he was moving to his bedroom with Thando, he heard the car hooting and he was certain that the hoot was on his gate. “Who’s that?” He asked out loud and he moved to the window to check who was there. He saw a man standing by the white van and his hand was inside the van probably pressing the hooter. Ngcebo walked to the couch with Thando and he forced her down the couch.

Ngcebo: “I will come back Thando! It’s dark outside and don’t follow me because the animal will get you.” he threatened her pointing his forefinger to her because she had to get how serious he was. He rushed to the front door

after he'd taken the keys of the gate as the hooter wasn't stopping...

His heart pumped harder and he closed his eyes, it could be possible ghosts and spirits were playing tricks with him. When he opened his eyes, he was still seeing his wife holding on to the gate with two men standing behind her. He could see her clearly as the light of his premises clearly reached the gate...

"NANDIPHA!" He called out her name with a thick emotional voice that was generated by the heavy chest pains that he was feeling. He didn't open the gate but he began by touching the hands that were holding the gate.

Nandipha: "I am half naked Ngcebo and tired." she told him weakly.

"YES!" He exclaimed recognising that she wasn't dressed up fully and that rag she had around her waist was nothing. Who could have

done this to her? If it was really that woman. Why did she have to take her clothes off? Nandipha couldn't have left the house half naked. His wife!

He moved to the gate and he opened the 'small' gate as he was certain the men wouldn't drive in. But no, he wasn't! He didn't even take his time to look at the men as he was outside the gate but he rushed to hold Nandipha away from the gate. His hands held her cold sticky arms and even though she had a fetid rusty odour that didn't stop him from pulling her closer to him. And she held on tight to his waist. "Madoda! Let's go inside. I don't know if you'll want to drive in for shelter or you're passing. I want to know what happened as well and you can have drinks while we talk." he recognised the two men now that he was holding his wife and feeling her in flesh.

Nsimbi: "Nkosana, we are rushing somewhere

and we can't stay to narrate what had happened but now, that we've seen where you live. We will come back and it won't take even two days for us to come back." he informed Ngcebo opening the door of their van as his partner had already moved to the passenger side of the van encouraging him that they needed to leave...

Ngcebo: "Okay, go, but don't make the mistake of not coming back."

"WE WON'T!" The two men replied in unison. Nsimbi drove their shabby van away from Ngcebo's gates...

"You're back!" Ngcebo exclaimed and moved with Nandipha who was shivering, she was still holding on tightly to Ngcebo. He locked the gate while the woman was still holding on to him and the relief smile crept on his face as he was joyful about this night!

Nandipha: "Why is she awake and crying? How

can my daughter see me like this? It's enough that two of them saw me being taken away from them. Ngcebo. She's not even dressed fully." she asked about Thando who was standing by the door that her father had left opened. She was still crying. But her cry lowered now...

Ngcebo: "She's been crying for you and don't worry she will not even mind that you are like this because she will be happy you are here."

Nandipha: "My feet are hurting. I have cuts from walking barefoot."

Ngcebo stopped walking with her and he lifted her off the ground... It wasn't raining this side as it'd been raining where Nandipha was coming from.

Thando: "Mama!" she exclaimed seeing her face even though she was up in her father's arms. Thando could see her mother's face



clearly.

Ngcebo: “Didn’t I say don’t come out.”

Thando shook her head. “Aniphumanga baba, buka! Nimi emnyango.” (I didn’t go out of the house. Look, I am standing at the door.)

Nandipha: “Thando! Ngcebo, I can’t even hug her like this. I stink all that creeps and I haven’t bath in days.”

Ngcebo: “Yes, I will put you in the bathroom. Your mother will have to bath now.” he told Thando who was following them behind. “Do you want to eat? I will make food for you while you bath.” He asked putting her down.

Nandipha sat down on the bathroom bench and she looked at Ngcebo and her daughter getting busy fixing the bathing materials for her.

Thando was doing everything that her father was telling her to get and do.

Nandipha: “I have eaten something light but I

am hungry.”

Ngcebo: “Alright, you’ll bath now and I will prepare food for you. Thando come and take your mother’s gown and clean towels.” He looked at his daughter who was looking at her mother with concerned eyes as Nandipha was getting up from the bench. Thando’s attention moved to her father and they left...

“Hah!” Thando exclaimed at the folded gown and towel landed on her tiny hands and they laughed with her father as she almost dropped it.

Ngcebo: “Is it heavy?”

Thando: “Cha, baba, niyahamba manje neke nibuye kuwe kodwa. Mina nizohlala no mama wami manje.” (I am leaving now but I won’t come back to you. I will stay with mom now.) she told her father as she slowly left her parents’ bedroom careful not to drop the towels.

Ngcebo chuckled and shook his head. "One can never say she's been clingy just a few minutes ago and now, she doesn't want to follow me. I can't even begin to say how much grateful I am that their mother is back." he spoke to himself as he was moving to the kitchen. He didn't want to wake his brother and Nontobeko, they were going to see her in the morning. He had to talk to her first and see what shape was she in, he didn't want her to be hounded with questions before she could even rest. They were going to be happy and relieved to see her but they were also going to want to know what happened as much he wanted to know everything that happened...

"Nana, go and open that cupboard and take my shampoo. I will show you." Nandipha said to Thando who was seated on the bench looking at her mother while she was talking to her telling her how much they cried for her.

Thando: “Niyayazi mina! Inomyama ino mhlophe.” (I know it) she informed her mother quickly and she turned to achieve the mission of getting off the bench. When she was done, she rushed to the cupboard for her mom’s shampoo. She took the shampoo and she rushed to give it to her mother.

Nandipha: “Why are you awake because every child is sleeping?”

Thando: “Benifuna wena mina, mama.” (I wanted you, mom)

Nandipha: “Sengibuyile ke manje uzolala?” (I am back now you’ll sleep?)

Thando: “Cha, zokugada mina ukuthi bengakuthathi futhi.” (I will watch over you so that they won’t take you again)

Nandipha smiled as that made her feel warm, she’d been through hell and all she wished was to hear their voices and see their father’s face.

She was back home to them now. “They won’t take your mother again because God took the bad woman and she will never return.” She promised her looking at her, Thando smiled warmly with her eyes laying on her mother’s face as she washed her head while she was still seated on the tub...

“Ain’t the water cold now? Look at this one she’s sleepy over here.” Ngcebo lifted Thando from the bench as he could see that she was close to falling. Ngcebo sat down on the bench with Thando and he looked at Nandipha. “You scared me, Nandipha. You scared us, all.” He told her honestly.

Nandipha: “Do you think if you answered your phone you were going to be less scared?” she asked and removed the stopper to drain the water. She had her mind on rinsing her body and hair then she would be done.

Ngcebo: “I didn’t have the phone with me.”

Nandipha: “And yet you knew what situation we were faced with. I can’t believe I almost died with my children for things I don’t know. We nearly died, dying for your family.” She looked at him and her lip trembled, she knew the reason she was going to be sacrificed clearly. The foolish abductors had told her, threatened her and told her everything they were going to do to her the first day they woke her up with cold water. Some of the things that the Sangoma had said to her didn’t make sense but she clearly knew why she almost died. She just didn’t know why her and her sons!

Ngcebo: “Sthandwa sami, look, I know that I was careless and wrong but I trusted the guard that I have hired. I didn’t know he would seek shelter where he couldn’t even see the gate. And I don’t want us to fight, Nandipha. You should eat and have some rest, early in the morning we will drive to the hospital so that

you'll go through a check-up." He said to her, his eyes looking at her skin as the water ran through her skin.

Nandipha: "I want to go. I want to go back to Sandton. I won't have my holidays here and I don't want our children to stay here for the rest of the December holidays."

Ngcebo: "Babe, there's Banele's wedding this weekend and you still have to see Langalibalele regarding everything that you've been through." He handed the towel over to her as she was standing up. He didn't hear a response from her but she concentrated on drying her body. "I will go put Thando down."

Nandipha: "She's sleeping now but just earlier she was telling me that she wasn't going to sleep she was going to watch over me so they wouldn't take me again." She told him as he was moving away.

Ngcebo laughed. “She helped because I was still up because she couldn’t sleep.” He commented and left the bathroom feeling the dullness in Nandipha but how could he even begin to blame her. He knew nothing about what he’d been through but all he could do was support her until she could get over everything that happened where she was. He laid Thando down and she didn’t protest this time around, she was dead sleeping...

“Nandipha!” Ngcebo called out Nandipha’s name as he couldn’t find her inside the bathroom and he’d checked for her in the bedroom and she wasn’t there.

“I am here!” She responded loudly as she heard him call out her name, she was seated on the dining table inside the kitchen having food that Ngcebo prepared. This food was what she wanted than other things...

Ngcebo: “I thought you’ll be moistening your



body after bathing.”

Nandipha: “I am hungrier than dry.”

Ngcebo sighed and sat next to her, he gazed at her as she was busy eating faster than she normally ate. They didn't give her food, he concluded without asking her because at this stage he didn't want to offend her. “I know and can see that you are not fine but how are the babies?” he asked.

Nandipha: “I don't know, Rasta.”

Ngcebo: “You're supposed to feel something Nandipha. You're the one carrying them it's not me and I am concern because you've been-”

Nandipha: “I don't know. We will know after the Doctor's appointment.” She replied and placed her hand on her mouth, she burped with her eyes closed.

Ngcebo: “Mmm.”

Nandipha: "You burp too, haa!" she made him aware and pulled the glass of water closer to her. She drank the water at once.

Ngcebo: "Yours is over the top."

Nandipha: "I am doing it for three people." She told him and Ngcebo chuckled. Nandipha got up from the chair with her empty plate and glass. She limped to the sink with her throbbing feet. She washed the utensils and when she turned Ngcebo was standing behind her. "You don't want to leave my sight, do you?"

Ngcebo: "Do you want me to leave your sight?"

Nandipha: "No." she replied and gave her hand to him, Ngcebo took her hand. They walked together to their bedroom in silence... "You want to ask me questions, aren't you?" she asked looking into his eyes, they were facing each other laying quietly on their bed.

Ngcebo: "I want you to tell me what happened

from the time they took you and why were you on the road without seeking shelter somewhere. I understand why you took the children.”

Nandipha: “You do, really?”

Ngcebo: “Yes, they didn’t listen to you when you told them the children were in danger and you were told the message was for you, meaning you had to figure out what to do to protect the children. I only wish that you could have taken them and drive to a neighbour you know or down to Langalibalele because you would have been safer there.”

Nandipha: “I didn’t even think of that because I didn’t know the danger was a thing or person but I strongly believed it was a person. In my mind, I had to get out of Nongoma as soon as I could and when I reach mama’ MaNtombela’s house I was going to call you again because my battery died. I was terrified and anything convincing that came into my mind, I took it and

acted on it.”

Ngcebo: “And they took you?”

Nandipha: “Yes, I was held up and tied like some sort of animal. I don’t even know what type of animal. That woman woke me with cold water whenever she felt like it not because they were giving me food but because they wanted to scare me by telling me what they were going to do. I would watch them as they eat and talk to me about what your grandfather did to the woman’s family which was the reason that she’d always wanted to pay revenge.”

Ngcebo swallowed hard as he looked at her tears fall off. “Why did they take you because you know nothing about this? Why didn’t they go after the elders of the family down to my father and grandfather’s children? Of which I am not even sure if they know what he did. Or they might know.” He asked without wiping her tears, he just wanted her to cry...

Nandipha: “They told me that I appeared when the Sangama was checking who they could use to destroy the kingdom and bring sorrow to them. And even Tuesday night before they left me, they woke me and told me that, they put me back to sleep...” she told Ngcebo every single detail of what happened from how scary the hut she was in was, how it smelt on her nose, how tired her body was, how she would scream and they would just laugh at her. How she woke up to them Monday morning and looked them sleeping in sponges and covered in blankets while she was hanging, standing on her feet, feeling the cold that was coming from the forest. How painful it was to look at them eat and her stomach would scream but they wouldn’t even give her one piece of chicken. She told him everything down to how she was rescued...

“It’s okay! I am here now and there’s nobody

who'll take you ever-" He promised her but he couldn't even finish up his words to her. He was seated up on his lap now with Nandipha hidden under his wing and he was holding her tightly as Nandipha cried, vulnerably without stopping and Ngcebo didn't tell her that she needed to stop crying. It was the best way if she did...

Ngcebo: "Can you do something for me?" he requested softly as Nandipha wasn't crying now but she was having hiccups. They've sat in silence for about 15 -30 minutes, but still in each other's arms. Ngcebo had been thinking deeply about what Nandipha had said to him and he was making up clues... Nandipha nodded in response. "I need you to keep this between us. I am talking about what this Sangoma said that they saw you when they were searching for something to use to destroy the kingdom. You'll tell Langelibalele and your mother but don't tell anyone else not even your

friend, Palesa.” He told her.

Nandipha: “Why?”

Ngcebo: “There might be a reason that nobody knows to why they took you. It might be you, personally or it might be our sons. There’s an importance they hold to the kingdom or even you, sthandwa sami and for your safety and our children’s safety because like I always tell you, not everyone has your best interest at heart. And they will ask questions to why were YOU taken for the kingdom to be destroyed. Do you understand that?”

Nandipha: “Yes, I understand and I won’t tell anyone.”

Ngcebo: “Those people are dead now and I am pretty sure Langalibalele would want to go there. We will obviously not tell the police they were killed but they fled in fear for their lives. We don’t have any other choice because those men

who saved you might go to jail for murder and that's not what I want."

Nandipha: "What will you give to them for saving us?" she looked at him.

Ngcebo: "Whatever they desire."

Nandipha: "And if they want your wife and children? They saw me naked-"

Ngcebo: "Ay! Tsk! Nandipha, man!" He cursed as he felt otherwise as he pushed back what she'd said. Nandipha laughed for the first time after a long while. "That's out of the table and they know that." He added.

Nandipha: "I am sleepy now but I want us to talk about what you went through. I want to know about the girls even though Thando had told me that 'Shakhala, shakhala, kakhulu'." She mimicked her and Ngcebo laughed.

Ngcebo: "You haven't been sleeping properly and so, let's get you to sleep and we will talk



about me, tomorrow.”

Nandipha: “This is not your way of telling me you don’t want to talk about it, now, isn’t?” she asked moving away from him as he was encouraging it.

Ngcebo: “No, babe but I want you to rest.”

Nandipha: “You didn’t tell me if I should tell them why that woman wanted revenge. Should I say it?” she asked looking at his face as he covered her.

Ngcebo: “Yes, you’ll tell them. If it was for me, nobody was going to ask you any questions and I think it will be much better if I will be there if someone visits. I can tell them and let it end there.” He told him what he was thinking about since Nandipha had returned because Dalingcebo had told him everything that was said after he left with Langalibalele and he told him what was said when children were brought

back. He told him because Ngcebo was the one who wanted to know what they said about the children.

Nandipha: “Okay, what happened between you and your family?” she asked curiously as she knew that he wouldn’t talk like this if nothing didn’t happen.

Ngcebo: “Nothing. Come.” he pulled her closer to cuddle her, to feel her presence in his arms. Ngcebo held her chin up and he placed his lips to rest on her lips. Nandipha accepted his lips and together they shared a tender kiss. Ngcebo darted his lips apart giving Nandipha unrestricted access to invite her tongue inside his mouth, she followed through and they made a tentative tongue contact. They giggled at their attempt and Ngcebo firstly locked his lips with Nandipha’s lower lips in between his. He swept the tip of his tongue on her lower lip and she moaned holding on tight to his arm. Ngcebo

pulled back because his intentions were not to make love to her but he missed her. Nandipha didn't allow him to pull back but she held his lips with hers forcing their kiss to prolong. She made a slow, circular motion with her tongue around his tongue. Ngcebo appreciated this moment and it was everything...

Nandipha "I love you."

Ngcebo: "I love you too, sdudla sami."

She giggled and reminded him that they haven't prayed together. Ngcebo got up with her and they prayed together...

"Hey! Nandipha! Nandipha! Wake up!" Ngcebo shook Nandipha who was screaming and pushing the blankets away from her, with her face looking as horrified as her nightmare was. But she wasn't waking up even though he was shaking her. He looked beside him and he took the glass of water he poured some on his hand

and he poured it on her face... Nandipha woke up immediately panting, she held her arms and looked at Ngcebo who was beside her. She cried allowing her sweat drenching body to rest on his chest.

Ngcebo: "It was just a bad dream because you've been through a traumatic experience. Don't cry like this." he told her without getting up to attend the knock that was on the door.

Nandipha: "I want to go!" she cried and Ngcebo held her tighter...

Dalingcebo: "Ngcebo, what's happening? Who's screaming?" he asked from the door and Mntwana pushed the door opened as he was with him behind the door. The three of them had woken up.

"Nandipha!" Nontobeko called out her name and she rushed to her still tying the belt of her gown. She smiled a little as she was seeing her.

“Nontobeko!” She moved away from Ngcebo and she hugged Nontobeko who had seated on the little available space of her bedside...

Dalingcebo: “When did she come back? Why didn’t you wake us?” he asked his brother who had his hand on his face. They were surprised to see her back with Ngcebo and it made sense that she was the one screaming.

Ngcebo got up from the bed and he left the room with his brothers after he’d checked the time was just after 5am. “Two men brought her here...” Ngcebo narrated to his brother what Nandipha had told him without telling them that she was the one they were going to use to destroy the kingdom and their sons. He trusted Mntwana and Dalingcebo but he just didn’t want to risk it.

Dalingcebo: “That woman!”

Mntwana: “But why did she take Nandipha not

the elders who were there?”

Ngcebo: “I don’t know about that.”

Dalingcebo: “I think it’s because she’s pregnant. Why did they?”

Mntwana: “Ey, I guess that doesn’t matter now but what matters is that she’s back and surely, Langalibalele will help her with the nightmares. She was screaming like it was real and I thought-”

Dalingcebo: “Yeah, that was extreme.”

Ngcebo: “I think I should drive her to the hospital now.”

Mntwana: “Now? Bhuti?”

Ngcebo: “Yes, I am worried about the babies because she’s been through – the babies – I have to drive now before it’s even too late.”

Dalingcebo: “You’re right but what about the girls?”

Ngcebo: “Thando saw their mother and she’ll tell them, and I will get them to speak to her. She won’t forgive herself if something can happen to our babies and I wouldn’t forgive myself either. I have to go with her.” He stamped getting up from the couch...

“Nandipha, get up now. We need to go to the hospital.” Ngcebo announced stepping inside the bedroom where Nandipha was calm now speaking to Nontobeko... Ngcebo rushed to the wardrobe.

Nandipha: “Why are we going to the hospital now?”

Ngcebo: “You need the Doctor. You’re pregnant and these-”

Nandipha: “I haven’t even seen the girls, Ngcebo.”

Ngcebo: “You’ve been in danger and you don’t even know what’s happening with the two

babies you're carrying. You'll see the girls but we need the Doctor to ensure that the babies are in shape. And you get your feet bandaged and get some ointment and medication."

Nandipha: "Ngcebo-"

Nontobeko: "He's right, Nandipha. Just get up now. We will talk with the girls and if they happen to admit you, we will bring them. Get up!" She got up first and she didn't leave, she waited for her to do the same. Nandipha got up from the bed feeling the tiredness of her body especially her arms and feet... She left the bedroom with Nontobeko as she headed to the bathroom...

"How's she? Should we worry?" Ngcebo asked the Doctor after she'd requested to speak with Ngcebo first before she could brief them together. She sent Nandipha to the other Doctor for her feet and other check-ups.



The Doctor sighed. "You need to ensure that nothing worries your wife going forward. I think you know that the baby feels the mother's stress from the womb and your wife's BP is very high. Her pregnancy at this stage is not healthy and I am afraid the babies are in danger but you can avoid things from going wrong by ensuring she's not stressed and she gets enough rest. She must be out of any dangers and anything that can upset her. What we need at this stage is just positive energy around her otherwise I don't know what can happen because the babies' heartbeats are not what they should be." She briefed her. Ngcebo hissed and placed his hands on his face, he closed his eyes. "But don't stress yourself just support her and ensure she's happy not sad. I know it can be difficult as you've said she's been kidnapped but you'll have to try, prince."

Ngcebo: "We will tell her all this?"

Doctor: "We don't have to tell her every detail because she'll stress, it's normal for mothers to stress about their unhealthy pregnancies but she must know that she needs to keep away from any stress."

Ngcebo: "Okay, thank you, Doctor."

Doctor: "We can go check her on the other side." She showed him the way and they walked together to get to Nandipha... The time was just after 8:30 am...

"We will just keep her for the night and she can leave tomorrow. I think it will be best that we keep her under observation taking into consideration her pregnancy report that the Doctor gave to me." the second Doctor told Ngcebo who was inside the Doctor's office with the first Doctor. Nandipha was laying on the examination table and they've bandaged her feet.

Nandipha: “Are my babies in danger?” she asked sitting up straight. The Doctor who’d examined her pregnancy moved closer to her and they briefed Nandipha as they’ve decided with Ngcebo... Nandipha agreed to being admitted and they moved her according to how Ngcebo requested...

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Palesa sighed as she’d reached Ngcebo’s house. She’d asked for three days’ leave from work but she didn’t drive down with her son. She left him with her father. She couldn’t just stay in Johannesburg but she wanted to be closer to Nandipha’s house until she was found... She got off her car and she walked back to the gate to close it. She rammed her keys on the pocket of her white knee length flare skirt that she had with a blue vest and brown sandals... She marched back and she spotted Dalingcebo’s car with the other car she didn’t

know and the viano of Ngcebo and Nandipha.
She moved to the kitchen side.

“Come in.” Nontobeko responded to the knock.

Palesa opened the door and her eyes set on Nontobeko that she didn't expect would be inside the house because Dalingcebo never told her she was around. She closed the door behind her. “Sawubona.” She greeted her.

Nontobeko looked at her, screening her and she figured what she could see that she was Nandipha's friend, the one who'd been on the newspaper with Dalingcebo. “Yebo, unjani?” She asked coolly.

Palesa: “I am fine and how are you?”

Nontobeko: “I am fine.”

Palesa: “I am Palesa-”

Nontobeko: “I know who you are and I know you know who I am. I see no need for the

introductions.” She told her removing the apron from her waist as she’d finished packing the dishes. They were going to leave for the hospital.

Palesa: “Oh! Is Ngcebo around or Nandipha’s children?”

Nontobeko: “No, he’s not around.” She replied and moved out of the kitchen without any understanding to why she was feeling this way as she was seeing Palesa because she was certain that she had no problem with her.

Dalingcebo: “Are you ready that we can leave? The girls are all, ready.”

Nontobeko: “Yeah, your girlfriend is in the kitchen.” She told him without standing but she passed him with his younger brother who was behind him.

Mntwana: “Girlfriend?”

Dalingcebo: “Thula wena emva kwami.” (Just

shut up!) he said and Mntwana laughed and he followed him. Dalingcebo marched to the kitchen wondering about Nontobeko who'd given him an otherwise attitude? "Hey, over there. You've arrived and you didn't call me to tell me you are closer." He greeted Palesa who was standing by the sink with her eyes wondering. But she raised her head as soon as she heard Dalingcebo's voice.

Dalingcebo: "You look lost in your thoughts." He commented the obvious and he took her right hand while looking at her eyes that were on his. He pulled her to his chest into a hug but she didn't hold him for a while she only did as Dalingcebo wasn't letting her go. "You can't talk now."

Palesa: "I was just thinking."

Dalingcebo: "About?" he pulled away and held her face.

Palesa placed her hands on his hands. “Your brother is here.” She made him aware as she suspected that he was going to kiss her now. She knew he would and she didn’t want him to do that.

Dalingcebo: “Lokshion biskop, vele?” he asked Mntwana who was obviously looking at them while eating the apple he took on the fridge.

Mntwana: “No, but I am washing my eyes.”

Dalingcebo: “Tsk! Uyacasula Mntwana! Let’s go, we are driving to the hospital now with the girls because their mother is there.” he said holding her hand while Mntwana was laughing at him for what he said about him.

“REALLY! AND YOU DIDN’T TELL ME!” She delightedly asked and she was consumed with happiness within seconds as she felt the peace.

Dalingcebo: “Look at your face, you’re happier about Nandipha but you didn’t react like this

when you saw my face.” He said pulling her away and they used the kitchen exit to leave the house.

Palesa giggled freely. “Don’t be silly I was worried about my girl. And why didn’t you tell me your wife is here?” She asked looking at him.

“Ex-wife and I want to kiss you.” he said, taking her by surprise he kissed her...

“Qalokuhle is no longer driving with you?”

Nontobeko asked Dalingcebo who was heading to his car with Palesa. He’d told her he was driving with him... Nontobeko was going to drive with Mntwana and the girls on the viano.

They’ve packed the girls and Qalokuhle was waiting for her father.

Dalingcebo: “She’s driving with me. Come, Qalokuhle.” He said and his daughter moved away from her mother. Nontobeko moved to the passenger seat as Mntwana was seated on

the driver seat.

Palesa: "I will go to my car."

Dalingcebo: "I said you're driving with me." he said taking his daughter's hand.

Qalokuhle: "Baba, you said I will seat with you on the front seat."

Palesa: "I don't want to intrude I know where The Bay hospital is." She said and walked to her car without waiting for Dalingcebo to comment...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 32

"It didn't go well, right?" Candice asked Banele who'd just entered the house with Ngcebo looking rather pissed off and he didn't even greet them as they were seated on the lounge

with, Dalingcebo, Mntwana, Nontobeko and Candice. Candice drove to Ngcebo's house because she knew her husband was going to come to his house and they were going to leave together for their house. She was present on the prayer that was in Ngcebo's house in the morning but she didn't stay because there were number of things that she needed to do for her wedding. Nkosazana was the one who stayed with Nontobeko and the girls after the prayer... Banele sighed and sat next to his wife, he closed his eyes shortly before answering them.

Dalingcebo: "Banele, tell us what happened. Do you know how difficult it was to get the girls to sleep tonight? I think we're running out of time."

Nontobeko: "They really want their mother back and I did say a day was going to be enough for them to be distracted."

Banele: "I had to stop him from driving forward because we have been driving and asking but

we were getting nothing. Bhuti' Mlamuli called and told us that a woman from our nearby village was seen stepping inside that TAZZ we've been looking for."

Dalingcebo: "Yes, and there was no one there in that woman's house. I was with the second group of men who were sent out."

Nontobeko: "Ngcebo wanted to drive where?"

Banele: "Ongoye. It was too late and I didn't want us to drive there at night. I was advised we shouldn't put our lives in danger."

Candice: "You did a good thing, babe. The children were also crying for their father. Your brother may be upset now but you did a good thing."

Dalingcebo: "Candice is right because Ngcebo wasn't going to stop."

Nontobeko: "What should happen now?"

Banele: "I don't know."

Dalingcebo: "I think we have to wait for the people we left in that woman's house. They say she's MaKhumalo and it turned out she's the same woman whom we have had a quarrel with when we fought with her son and the friends that he was with. Do you remember that?"

Banele: "Hawu! That old hag!"

Dalingcebo: "Yes! We really don't know why she would have done that and it's clear that it's her because she's the only person who was said to be taken by a TAZZ in the evening I think we were back from the wedding by then."

Banele: "Did you tell the police?"

Dalingcebo: "Yes, they promised to drive to the Cape to look for her son because it is said that he works there now and his mother lives with his son but the boy went to his mother for the holidays."

Banele: "Go and tell Ngcebo then bhuti. He will feel at ease maybe."

Nontobeko: "Your brother is right. Mama was also relieved after I have told her about this information and that will happen for Ngcebo." She encouraged looking at him, he was seated opposite the couch he was on.

Dalingcebo: "Yeah! You'll drive safe home, Banele."

Banele: "Sho, bafo." He said standing up from the couch holding Candice's hand and she got up after him. They said goodbyes to Nontobeko.

Nontobeko: "Hey, you're heading out without taking your husband's food. Are you going to cook for him in the house?" she reminded Candice.

Candice: "Heck! Thank you." she pulled Banele to the kitchen. "How tired are you? You should get a bath before heading to bed." she asked

him.

Banele: “Eish, I am tired and I know that I will collapse. Did you finish everything for the wedding preparations?”

Candice took food meant for Banele. “Yes, I have done everything from my part and mama said I shouldn’t worry about the rest.” She replied and they followed each other to the kitchen door to leave.

Banele: “That’s a good thing and your mother, they’re ready?”

Candice: “Yes, but she didn’t like that the wedding will proceed while your brother’s wife is missing. I also don’t like it.”

Banele: “I know but stopping the wedding is against culture.” He reminded her and he allowed her to take the driver’s seat.

Candice: “I told her that.” She assured him and she drove out of the premises...

“Thando! Have your milk!” Ngcebo shouted at Thando who was awake and crying. He’d taken her from their room because she was crying.

Thando: “NIFUNA UMAMA!” (I want mama)

Ngcebo: “WHERE SHOULD I GET YOUR MOTHER HUH? DO YOU SEE YOUR MOTHER HERE. SHE’S NOT HERE!” He snapped at his daughter who was crying and asking for her mother that he couldn’t provide... Thando screamed louder and she neglected her little face on her mother’s pillow. She rubbed her eyes. Ngcebo looked at her as she was still crying. He clicked his tongue and got from the bed, he left his daughter alone crying...

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They finally reached the hut where Nandipha’s voice was coming from but she’d stopped screaming now. “Hheyi, hheyi, mthaka! I am not setting foot in that shady hut. There’s witchcraft

going on there you don't even have to crack your head with that. Nsimbi let's leave this place before we even die. I don't die but I only kill." The second hitman told his partner clearly as he took a step back convincing himself that he wasn't getting any closer.

Nsimbi: "Coward! I will go there and you'll stay here but don't sleep. Be on the lookout for someone who might come." He instructed and his partner nodded his head... Nsimbi then mapped his gun forward with his fingers relaxing on the trigger, ready to click on it should anything happen... He could hear the woman screaming 'Ngcebo' once again but now, she sounded weaker.

Nsimbi: "Fool! The silly door is not locked." He mocked and kicked the door opened and from outside he heard the coldest gasp of the woman. "Is it safe to come inside? I don't mean to harm you." He checked first as he'd seen the



creepiness of this hut. His blood turned cold with just one look.

Nandipha: “YES! YES! I AM ALONE!” she said quickly after she’d hesitated for a while... Maybe it was that ugly man and that old hag playing games with her. She thought this as she wasn’t hearing any word from the man she heard asking and she didn’t see the man stepping inside the hut. Oh! Lord, holly ghost! She was a fool to even feel hopeful.

Nsimbi inhaled deeply, as if he was inhaling strength and braveness. He budged inside the hut, he widened his eyes seeing the half-naked pregnant woman. The candles were not too bright but he could see her. And he recognised she was not just any woman but this was...

Nandipha: “Please, help me. They’ve adapted me here and they will kill me, they’ve left the hut and on their return they will begin the sacrifice.” She spoke faster, pleading with the man that

was looking at her astonished. She didn't understand if he was astonished to see her half naked or he was astonished because he might be recognising her or he was astonished of this hut and the condition that she was forced to remain in.

Nsimbi: "Yes, yes, nkosazana! You're our Prince's wife. I will help you." he said fast, forcing his gun at the back of his pants. He looked around with his heart racing and his palms sweating. He couldn't understand how did the prince's wife end up here. But he was certain he was going to help her. He took the machete and he slid cut the ropes that were around her wrists... Nandipha cried in agony as her heavy arms were finally feeling the freedom! She was breathing heavily as she looked at Nsimbi who was looking around the hut.

Nsimbi: "Where are your clothes?"

Nandipha: "They burnt them. Please, let's run! I

don't care about my nakedness I just want to get out of here." she pleaded and Nsimbi moved from his position to get to Nandipha who didn't seem strong. He really wasn't sure how the prince was going to feel about them being around his naked wife. Maybe he was going to feel ashamed they've seen her or maybe not. But he had no other choice because he had no jacket on his body just his black clothes, pants and 'polo neck' that were suitable for his job...

Nsimbi: "Let me help you. You don't look strong."

"HHEYI, HHEYI, MTHAKA SHESHA LAPHO. ZITHINI KANTI?" Nsimbi's partner shouted for him from the outside... He wasn't just relaxing but he was looking around for anything, any person.

Nsimbi: "I AM COMING!" He shouted back and he moved out of the hut with Nandipha. His arm

was under her wing, supporting her as they walked out.

“JEHOVA! OLUNGILEYO!” Nsimbi’s partner stunned as he saw Nsimbi stepping out with a woman and he, not like Nsimbi, he didn’t know the woman.

Nsimbi: “It would be better if you can just move from there and help me here before her killers come back to kill us off. We can’t fight witchcraft with guns. COME!” He shouted and his partner ran from his position after he’d put his gun on his back. They supported Nandipha and walked away with her...

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“Walk faster we shouldn’t get to the hut before time. Today is the big night and nobody will stop us now.” The Sangoma told MaKhumalo as they were heading back to the hut after a successful ritual by the river.

MaKhumalo: "I am ready for this." she said boldly as she felt more anger fuelled up by the hate she had for the royal family. And her stoned heart couldn't wait to pump slower when their daughter in-law and grandchildren were butchered and she would scream louder without being heard.

Sangoma: "And we will part ways after this. You will not mention me to anyone. And even if you witness the royal family's sorrow you won't even call me to narrate to me about it. I will cut ties with you."

MaKhumalo: "Yes, I understand that clearly because I don't want to be caught. My grandson and son still needs me in their-" she stopped moving as the Sangoma had also stopped moving. They were facing the hut that was wide opened, it wasn't closed like they've left it closed.

MaKhumalo: "No!"

Sangoma: "Don't panic it might be the wind." He tried to be positive and he moved fleetly to get to the hut. MaKhumalo followed behind like she was his disciple. "HHAYI! HHAYI! HHAYI!" He screamed out of frustration as Nandipha wasn't where they've left her. When he looked back he had a gun pointed at him by his client. "What are you doing now, woman?" he asked without raising his hands up for a surrender.

MaKhumalo: "You've played me, mkhulu! I saw you've grown a soft spot for this girl and now, you have freed her without my knowledge."

Sangoma: "Are you out of your mind you, imbecile! I have no business caring for that girl. I want this money!"

MaKhumalo: "No, you are lying to me."

Sangoma: "Working with women has never turned out good. Agha! We should be running around the forest looking for her but you have

your gun on my face.” He said and turned for the machete because the gun was already with him on the bag that he was carrying. He wasn’t even scared that MaKhumalo was going to shoot him. He wasn’t frightened.

MaKhumalo: “That’s your way of fooling me!”

“Follow me, woman!” He shouted and left the hut without even giving an inch of worry that she was going to shoot him for real...

MaKhumalo followed...

MaKhumalo: “I told you I was supposed to stay with the girl.”

Sangoma: “Keep quiet woman!” he commanded and MaKhumalo listened...

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“Do you even remember where we came from? The lady is walking barefoot, Nsimbi.” Nsimbi’s partner asked him as they were still walking to reach the exit of the forest... Nandipha was

reacting to the stones and woods that were cutting painfully on her small feet. She could feel that she was weaker but she didn't want to slumber, she wanted to hold on tighter until she'd seen where they were taking her. There was a part of her that didn't want to trust them.

Nsimbi: "We are on the right path."

Nandipha: "Can you hear that?" she asked weakly as she could hear sounds that she couldn't conclude were of people or animals. The forest had the sound of its own and it was colder, harshly cold on her bare skin.

Nsimbi: "Fuck! I think we're followed. Let's run! Please, don't cry if you feel pain. I can tell we're near to the exit." he encouraged and they picked up their pace after Nandipha had promised not to cry... Nandipha looked up as her skin felt the drops of what she thought may be rain... A gunshot was fired but lucky for them they've reached the end of the forest, they ran to the



vehicle the two men have hidden...

“We should not let these goons go but we should kill them.” Nsimbi said to his partner as they were packing Nandipha at the back of the van.

“We should risk our lives now, should we?” he asked after they’ve put Nandipha inside and told her lie down. “There is a moon and the sky is beautifully cloudy. Should these clouds gather it will pour and be darker. Let’s run!” he tried to convince him.

Nsimbi: “Fool! This is the wife of the prince do you know what saving her means?” he asked taking his gun from his back without shading any care about the weather he was talking about. “And do you know what killing the people who’d abducted her would mean for us? That’s being double heroes!”

“That means more money for us. Let’s kill them

mthaka!” He encouraged his partner and they crawled forward with their heads forced down but not looking at the grass, looking forward...

Nsimbi: “Fool! Money for what! It means hectares of land and livestock that will last us for years. Not just money! Think for the future, fool.”

“WATCH OUT!” He warned as he’d seen two people running on the small road like idiots... Nsimbi concluded that these two knew nothing about running after their targets with guns. They were not even ducking but they were running like retards who didn’t know what they were doing...

Nsimbi: “Fire! They’re closer!” he commanded and the began firing as they were hiding by the closest trees...

Nandipha shivered inside the van and she drew her hands together to pray. “Lord! Please,

protect those men out there. Don't let them die dear God. I want to get to my family safe but I don't want them to die for me. I don't want to die either. I want to see my husband and my beautiful babies. My mom and my brother, my – please-” She pleaded and she cried without finishing her prayer as the gunshots went harder and they were terrifying her because she didn't know what was happening. She was scared to even take a single look of who was falling and who wasn't falling... She could imagine being dragged out of the vehicle and sent back to that creepy hut. And they would butcher her... She placed her hand on her belly as she felt the slow movements of her babies. She wondered how strong her children were in here, she'd been under a lot of stress and fear that had been her breath since Sunday. She hadn't eaten since Sunday. Her babies... She gasped as she heard the quietness as the gun shots had stopped and what followed that

quietness were the heavy footsteps accompanied by the sound of the rain that began pouring. The footsteps that crept her even further because they were going to decide her fate...

“Poor, thing! She’s shivering! God doesn’t die nkosazana and we’ve just played God. We are the Lazarus of this age.” The voice that Nandipha had heard just earlier penetrated through her ears and she sighed.

Nandipha: “Where are they? Did you kill them?” she asked sitting up as she was feeling the pleasing relief now that it wasn’t that man and woman!

Nsimbi: “Yes, we’ve killed them but we don’t know what to do with their bodies. We would have burnt them if it wasn’t raining.”

Nandipha: “I want to see their dead bodies!” she said quickly and she nodded supporting herself

that it would be best evidence to see their bodies because she was still not trusting these two fully... The two men had no problem with that. They took her out of their van and they took her to the two dead bodies that they've put on the side of the road with grass hiding them. They also went to their bodies after the shoot because they had to ensure they were dead.

Nsimbi: "You're satisfied, now, Nkosazana?" he asked and he shoot them twice again just for the fun of it and Nandipha screamed causing Nsimbi's partner to laugh as Nandipha was screaming. "Manners, fool!"

"Women are just cowards! What do we do with these bodies, nkosazana?" he asked looking at Nandipha who'd relaxed her shoulders now.

Nandipha: "Leave them there and please, take me home! I am begging you. You might be going somewhere-" she replied and turned away.

“We have a job to carry out nkosazana! And I am afraid, this job will mean we are playing devil now.” Nsimbi’s partner said fast before Nandipha could even finish what she was trying to say. They plodded to the van.

Nsimbi: “Fool! Do you have to talk this much?” he asked hitting the back of his head playfully and his partner raised his hands in surrender. “Don’t worry, Nkosazana, we will take you home to the prince. Where do you live?”

Nandipha: “I live Enyokeni.”

Nsimbi: “We will get you home. Come fool!” he pulled his partner away from the van and they headed to the front. “Do you want to compromise us with talking this much?” He asked his partner.

“She’s terrified and she doesn’t know what’s happening. I wouldn’t mind helping myself get warm with her in this cold rain. We stopped for

her and we saved her life, mthaka.” He said as Nsimbi drove away.

Nsimbi: “That’s a dead wish slima. Do you want the land and livestock or you want to die? Which is it, you want?”

“Awu, I was just joking! My eyes are on the price. We will be important men of the society now. We will own land and livestock. Ey, sihamba nedlozi elihle man!” He said to Nsimbi and Nsimbi laughed giving him his fist. They fist bumped and they whistle in unison...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 35

“You can’t tell me that you’ll sleep in the guestroom and I will sleep alone. That’s out of question.” Dalingcebo said to Palesa as they

were leaving Qhawe's room after Palesa had put him down. They've been seated down having dinner just the two of them with Palesa holding the cute, Qhawe.

Palesa: "I can tell you because there's an old lady here."

Dalingcebo: "And so, if she's here? I didn't put your bags in the guestroom and I think it would be best that you come take the bags." He said holding her hand and he pulled her to his bedroom just to trap her there because he wasn't going to have her sleeping in the guestroom. He didn't hear a response and that silence was something he appreciated because a debate wasn't something that he was looking forward to. He had plans for her and that was just, sharing a bed with her because he was his girlfriend... Dalingcebo pushed her forward softly and when she was marching to her bags that were on top of the bed. He got the chance



to lock the door and removed the key.

Dalingcebo: “We will sleep together Palesa. You don’t have to be ashamed that you’re sharing a bedroom with me.”

Palesa: “But that old woman.”

Dalingcebo: “She looks after my son she doesn’t have a say who comes here to visit me and who shares a bed with me.”

Palesa: “Ow! Does that mean you have girls coming over here and they just come because Qhawe’s nanny doesn’t have a say?” she asked letting go of her luggage that was already in her hand as she was standing by the bed.

Dalingcebo: “No, it doesn’t mean that but I am just trying to make you see that she’s just a nanny she’s not someone who has a say in what I do.”

Palesa: “It’s just that I don’t want adults to question me.”

Dalingcebo: "Palesa, you are a part of my life not because I want to pass time with you but because I want to build a future with you and I love you. I love this effortless, free-spirited woman that you are. You don't have to try too hard with anything but you're just Palesa and that's enough for me." He told her how he saw her, standing tall before her. He looked at her with a smile on his face not because she'd said something but she just gave him that smile that worked though his heart. She was smiling because she appreciated being described by her partner like that.

Palesa: "I want that too and it's okay, other things will sort themselves out. If they don't want to, we will just work on them." she accepted that, this man might just be a real one for her and she didn't have to put worries before her but appreciate how their relationship go. She stared into his eyes as he was looking

down at her. "You make me feel short but I am not even." She added.

Dalingcebo chuckled. "And it's very lovely looking at you from this angle. I love how your lips move when you talk." He confessed.

Palesa: "That's mainly because you want to kiss them."

Dalingcebo laughed feeling naked as she'd masked what he wanted to do. He held her neck loosely and he kissed her lips like he'd wished. He held her closer to him, her slim waist closer to his hard pack... Palesa's hands clung on Dalingcebo's broad arms and she felt his aroused organ lingering on her thigh. Just feeling it gave her goose bumps and she throbbed in anticipation.

Dalingcebo's hands took a journey beneath the vest that she was wearing and he pulled it, without any struggle, their clothes flew across

the room as they both worked on each other. Dalingcebo removed Palesa's two bags on his bed and she turned to her, before anything he satisfied his eye with her perfect nakedness. He smiled and Palesa didn't remove his eyes on his face.

Palesa: "You'll just stare at me?"

Dalingcebo: "I like how you just request things. I don't have condoms though but I will take you to the clinic tomorrow."

Palesa: "Such a man you are Mr Zulu!" she commented looking at him and she felt her openings thudding. She held his waist and kissed him without waiting for him to finish whatever purpose he was serving with screening her body.

Dalingcebo laid Palesa down and his hands on her breasts he rubbed them softly while he was kissing the sensitive flesh of her neck. His

buttocks felt Palesa's left foot linger on him and he felt like pushing in, but he wasn't about to give her something simple on their first night. She needed to get something that she was going to remember. He supported himself by kissing his way down to her belly until he reached her clean shaved organ. He lifted her legs and buried his face on her. His ears heard her gasp as he licked her teasingly... He went on with the harder licks as her toes were deepened on his back. He removed his right hand beneath her bums and he rubbed her clit with the back of his thumb while he kept going with his tongue.

"A! Ah! Ah!" Pressured Palesa moaned louder as she felt her walls shutting and the extreme pressure that she was feeling made her release an explosion...

"Argha! Palesa!" Dalingcebo groaned as Palesa's squirt splashed on his face. He jumped

from her and he clicked his tongue as Palesa laughed. "There's nothing funny about this you know." He stressed and headed to his wardrobe with his eyes closed but his mind directing him to the space with towels.

Palesa: "You can't blame me for anything."

Dalingcebo: "But you're not even standing up to help me."

Palesa: "My legs are trembling but I will return the favour."

"No, I will finish what I have started." He said moving back to her and when he reached her, his strong hands held on to her thighs and he spread her legs further apart. He positioned himself at her tip and looked at her as she moaned with her closed her eyes in waiting for him... Slowly, sharply, he gave it to her and she was accommodating him underneath with whatever pace he was leading her to...

Dalingcebo felt her walls closing around him sharply and he groaned deeply burying his body on her body...

Dalingcebo: "Ngiyakuthanda." He told her looking into her gleaming eyes.

Palesa: "Kea go rata lenna." She said politely and Dalingcebo laid back on her.

Dalingcebo: "When you smile you make feel like I can call you putsununu."

Palesa laughed. "That pet name sounds like it's given to someone who's small. Or someone who looks younger than her age." She said.

Dalingcebo: "You smile so innocently and that's why I will call you like that."

Palesa: "As long as you won't call me like that in the presence of my girl. I mock her very much when Ngcebo calls her my fohloza."

Dalingcebo laughed. "I will do it just to spite

you.” he promised and they laughed... Palesa placed her hands around his back to embrace him...

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The ladies, daughters’ in-law, the closest married women who were family friends to the royal family, they were about ten in total. They were seated on the sponges inside a one room house located in Nkosazana’s palace. They were having some snacks and drinks while on their pyjamas. There was nothing that they were not talking about as married women.

Danielle: “Why does it seem like you’re scared now newlywed?” She asked Candice who had a surprise facial expression as she was hearing things that she never knew that they were through with their in-laws and husbands. She knew that marriage had its own trails and happiness but this was different.

Woman1: “For now, she’s not a newlywed because she hasn’t done the traditional wedding.” She corrected Danielle.

Candice: “I am a newlywed according to my tradition because a white wedding is our tradition not yours.” She told her smitten that they were finally married with Banele after long years of dating, they were married.

Ladies: “Yeah!”

Nkosazana: “Well, you’ve blended well with us I have to say.”

Happiness: “Yeah! I have seen you doing things clearly.”

Candice: “I have my secrets. I just wanted to charm my in-laws and my husband included.” She said and winked, they laughed.

“Excuse me.” Happiness excused herself as her phone was ringing. She pulled her gown and put it on her body. She left the ladies...

Happiness: "Hello?"

Luvuyo: "Hey, Happiness how are you?"

Happiness: "Luvuyo! I am fine and how are you?"

Luvuyo: "I am fine, look, I am South Africa for some family matter. Can you and the children come visit this weekend? I miss them especially Nonjabulo. I will be leaving on Monday and I just want to spend time with my brother's daughter. I have missed them, both. Please!"

Happiness: "Eh! I am actually not around with them."

Luvuyo: "Where are you? I can even come to Johannesburg when I am done here that's if you wouldn't want to come this side. I know that the memories of my brother may still be fresh and being in his house can stir emotions for you and even for the children but I just want to see them."

Happiness closed her eyes and placed her hand on her forehead. "I have taken them on a vacation they wanted to go to Swaziland and I thought it wouldn't be a bad idea if we go." She lied, she wasn't ready to tell her the truth because she knew that Luvuyo was going to make a big deal out of everything. And she wasn't going to understand that she has moved on with her life.

Luvuyo: "Ah! They're sleeping now, aren't they? And why is there noise over there?" She asked and Happiness looked around, the palace was busy.

Happiness: "It's December time, Luvuyo."

Luvuyo: "Yes, yes, look at me being old! How have you been though? I have been trying and taking every single day and month one step at a time. But at times I just miss him. I can't imagine how it have been for you because that man was just everything to you."

Happiness: "The children make it easier for me to live. And how's your boyfriend?" She replied and she felt the awkwardness of speaking with her because she was bringing things that she'd buried and forgotten.

Luvuyo: "Ah! He's been everything that completed me and I am pretty sure that our relationship is working out because my brother didn't want it." She said confidently and they laughed. "And you, any chance at love but what am I asking? I am being silly." She said.

Happiness: "No, you are not."

Luvuyo: "I will call tomorrow and talk to the children, okay?"

Happiness: "Okay, goodnight and thank you for the call."

Luvuyo: "Alright. Goodnight." She said and hung up the call... Happiness removed the phone from her ear and she sighed...

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“You’re back home,” Thembelihle commented about Mntwana who was followed by Banele. They were stepping inside the lounge of their mother’s palace coming from Nkosazana’s palace on a Thursday night. The two brothers were talking and laughing with each other.

Mntwana: “Yes, I am back. Sanibona.” They greeted their parents along with Banele as they sat down on the couch.

Parents: “Yebo!”

Dalisu: “Why are you here, Banele? Who’s with your wife?”

Banele: “She said she will sleep in Nkosazana’s palace today. I don’t know what happening but there’s something they’ve planned as ladies.”

Dalisu: “Okay.”

Thembelihle: “That means you’ll sleep here with

us?”

Banele: “Yes, tomorrow it’s getting down. I can’t wait.”

They laughed. “Traditional weddings are best and there’s none like them.” Mntwana commented taking his ringing phone off his pocket. He widened his eyes as he wasn’t expecting this phone call but he didn’t take it.

Thembelihle: “You’re right about that. Where’s Ngcebo? He’s not back from Richards’ bay even now? I went to his house during the day but it was empty.”

Mntwana: “They were going to be busy today with Langalibalele since he’s back from Mhlabuyalingana.”

Dalisu: “He’s back? When did he come back because I was only told by his mother that he left on a quest and he didn’t say when he was going to return. I wanted to speak with him.”

Mntwana: "He came back today."

Dalisu: "And he didn't tell me about this. His mother didn't." he looked at his wife as he was surprised that they didn't tell him Langalibalele was back.

Thembelihle: "Take the phone and call him, Ndabezitha, maybe he's busy." She suggested and Dalisu took his phone out...

Mntwana: "Let's go eat, ntwana." He said to his brother standing up with his ringing phone. He'd decided that he taking the call. He swiped green and placed the phone on his ear. "Hello." He answered the call.

Simthande: "How are you?"

Mntwana: "I am fine and how are you?" he asked and he sat down. Banele marched to the pots to dish food for them.

Simthande: "I am fine. I have been calling you and you are ignoring my calls."

Mntwana: "I have been busy and it's not like you take my calls anyway."

Simthande: "You're holding grudges and paying back?"

Mntwana: "I don't have time for that. Are you sick you sound a bit down?"

Simthande: "Yes, I am sick but I don't know what's bothering me."

Mntwana: "You don't know. Didn't you go to the clinic or the Doctor?"

Simthande: "I went to the Doctor but it's not clear what's wrong with me."

Mntwana: "Sorry, but why don't you try traditional methods?"

"I will think about it but beside I just wanted to call and ask how are your holidays?" She asked moving from the topic about her.

Mntwana: "They're going smoothly. And how



are yours?”

Simthande: “They’re just different this time because my sister is here.”

Mntwana: “I am happy for you.”

Simthande: “Thank you, bye, then.”

Mntwana: “Bye.” He removed the phone from his ear and he shook his head, he pulled his plate closer to him. Banele was seated opposite him with his plate. “My food looks smaller compared to yours.” He commented.

Banele: “I am a married man you can’t eat like I do.”

Mntwana laughed. “I didn’t know I will be discriminated for being unmarried but I am not alone now. Dalingcebo is unmarried.”

Banele: “You don’t want to be married and you’ll always have a small amount of food. And who was there you were so cold towards?”

Mntwana: "My kind of a girlfriend that left me for her sister because she was made to believe that I want her sister."

Banele chuckled. "That's some stressful shit, hey!" He exclaimed and Mntwana supported him with a disbelief laughter.

Mntwana: "Yeah, I love her but I have a princess on the side."

Banele: "A princess?"

Mntwana: "Yes, ntwana. I am rolling with a very fine Zulu princess and she's so beautiful, classy and smart but we're not-"

"You're dating a princess?" Thembelihle asked Mntwana as she stepped inside the kitchen to their conversation that interested her.

Mntwana: "Mama, please, don't do that."

Thembelihle: "I am just asking because I want to know." She said and moved to the kettle. She

was inside the kitchen to make a cup of tea for her husband.

Mntwana: "I don't like to tell you."

Thembelihle: "Okay, but we would love to see the princess. I will tell your father that you're dating a princess."

Mntwana: "Mama, I am not dating her."

Banele: "Let him be, mama." He said to her because he didn't want her to push Mntwana. He had an interest to know about this princess.

Thembelihle: "What's wrong if I ask because I want to know?"

Mntwana: "I don't want to tell you, MaSthole and don't tell dad."

Thembelihle shook her head and she left them with the tea that she'd finished making for Dalisu... Banele looked at his brother for him to continue.

Mntwana: "I have changed my mind I won't tell you." he decided remembering that Neliswa was hiding her identity. Banele tried getting him to speak about the princess but Mntwana didn't share a thing...

## THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 39

"Did she have the nightmares?" Ngcebo asked the nurse that was watching over Nandipha. The nurse was taking him to Nandipha's room after he'd done a lot of convincing that he just needed to see her and he was going to leave.

Nurse: "Yes, I think around 1am but it wasn't extreme as her friend had explain it to me. I shook her about three times and she woke up."

Ngcebo: “Okay, that’s a good sign and the babies. I didn’t even ask about that.”

Nurse: “The Doctor asked that you come by in the morning and she’ll personally brief you about her condition and the babies’ condition.” She replied without telling him that they’ve lost a baby.

Ngcebo: “Alright.”

Nurse: “Just a minute, Prince Tee.”

Ngcebo: “Yes, mama.” He said and he marched to the bed, he sat down looking at her face and he sighed. He sent his hand to her mouth that was slightly opened and he closed her mouth. He hissed looking at her sleeping peacefully and he admitted to himself that the first pregnancy was way better. She would irritate him, make him angry but he didn’t have to stress and worry about her health because she was healthier. But he couldn’t say much about

this one. She wasn't really irritating him and too demanding but the pregnancy was rather stressful now. He had to worry about her and the babies.

Ngcebo: "I will come back in the morning. I should get up before the nurse comes by. I think you're sleeping as your mother." He spoke to the unborn 'baby', his hands were on Nandipha's belly as he'd hope he would feel them move or kick... He stood up from his chair and he placed his lips on Nandipha's lips that were slightly opened once again. He headed out of the room and searched for the nurse before taking an Uber to his house...

When he got to the house, it was quiet, food wasn't inside his mind but what was inside his mind was his bed. He climbed the stairs with his bag while typing a text message to his brother, Mlamuli and Mntwana whom he'd spoken to before leaving Nongoma... After

taking off his sneakers he threw his body on his bed and he closed his heavy eyes...

“What’s wrong? Are you crying?” Ngcebo asked Palesa who was seated on the high stool of the kitchen island early in the morning.

Palesa raised her head. “You’re here. I am not crying.” She replied and widened her eyes to stop the tears that were falling off her eyes.

Ngcebo: “I am not blind, you’re crying. You’re crying for your friend, isn’t? But I am asking the obvious unless if you’re missing your boyfriend.” He commented and moved to the fridge. He woke up early because he had a plan that he was going to leave earlier before the girls could wake up and see that he was home. He didn’t want to go to the hospital with them in the morning. He wanted to see their mother without their presence crowding them.

Palesa chuckled weakly. “Did you pass by the

hospital? They did brief you, right? And was she awake or sleeping?” She asked looking at his back as Ngcebo was still standing by the fridge.

Ngcebo: “I did pass by and she was sleeping. The nurse told me that the Doctor said I should come for a brief but I know she told you what’s wrong. But I want to know what happened for her to land in the hospital.” He replied and he closed the fridge with his left hand while the right hand had the milk jug. He marched to the cupboard for the bowl.

Palesa stepped off the stool, she’d taken a shower and was dressed up in blue jeans and a white loose vest with sleepers. She moved around now to begin making breakfast for the sleeping children while she opened her mouth to tell Ngcebo what happened. “I was seated on the lounge with her phone and she’d offered to prepare light supper for us. An unsaved number called and I didn’t answer it, I just send it



straight to her. She answered the phone call while I attended to her pot.” She narrated and she placed the empty pot on the stove to cook porridge for the children.

Ngcebo: “She fainted because of that phone call? Did you hear what she said to that person because obviously you wouldn’t have heard who was that?”

Palesa: “I didn’t hear much because she only spoke about not blocking her number and she was quiet after that I heard her fall on the floor. I turned to her and the number called once again. I answered it.”

Ngcebo: “Did you hear who was calling her? I have blocked a few people on her phone but I don’t know if you did recognise who was calling.” He marched to the island with a bowl of cereal on his hand.

Palesa: “I did and it’s your mother who called

her.” she replied shortly without looking at him but pouring water on the pot. She didn’t want to look at him because she didn’t even know that she was doing the right thing by telling him. But she’d decided on her way to the hospital with an unconscious Nandipha. She decided that she wasn’t going to hide that Ngcebo’s mother was the one who called Nandipha. She’d decided that she wasn’t going to check with Nandipha first if it was right or wrong for her to tell Ngcebo the truth because something in her didn’t trust that Nandipha would tell Ngcebo the truth...

Ngcebo taunted his jaw and neglected the bowl on the island and the milk was split out of the bowl. He clicked his tongue as he felt the anger building up inside. He’d clearly asked them not to call her and his mother had to call her, and she surely didn’t say something nice to her. How was she going to faint if she had

something nice and positive to say to Nandipha?  
Why!

Ngcebo: “Did you speak to Nandipha and ask what did she say?”

Palesa: “No, I didn’t even want to bring it up because I didn’t know how it was going to make her feel. I am sorry that I wasn’t careful but if I knew that your mother was calling I wasn’t going to let her answer because I know your mother has a problem that we don’t know with Nandipha-”

Ngcebo: “Wait, what do you mean by that?”

Palesa sighed and replied. “I don’t really know but since beginning of the year if I am not mistaken when Buhle was sick and Nandipha called your family about where your brother’s wife was. I was here and Nandipha came to her room crying because your mother had shouted at her for calling about your sister in-law’s

whereabouts. She slapped her for-

Ngcebo: "SHE DID WHAT?"

Palesa: "Uhm-"

Ngcebo: "AND YOUR FRIEND DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THIS!"

Palesa: "Ngcebo-"

Ngcebo: "HHAYI, MAN! TSK!" He pushed the bowl out of anger and it slipped across the island down to the floor where it broke into pieces and Ngcebo felt the kitchen... Palesa placed her hands on forehead and she closed her eyes. She couldn't even get a chance to tell him that they lost a child. The Doctor was going to tell him but it wasn't going to be a good idea if she didn't tell him first because she was the one who was under Nandipha's care. And hearing such shocking news from the Doctor first wasn't a good idea. She had to tell him what was happening it was the right thing to

do...

“Ngcebo!” She shouted his name and she rushed to him as she had heard his footsteps and her suspicions were, he was leaving... She reached him by the front exit. “Ngcebo, I need to tell you something before you leave.”

Ngcebo: “I need to get to the hospital.”

Palesa: “You’re upset right now. Are you going to the hospital to shout at her now because she didn’t tell you about your mother? She didn’t want any fights between you and your mother that’s the reason she didn’t tell you but I just didn’t want to keep this to myself now.”

Ngcebo: “You’re making excuses for her now, right?”

Palesa: “No! And the Doctor strictly instructed that she mustn’t be stressed and there’s something that you need to know about the babies.”

“What about them?” He asked calmly and he closed the door that he had been holding as Palesa was speaking to him.

Palesa: “I think you need to sit down.”

Ngcebo: “Palesa! Please, I don’t have time on my side.”

Palesa: “Eh! The Doctor discovered that Nandipha, I mean that when she got to the hospital one of your babies’ heartbeat had stopped.”

Ngcebo: “Had stopped?” he checked on a low tone.

Palesa: “Yes, you two, lost one of the twins.” She told him and he saw Ngcebo’s chest rising and it stood still before he released a heavy breath. “I am so sorry, Ngcebo and Nandipha doesn’t know, the Doctor advised that we don’t tell her because any news-”

Ngcebo: “Please, take the children when they’re

awake and go see her.” he said without looking at her and he walked back inside deciding that he couldn’t go to the hospital and see her now. He couldn’t!

“BABA!” The three girls chanted delightedly as they saw their father climbing up the stairs that they were climbing down to get to the kitchen. Phemelo and the other two girls were still sleeping. Thula was behind the children.

Thula: “Is everything alright, Nkosana? The children are greeting you.” she made Ngcebo aware as he was passing the girls without saying a thing to them and he didn’t even look at them... Ngcebo didn’t answer Thula but he ran up to get to his bedroom and when he got there, he slammed the door shut...

Buhle: “Sis, ubaba uyagula?” (Is dad, alright?) she looked at Thula.

Thula: “Yes, your father is fine but I think he’s

rushing to his room to make a very important phone call. And he will talk to you when he's done."

Similo: "Soya ku mama?" (Will we go to mama?)

Thula didn't answer her but she looked at Palesa who was leaning on the sink staring on their direction. "Palesa, will they go see their mother?" she asked.

Palesa: "Yes, girls. We will all go see your mother but now, you have to eat your food and you'll bath then we will go."

Thando: "We will go with dad, will we?"

Palesa: "No, your father will be busy." She replied and she looked at Thula as the children looked at one another with a frowns...

"I have been waiting for you to call me back."

Dalingcebo told Ngcebo on the phone... Ngcebo was holding the rail of the balcony of their bedroom.



Ngcebo: "I won't get to hold my two boys and watch them grow like I have been made to believe when I was told my wife was pregnant."

Dalingcebo: "Ngcebo, Palesa was on the phone with me when the Doctor told her about this and I have been trying to call you."

Ngcebo: "Your mother has costed me my son's life with just one call that I said clearly that they mustn't do – I did everything I could to protect them even after her return I shielded them away and even blocked her number-"

Dalingcebo: "Ngcebo, don't do that to yourself. Don't blame yourself. This situation was beyond your control and you need to fasten your belt for Nandipha. She doesn't know about this."

Ngcebo: "I have to go. Please, tell bhuti Mlamuli and the others. I don't want to talk to anyone for now. I want to think."

Dalingcebo: "Don't drown yourself in your

sorrow, Ngcebo.”

Ngcebo didn't breathe a word but he removed his phone from his ear. He switched off the phone and stamped his forehead on the rail. He remained in that position and he allowed pain to consume him...

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“Unfortunately, my brother and his wife had to leave for Johannesburg but he left me here to ensure that when you come here you find someone.” Mntwana told Nsimbi and his partner as he was locking the door behind him... Mntwana was alone in the house, during the day when they knocked on the door.

Nsimbi: “Does that mean we came here for nothing?” he asked and looked at his partner, Mbutho. Mbutho bite his tongue and he shook his head as he felt that they've wasted their time by coming to Ngcebo's house.

Mntwana: “No, he said I should take you to our king and I will take you there now because he can’t come back for this matter.”

“THE KING!” The two men checked and looked at each other as they were not expecting that they were going to be passed over to the king.

Mntwana: “Yes, I have called him and he said I should come with the two of you. I will lead and you’ll follow behind with your van.” He told the two, advancing away from the front door and they followed him behind.

Nsimbi: “We don’t have to bother the king.”

Mbutho: “Yes, we can come back when Prince Ngcebo has gotten back from Gauteng. There’s Christmas coming up and I am sure he’ll be home.”

Mntwana: “No, don’t worry yourself because the king will give you what you desire as my brother was going to do because he’s grateful for what

you have done for him.” he told them pushing the gate opened and he looked back at the two men who were not sure about meeting the king, not because there was something but it was just not what they were expecting.

“Ningaphuma ke madoda. I will rush to my car.” He showed them to their car and they nodded once and moved to their car... Mntwana jogged to his car...

“We will talk and decide when I call you back here but you don’t have to worry because you’ll get the livestock and the land. What you’ve done is honourable and we will forever be grateful.” Mlamuli promised the two men walking with them around the yard of his wife’s palace. He’d dined with them and he freed them to request whatever they wanted.

Nsimbi: “Hhayi, Ndabezitha. We will come back and we’re honoured to have gotten the opportunity to dine with you.”

Mbutho: "Yes, it was an honour, Ndabezitha."

Mlamuli chuckled. "I don't know who's really honoured, it's me or you." he commented and they laughed... Mlamuli and Mntwana walked them to their vehicle after they've finished conversing...

Mntwana: "I can't reach Ngcebo, bhuti. His phone is off. I was trying to call him and inform him about these men."

Mlamuli: "Ey, Mntwana, let's go. Dalingcebo was here before you called. He told me that he was driving to Johannesburg because Ngcebo is drowning himself in self-blame for something that was beyond his control."

"What are you talking about, Ndabezitha?" He asked walking by his brother's side to get to their cars. Mntwana hadn't been informed...

Mlamuli: "Dalingcebo didn't tell you that Ngcebo and Nandipha lost their baby? She fainted after

our mother called her.” he filled clueless Mntwana in and Mntwana was found without any comment because he was shocked by this. Mlamuli looked at him and he saw that he was shocked as he was when Dalingcebo told him about this. He couldn't believe their mother had done this! He couldn't believe that after Ngcebo had pleaded with them... “We will drive home and tell them about this because Dalingcebo said he won't pass by the palace. I heard about Banele's stroke as well. I want to see him.” he looked at him as they've reached the cars and Mntwana nodded his head...

“Hello?” Mntwana answered Simthande's phone call. He was alone inside his car driving behind Mlamuli's car. He was completely emotionless.

Simthande: “Are you alright? You sound down.”

Mntwana: “I am good and how are you?”

Simthande: “I am not really fine and I don't even

look fine. I really think that I have been bewitched.” She told him with a shaky voice.

Mntwana: “Bewitched? What do you mean?”

Simthande: “I keep dreaming horrible things that shows ‘bangifakele ischitho’ and I don’t even know who could such a thing to me. My face looks horrible. I don’t know what to do, Mntwana.”

Mntwana sighed. “Look, calm down. I know someone who can help you this side but for now, I can’t say come to KZN because things are upside down. But when everything is sorted I will call you and you’ll come down here.”

Simthande: “Would you really do that for me?”

Mntwana: “Didn’t you call me because you’re looking for help?”

Simthande: “I did but I didn’t expect you’ll help me.”

Mntwana: "You'll hear from me." he said stopping his car inside his parents' palace. His brother, Mlamuli had already got off the car.

Simthande: "Are you trying to say I shouldn't call you?"

"That's not what I am saying. I have an incoming call and I have reached home." He informed her and opened the door of his car...

Simthande dropped the call without saying goodbye and that gave Mntwana the opportunity to answer the incoming call.

"Princess, can you call the Prince later because right now he's very busy and he can't talk." He answered the phone call politely.

Neliswa giggled. "Sharp then, Prince, but you'll be the one to call the princess when you're done with whatever you're doing because she won't know."

Mntwana chuckled. "Yes, silly him! I will be the

one to call you.” he promised and he dropped the call after Neliswa had said goodbye...

Mntwana sat down after he'd greeted everyone inside the lounge. Thembelihle's daughters' in-law were seated with her having snacks and drinks while talking.

Thembelihle: “I have been trying to call your brother, Ngcebo but his phone is off. When last did you call him?” she asked Mntwana...

Mlamuli had left them to call Dalisu who was around the premises of the palace with Banele and Mnotho.

Mntwana: “Last night when he was leaving.”

Thembelihle: “He was leaving?”

Mntwana: “Yes.”

Thembelihle: “Should I ask where he went?”

Mntwana: “Isn't obvious that he went to Johannesburg?”

Nkosazana: “Hawu! Mntwana, why are you speaking like that with mama?” she looked at him after she’d seen the surprise look on Thembelihle’s face. But Mntwana didn’t answer her, he instead concentrated on his phone.

Danielle: “Hawu, Mntwana?” she called his name out but he ignored her.

“It seems like Mntwana has forgotten that I am his mother, Ndabezitha.” Thembelihle informed Dalisu who was stepping inside the lounge followed by their three sons with Mnotho pushing Banele’s wheelchair...

Dalisu: “What did he do for you to say that?” he asked sitting next to Thembelihle and he looked at Mntwana.

Thembelihle: “I am asking him about Ngcebo and he’s responding to me as if he’s talking to his mate not his mother.”

Dalisu: “Why did you do that Mntwana?”

Mntwana: "Mama asked a question and I responded. Bhuti, Mlamuli, can you please say what has brought us here?"

Dalisu: "I am still talking to you!"

Mlamuli: "Ngcebo lost his baby and that happened after mama called Nandipha. She called her and we don't know what she said to her but Ngcebo's wife fainted and she was admitted to the hospital where the Doctor declared the other twin dead. That's the reason Mntwana is upset." He informed briefly and the room was filled with total, still, cold silence.

Mlamuli looked at his mother and she had her eyes closed with her hand on her chest, tears flooding down her cheeks. And his father was staring blankly at the coffee table. "Tsk!"

Mlamuli clicked his tongue and he stood on his feet to leave them and the last born followed him, still leaving the silence in the room...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 37

Thembelihle looked at the phone after Palesa had dropped the call on her. She chuckled in disbelief and shook her head. She left the kitchen for her bedroom. Her husband was already in the bed...

“Hhe! Ndabezitha, you won’t believe what just happened.” Thembelihle said to Dalisu and she joined him in bed... Dalisu was laid back on the bed with his eyes closed and he was thinking deeply about the meeting that they had with Ngcebo and how the meeting ended. In his head he was replaying everything that was said and he was trying to review things alone. He was alone with his thoughts questioning himself as a father and some, things said by Ngcebo still maddened him and others, made

him think how HE as a son to his late father had disrespected his order. But he was interrupted from his thoughts the minute he heard Thembelihle speak.

Daliso: "What happened?" he looked at her.

Thembelihle: "I was in the kitchen clearing up and I thought I should call Ngcebo's wife before I sleep."

Daliso: "Why did you do that because he said she mustn't be called?"

Thembelihle: "Hhaybo! Baba, I had to speak to her after everything that was said in that meeting. Ngcebo has hurt me and he's doing this for his wife. I didn't even finish speaking to her because she dropped the call. I wasn't calling her with my number but the maid's number because it seems like she has blocked my number and even that speaks volumes."

Daliso: "MaSthole! You were not supposed to

call her!”

Thembelihle: “I didn’t call her to ask questions but I called her to tell her how I feel and address this matter that happened in the meeting. And she dropped the call before I could finish and that friend of hers, I recognise her by her voice because she speaks IsiZulu differently. She shouted at me and told me to leave Nandipha alone. Nandipha gave the phone to her friend to should at me, what do you call that, baba, huh?”

Daliso: “You were not supposed to call her! That’s what I call it because Ngcebo stated it clearly that she mustn’t be called in secrets. What if something happened to her as her friend was shouting at you?”

Thembelihle: “Oh! You’re going to stand with Nandipha now, are you? Weren’t you agreeing with us that she needed to come back to be questioned?”

Dalisu: "We've gotten all the answers MaSthole and what will you say if something happens to her? She'll tell Ngcebo you made her upset."

Thembelihle: "I had every right to-"

Dalisu: "STOP IT! MASTHOLE! I was wrong not to listen to my father's order I was wrong and that led to danger. Yes, I am still angry with Ngcebo's behaviour but me, as a son I didn't listen to my father."

Thembelihle: "But we didn't know-"

Dalisu: "I don't want to argue with you about this but don't act like you've never been pregnant and stressed, you even had to give birth to Ndabezinhle early after Precious had come here to speak to you. I don't want to argue about this anymore."

Thembelihle: "You're trying to tell me you're happy that our son just left like he did, are you happy with that?"

Dalису: “I am not happy but the ancestors will bring Ngcebo back here. He’ll suffer the consequences the same that his older brother did. I am done speaking about this.” he said lastly and he neglected his head down, and he then resumed his thoughts as his wife was quiet now...

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Ngcebo reached his house with the greatest anger still clouding his heart. He was driven from Nkosazana’s palace by the servant and now, what was inside his mind was having a drink but he needed to call Nandipha first. Maybe he was going to be calm after that but when he lifted the phone, he saw that it was late and she’d sent a message to him that she was going to go to bed early after supper because they had a long day.

“I shouldn’t disturb her sleep. She’s definitely sleeping now, it’s 10pm.” He supported himself



and went to the kitchen to get himself a glass and a bottle of whiskey. He marched back to the lounge but remembered that he was supposed to lock the gate before he could even get drunk...

“I am here because I wanted to lock the gate.” He said to his brother who was walking up to the front door of the house with his hands inside the brown pants that he was wearing with a yellow and black African printed shirt.

Mlamuli: “You were going to open it again for me. We need to talk.” He said showing him back inside the house and Ngcebo led him inside.

Ngcebo: “Didn’t we talk enough?”

Mlamuli: “You did with them but now with me and now, I am telling you that you cannot turn your back on your family.”

Ngcebo: “They’re the ones who did first and I

am not turning my back on them but I am just leaving. I will come back if any of you need me because we are brothers we were taught to have each other's back and we've seen you do it for us all our lives but I won't come here for no reason."

Mlamuli: "I understand Ngcebo that you're angry and you have every right to be angry but coming to your family only when they need you, is isolating yourself from them."

Ngcebo: "I can't stand being treated like this and please, let me do what I think is best for myself and my family." He said and took his phone that was on the coffee table. It was ringing, he wasn't planning on answering it while speaking with his older brother but he needed to see who was calling. "I am sorry bhuti I have to take this call. You can use my glass if you're craving my alcohol as you have your eyes looking at it." He said standing up

with his phone and Mlamuli laughed at his funny comment.

“Just go answer the phone!” He exclaimed and took the glass as he felt that he needed this glass, all this was too much...

Ngcebo: “Mama ka Buhle?”

Palesa: “Sorry, Ngcebo, it’s me.”

Ngcebo: “Oh! Palesa, is everything alright over there? Why are you using Nandipha’s phone to call me? Where’s she?”

Palesa: “Ngcebo, I am sorry-”

Ngcebo: “WHERE’S SHE DAMMIT? WHERE’S SHE?” he raised his voice as he could hear through the sound of her voice that she wasn’t herself. She sounded shaken and that could only mean something...

Palesa: “Nandipha is in the hospital I have just been told they’re admitting her but they haven’t

brief me. She fainted – Ngcebo, please get here.”

Without asking what happened, Ngcebo dropped the call and he rushed back to the lounge where his brother was laid back and having a drink. “Bhuti, I have to go to Gauteng now because my wife has been admitted to the hospital. Her friend tells me that she fainted.” Ngcebo told Mlamuli fast while he was busy tapping on his phone searching for Mntwana’s number.

Mlamuli: “Hhaybo! What happened now?”

Ngcebo: “I didn’t even ask. I will come back.”

Mlamuli: “You’ll drive, right?”

Ngcebo: “I don’t have the vehicle with me.”

Mlamuli: “We will drive to the palace together and the servant will drive you to the airport, that will be fast.” He suggested.

Ngcebo: "Thank you, bhuti, that will be helpful."  
He said placing his phone on his ear and he walked away from his brother. "Ntwana, where are you?"

Mntwana: "I am on the road driving home."

Ngcebo: "Can you please make a U-turn because I need you here."

Mntwana: "What's happening?"

Ngcebo: "I need to get to Johannesburg but I wasn't supposed to leave this house without seeing the guys who rescued Nandipha. I don't want them to come back here and find the house empty, so, I ask that you come and spend the rest of the holidays, I mean sleep here until they get here. Nandipha is in the hospital now."

Mntwana: "Hawu! Okay, there's no problem."

Ngcebo: "Wait, I have remembered something. I might get in the way of your holidays I think I

should ask Dalingcebo and Qhawe's nanny because even if Dalingcebo leaves for the day, MaNxongo will be here. Do you see? Just in case they come here during the day and you'll be out and about."

Mntwana: "You have a point but I want to sleep there too and have some fresh air. I will go to Dalingcebo's house tomorrow because he said he's going straight to bed the time we separated."

Ngcebo: "Alright, you can stay if you wish. I will leave then I will call Dalingcebo in the morning and when these men come here, call me."

Mntwana: "Alright, you'll call me and inform me about Nandipha's progress. And don't stress they'll be fine."

Ngcebo: "Thank you." he said and removed the phone from his ear after they've said goodbye. Ngcebo double checked if he had everything

with him in his bag and when he'd confirmed, he took his bag and headed out... Mlamuli stood on his feet and they marched to the front door.

Mlamuli: "You're not switching off the lights?"

Ngcebo: "Mntwana will come here. I won't even lock the gate. I don't know when these men who rescued Nandipha will come back. But they promised to come back and I want to thank them with whatever they want. I asked that Mntwana calls me if they come here."

Mlamuli: "I can manage that for you because what can they want beside, money, land, livestock or a car, or property?" he asked driving his car out and the car of his guards that was packed outside the gate moved forward.

Ngcebo: "You can never cram men, bhuti."

Mlamuli: "Ay, these men from here are too predictable."

Ngcebo chuckled. "I will trust you on that one."

He said and they had the rest of their drive with Mlamuli trying to get Ngcebo to cool down but he had his mind made and he didn't want to go back on his decision...

Mlamuli gave Ngcebo his hand as they've reached the palace and he was leaving him in the car that was going to drive him to the airport. "Call us about her progress and sent a text if you arrive safe." He told his brother and they shared a tight heartfelt brotherly hug.

Ngcebo: "I will do that, thank you." he said and stepped inside the car...

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"How do you feel now that everything has been done? We are officially married, traditionally and legally?" Banele asked his wife who was seated on the passenger seat of his car, they were driving through the road that was taking them to their house after the meeting.

Candice smiled and looked at her husband shortly. "I am happy and from now, on we will follow our dreams. We have a lot of things ahead of us, the world is waiting for us to explore it. I am more than happy." She told him delightedly.

Banele: "Who would have thought that you and I would get married? You gave me hell when I was asking you out. Damn! You didn't want me."

Candice laughed. "I didn't even picture a relationship with you and some girls liked you. That boy with cute big eyes and a clean face with a charming smile."

Banele: "Why does it seem like you did some research about me? How would you have known that because you didn't have friends in class."

Candice laughed. "No, I didn't but I just

listened.” She denied it and Banele laughed, they’ve reached their house. They stepped off the car that Banele had just parked inside the garage next to his wife’s car.

Banele: “Okay, I will let that go but let me do this then.” He said standing before her and he lifted off the floor to walk inside the house with her, inside his arms. Candice screamed laughingly, she held the back of his neck.

Candice: “I won’t ask what’s the occasion.”

Banele: “Why would even ask that? I hope you have plans for our night otherwise if you don’t I will divorce you, tomorrow.” He threatened her as he was taking her inside their bedroom.

Candice: “You know that you wouldn’t do that to your wife and I wouldn’t be your Candice if I didn’t plan anything.” She said as Banele entered the beautiful decorated bedroom, red and white with candles lighting the room and

petals.

Banele: "And your candles smell divine." He admitted and laid her on top of the bed carefully. "I know you love to wear lingerie but tonight, I want to take off this beautiful traditional attire that looks like it was tailored on you."

Candice: "I want you to do what you want, anything and however you want." She said holding his face and Banele kissed her... Laying on their sides with their legs twirled and their hands on their naked bodies, they were kissing lovingly appreciating every inch of their warm skin with their hands.

"What's wrong?" Candice asked Banele who was back on top of her but now, his body had stiffened and he had his big eyes widened while he was trying to gasp for air that seemed far for him to reach. Candice screamed as Banele's body collapsed on her. She tried not to panic, telling her nerves to keep calm as she removed

Banele away from her.

Candice: “No! God!” she placed her hands on her mouth and tears voluntarily came out of her eyes as Banele’s left side of his body looked paralysed. She touched his twisted hand and it was stiff. “Can you hear me, babe?” She asked touching his face but he was having a difficulty talking with his twisted lips.

Candice jumped off the bed and she ran to her phone to call Thembelihle. She waited, pacing up and down as naked as she was, tears pouring down her cheeks like a waterfall. Thembelihle didn’t answer and she tried again...

Thembelihle: “Candice?” Thembelihle’s sleepy voice answered the phone.

Candice: “Mama, please, come here now. Banele has been hit by stroke and I don’t know what to do, please!”

Thembelihle: “Stroke! How?” she surprised.

Candice: "I really don't know what happened – I am clueless." She replied and turned to look at her husband, his condition was still the same.

Thembelihle: "I am coming!" she promised and dropped the call... Candice threw her phone on the bed and she picked up her clothes. She quickly dressed up and when she was done, she dressed her challenged husband.

Candice: "I called your mother and she's coming." She promised him putting his shirt back on his body, the other side of his body was normal and he was even able to hold her with the right hand. "You can't even speak! Are you feeling any pain?" she asked fastening his pants.

Banele: "Ca... Ca... Ca..."

Candice: "It's okay, don't try to speak." She freed him and she rushed to switch on the lights of the bedroom. She then marched to the candles to blow their lights off because his

mother was coming and she didn't want to feel awkward. It couldn't be their sex because they were not doing any extreme positions and they haven't even begun the intercourse! She screamed within herself as she tried to figure out what could have trigger this. But the Doctors were going to tell them what was wrong with him...

"How did this happen?" Dalisu asked Candice as they were inside Banele's bedroom along with Thembelihle... Candice had cleaned the room completely removing all the decorations that were around the room.

Candice: "I don't know what happened because we were laying here – and – eh and he just collapsed on me." she told them without going into details. She had her hand holding Banele's right hand sitting on the bed next to him.

Dalису: "Banele? Can you hear me? Are you feeling pains?" he asked touching his paralysed

left hand and Banele tried to speak but he failed to bring out words that his parents and wife could hear.

Thembelihle: “Oh! Jesu! My son, Ndabezitha, I will call the guards and they will carry him to the car.” She said to Dalisu and she wiped her tears as the condition that her son was in, it was breaking her heart.

Dalisu: “Banele had no sickness, no brain damage or whatsoever. What happened?” he asked his wife as they followed each other to the door.

Thembelihle: “We can never know Ndabezitha but the Doctor will tell us.”

Dalisu: “You’re right.” He supported and he called the guards who were parking outside the premises... He gave them instructions to take Banele...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 36

“I have nothing to worry about now, mkhulu?” Nandipha asked Langalibalele leaving the hut with him and Ngcebo inside Ngcebo’s premises. Langalibalele was with them as they were doing the final ritual that was of thanks as Nandipha was back and safe... Thursday, all day, they’ve been with Langalibalele who requested they meet at Nandipha’s birth home and from Richards’ bay, Ngcebo and his family drove to Mzingazi where Langalibalele was already there waiting for them. His quest to find Nandipha had begun there in Nandipha’s maternal home on Tuesday and that’s where he followed through and only found the Sangoma and MaKhumalo’s dead bodies late on Wednesday. He was with his brother who was driving the car for him. And soon when he found their dead

bodies by the forest, he called Ngcebo and he made things clear for him that Nandipha was safe. Langelibalele then did a proper ritual to put the Sangoma's spirit at rest for it not haunt them. But with MaKhumalo who's spirit was no harm, they transported her body up to the hut of the Sangoma and they left her hoping someone was going to find her. Maybe someone who'd been a client to the Sangoma even though the Sangoma didn't see clients without knowing they were coming... Langelibalele then cleansed Nandipha on the river closer to her maternal home. And they later slaughter a goat for her ancestors. MaNtombela was present and Nandipha's aunts with her cousins, Ngcebo and her children. They headed back to Nongoma in the evening and he was with them now in their premises.

Langelibalele: "No, nkosazana. Look after yourself, your husband and the children. The

danger that was following you shouldn't worry you now."

Nandipha: "Thokoza, mkhulu!" she clapped her hands.

Langalibalele nodded his head once. "I would like to have a brief talk with your husband now." He informed her and Nandipha left them after she'd wished him a safe journey back to his home.

Ngcebo: "Is there something I should worry about?"

Langalibalele: "Don't think that just because your wife is no longer in danger with your children that means you should forget about the wedding."

Ngcebo sighed. "But now, it's not urgent as it was before." He asked.

Langalibalele: "According to my understanding and thoughts it's no longer urgent unless if you

see the dream again that will mean it's urgent. But after your wife has given birth and recovered from that, the wedding should happen right away because your ancestors want the wedding to happen and it should be as all royal weddings, grand with the whole Zululand to witness it."

Ngcebo felt the relief after Langalibalele had said that because now, they were going to be able to breathe and Nandipha was going to have the chance to plan her wedding the way she wanted. "That's a relief to me and I really hope that it should happen after she has given birth because I want to dance with her that day for everyone to witness." he said with a proud smile and they laughed coolly with Langalibalele.

Langalibalele: "We're hoping it will happen as you wish and now, you can tell her about the wedding that it has been requested. But telling

her your parents refused it may not be a wise decision but I don't know it's up to you."

Ngcebo: "I won't tell her that, mkhulu."

Langalibalele: "Hhayi, Nkosana kuhle ke lokho. I will leave now and I will see you when you have to talk to your family. You'll be alone, isn't?"

Ngcebo: "Yes, my wife is leaving together with the children because I think that's better for her and I have all the possible answers my family needs."

Langalibalele: "I will be there too." He promised.

Ngcebo: "Sobonana khona mkhulu and I will see you before I leave don't worry about that. I will still have to wait for these men who rescued her." He told him and he walked him to his car that was driven by his brother.

Langalibalele: "They did an honourable thing."

Ngcebo: "Yes." He supported and wished them

goodbye as Langalibalele's brother drove the car off Ngcebo's premises. He didn't march to close the gate because Palesa was still coming by.

"Call me when you get there and don't forget to burn that muthi before you sleep because it will help you with the nightmares. I want them to stop because you always look frightened." Ngcebo lectured his wife who was standing before him on the porch of their house.

Nandipha: "Yes, I won't forget and I will call you." she promised him and she accepted the hug that Ngcebo was offering. Nandipha closed her eyes inside his arms. "I love you so much and I will try hard not to stress myself."

Ngcebo: "I love you too, nana." He said and he kissed her briefly, they sighed in unison as their foreheads were now doing the kissing. "I will come home when I am done with everything here but now, let me see those five so that you'll

be on the road.” He said to her and they headed to the viano...

Ngcebo: “Similo, why are you quiet because I am saying goodbye?” he asked his daughter who was quiet with her lips pouted. She wasn’t saying anything as their father had just wished them a safe drive and goodbye... Palesa was seated on the driver seat and her car was going to be driven by a royal servant with Thula inside the car...

Nandipha: “Your father is speaking to you, Mimi.”

Similo: “Mama, neke mina nimkhulumise. Uthe ubaba asiyi ebhishi.”

Nandipha laughed and looked at Ngcebo who was looking at their daughter. “I will not bring some sweets for you when I come back.” He threatened.

Similo: “I will ask mama.”

Nandipha: "I won't buy them for you."

Ntokomalo: "Thani bye bye."

Similo: "E.eh! Zocela kugogo mina uzobuya no malume."

Ngcebo: "Le ngane yakho namehlo amakhulu."

He commented looking at Nandipha but she wasn't looking at him but Similo. He closed the door of the viano. "You didn't tell me if your mother said she will come back or not. I couldn't even finish speaking with her, she was too angry." He reminded Nandipha standing by her side of the vehicle.

Nandipha: "I told her she must not come back and don't worry she will get over the fact that you didn't tell her because I tried to make her understand. And don't forget to send my apology to your family for scaring them for taking the children. You know why I did it. It might be forward but play that short clip."

Ngcebo: "Alright, Palesa. Peace."

Palesa: "Peace, Rasta." She said and they laughed... Ngcebo took a step back and looked at the vehicle as it drove out...

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"It's a pity that we didn't get a chance to be drunk like literally!" Banele commented amongst his three brothers who were with him inside Dalingcebo's Hilux, Saturday night they were driving to Nkosazana's palace for the meeting. They were laughing and "reminiscing" on the past events of the traditional wedding, the funny moments, the disaster moments and they commonly avoided all the sweet heart-warming moments. It wasn't for them.

The three brothers laughed. "What kind of a groom are you because you're supposed to think about ways of pleasing your wife after this meeting." Dalingcebo asked Banele. He was

seated on the driver seat and Banele was seated on the passenger seat with him.

The others cracked. "I don't have to think." He commented.

Ngcebo: "Ey, wena! You have to think and strategies, you're a husband now."

Dalingcebo: "Yes! Tell him, bafo."

Mntwana: "You must bring dynamics, Dalingcebo knows he's been with a white woman, you see!" he mocked him and they laughed.

Dalingcebo: "Gowani, wena!" he swore and stopped the car as they have reached Nkosazana's palace. They all stepped out of the car.

Banele: "I will strategize on the meeting then."

Mntwana: "Hawu! While elders are discussing serious things you'll be thinking about sex.

What's that?" he asked looking at him.

Banele: "Let me be! I didn't say the meeting should be today I said after my wedding but they just thought I mean today I guess." He defended himself and they walked around checking the venue of the meeting...

"Ngcebo, where's your wife now?" Dalisu asked as they were all seated down as a family with Langalibalele present amongst them.

Thembelihle: "I didn't even see her on the wedding fields."

Ngcebo: "I sent her home with the girls."

Elders: "HAWU!"

Mnotho: "What's the point of this meeting then if your wife is not here?"

Thembelihle: "She's the one who took the children here and she's the one who should answer our questions. And she's the one who's

supposed to tell us where were they keeping her and why.”

Ngcebo: “I will answer all those questions.”

Uncle elder: “Why should you be the one to answer questions meant for her? Don’t you think we should know everything from the horse’s mouth?”

Ngcebo: “Mkhulu, I did explain that Nandipha is not fit to be hounded with questions of that stressful event and her actions by the whole family. Because at this stage I want absolutely nothing that will upset her.”

Uncle elder: “How will questions upset her?”

Ngcebo: “She’s been through a traumatic experience and the person who can talk to her about that, is someone who must understand the state she’s in. And it doesn’t seem like any of you understand that. If you did, you were going to respect my request.”

Aunt elder: "It's been days since she left the hospital and this, what you are doing now is disrespect. You sent your wife off knowing that she's needed here and what was going to be wrong if she attended your brother's wedding?"

Ngcebo: "I didn't want her in this meeting that's why I said she must leave and Banele knows about that. If you really don't want to ask questions to me, you'll have to wait until the Doctor confirms she's healthy." He said it clearly and the elders sighed in disbelief, they mumbled amongst themselves.

Happiness: "I want to know why your wife took our children without informing us? How can she just get in here and take children that are not hers without informing us?" she asked the question as everyone was quiet.

Langalibalele: "That was a responsibility facing her after she'd revealed that there might be danger following the children and nobody took

it upon themselves to be bothered as she was by this. Nobody came to me except her and her husband to ask and consult about this after she'd said it."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "How were we supposed to be bothered if we didn't know about this? Did all the mothers know about this?" she looked at the three of them, Nkosazana, Happiness and Danielle and the last two said 'NO'

Ngcebo: "Nandipha told the queen about this, which was the right channel to go through when she wanted this to be known. The queen told mama about this which was the right channel because the queen looks up to the queen mother if things are above her shoulders but what did mama say? Mama said Langalibalele will warn them. As mothers, did you stop and ask the grandmother of the children that why did she keep quiet and did nothing about this message that was passed out? Did you do that

MaMthimkhulu and MaNkosi?” he looked at them with serious eyes because he needed to know.

Happiness: “She’s not the one who took our children.”

Ngcebo: “I asked if did you ask the grandmother of your children. Why did she keep quiet and did nothing after being told children must be protected because the message signalled there was danger lurking? Did you ask her that question?”

“No, we didn’t.” Danielle and Happiness replied briefly.

Ngcebo: “Ndlunkulu?”

Nkosazana: “Ngcebo, mother’s response was we were going to be warned.”

Ngcebo: “And you sat on that because a warning coming from my mouth in my sleep is totally useless-”

Mlamuli: "Don't direct it like that, Mageba."

Ngcebo: "No, I should bhuti, because it seems things coming through me are not taken serious. How can two leaders sit on this and when my pregnant wife tried to act and do something she thought was right, you want to throw questions at her while she's not on the right shape? Who in this room questioned mama about her actions? Did you question her, baba? Or maybe you also knew? Mothers of the children who were taken didn't question her. But did you?" he looked at his father who was quiet.

Dalisu: "Your great aunt questioned her and you heard the response that Langalibalele was going to warn us."

Mlamuli: "But aunt questioned why she didn't tell us and that was before we learnt children were missing. That was after Langalibalele left this room after learning the children were missing there was no anger and questions that

were directed to my wife and mother who knew about this. And my wife knows that she was wrong to sit on this I told her. Let's be honest in this. Mama, as a grandmother to these children she was wrong to do nothing. She was supposed to bring them all mothers and they were supposed to plan that they're taking children to a safety house for the rest of the December holidays and Ngcebo and his wife were going to decide if Nandipha is going along with them because she's pregnant but no, we were not given a chance to even voice anything because our mother kept quiet."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "Hmm! Ndabezitha is right, daughters' in-law should come at your feet with things, MaSthole and you should act."

Ngcebo: "My wife took your children because she was told to trust her instincts and she didn't trust you were going to listen to her as she's never been listened to in the past and in that I

include myself. What she was supposed to do was to run to Langalibalele's house with them or to any neighbour she could trust. But how was she supposed to do that she was alone and scared, pregnant with a van full of children in a rainy day. Blame her if you want, be angry, it's your right but not even one of you should curse at her because she was doing what she was told and your children, now, they're safe and alive. And I ask that nobody calls her in secret to ask what I have explained here because there's no better explanation you'll get from her. She'll tell you what Langalibalele told you and what I told you." he said lastly, calmly because he'd promised himself he was going to handle this meeting calm because he didn't want to lose his grip on them. They've done him enough now.

Uncle elder: "We hear you, Ngcebo and I think on this matter lines of communication were

shortened.”

Mnotho: “And if she saw they were not doing anything she was supposed to tell someone else in the family.”

Ngcebo: “Start by saying that to our mother bhuti and we can talk after that. I don’t want people seeing wrong in my wife’s actions while they don’t see wrongs in themselves first. I am really not here for that. And she sent her words of an apology.” He added and played the short clip that Nandipha recorded when she shortly told them she was sorry she took the children. She was just trying to protect them the best way she saw that time...

Langalibalele tightened on his seat as he’d thought that he was going to be the one to have to answer their questions about these message about the children of the kingdom but Prince Ngcebo had it better than he could ever.

Dalisu: “MaSthole, you have nothing to say.”

Thembelihle: “It’s not that I didn’t trust a message from you, Ngcebo but I thought Langalibalele was going to see the danger if there was. But I understand my wrong I was supposed to consult with him and pass the message to the elders of the family. I will ask you forgive me on that.”

The elders mumbled amongst themselves and accepted her apology. “Prince Ngcebo’s wife was taken because of the old feud MaKhumalo had with the family...” Langalibalele narrated the reasons Nandipha was taken and he would stop in between as this was shocking that they were living with this woman while she had a grudge with them that only the elders saw it happen and Dalisu, his brothers and others were told about it as history of their father’s ruling and how he’d cut ill-mannered, ruthless people in the kingdom. But through all this narration of

what Nandipha was taken for he didn't include that why 'her.' It was not on Ngcebo's request that he was hiding this but it was his duty that he had to hide it because he was the only one and the dead Sangoma who knew.

Uncle elder: "But why did they take her? She knows nothing about this and if they wanted revenge they were going to come after us or our king."

Others: "YEAH!"

Langalibalele: "I have tried to look for an answer to that question because I had myself but I didn't find the answer nothing showed."

Mntwana: "I think it's because she's pregnant. If we think about it, this message about children is said for her ears with no dream attached to it for Ngcebo to see but just words. And what can a Sangoma do with a pregnant woman who's carrying royal children, fresh blood who have no

scars? It either muthi to fight against us or make themselves wealth, we all know how they think. They targeted her because she's pregnant and it's only her who's pregnant at this time."

"OOOH!" They all chanted in realisation as what Mntwana was saying to them made sense and Langalibalele nodded even though he knew it wasn't because of that. But he nodded to convince them and they could move from this.

Dalisu: "Ayi, that is out of the way and we are grateful that nobody is harmed. But Ngcebo, I don't know since your wife is not here and that was also wrong that you just sent her away. This also links to the concerns of how much you've become disrespectful and you just allow your wife to do as she pleases. And that's not how things are done here."

Ngcebo: "Hawu, what are you talking about, baba?"

Mnotho: “You’ve been disrespecting the elders just because your wife was missing. We’ve all been through a lot of things and hurtful things but that doesn’t give us right to disrespect elders. Ingicasulile ke mina leyonto and ingakho ngingakaze ngizihlanganise nayo yonke lento ebiyenzeka ngoba uvele weyisa washintsha wakhohlwa ukuthi singaba nemizi kodwa siyizingane kubantu abadala akukho okoshintsha lokho.” (What you did angered me and that’s why I didn’t involve myself in your dilemma because you were disrespectful and you forgot we can be men of our own but we are still children in the presence of the adults.) he voiced out looking straight in Ngcebo’s eyes, Ngcebo who was looking at him... After he’d said that all the elders supported Mnotho’s statement and his parents.

Thembelihle: “You’ve completely changed. You don’t know who we are to you and this wife of

yours doesn't even tell you when you are wrong. I doubt you even do that when she's wrong."

Ngcebo chuckled in disbelief and the elders looked at one another after that. "And even that chuckle shows how much disrespect you have. Yet, you expect us to do things for you, marry you with this wife." Dalisu said to Ngcebo.

Ngcebo: "You've never been in my shoes bhuti Mnotho and in everything you do, you've been supported. When have you ever requested an urgent need and be told that you'll wait, in a matter of life and death? When?"

Mnotho: "That doesn't mean lose respect."

Ngcebo: "I asked you when! You can't answer me, right!" he raised his voice feeling that Mnotho was crossing the line with him now. He had the nerve to talk as if he knew what he was faced with and he'd never been in his situation.

Mnotho: "Don't speak with me like that!"

Ngcebo: “Why not? Everyone wants respect? Was I supposed to act the same after you’ve refused my wedding while I told our parents that the ancestors requested it because they needed to protect my wife-”

Thembelihle: “Don’t even bring that up because there was no danger that was said and don’t even justify your actions. Ungangicasuli wena! You’ve been at it for too long and I have been too lenient with you!”

Ngcebo: “Lenient with me by refusing to protect my wife? Who was going to clap hands and smile while his parents showed they don’t care about the safety of his wife and children.”

Dalisu: “We never said that!”

Ngcebo: “You didn’t have to say it directly, baba. You didn’t! And I know that if I came with the message that maybe your wedding with mama had to be renewed so that she can be protected

by ancestors. You were going to jump on it and Banele wasn't going to be asked to wait but he was going to be told to wait! But no, because it's Ngcebo's wife, what is she to them? She's nothing, they only want her when they must have meetings."

Dalису: "Don't speak like that with us!"

Ngcebo: "I will not keep quiet at your call today because I have been quiet for too long. You take pride in your traditions and ancestors but no, you don't actually, you take that pride when traditions and ancestors are in your favour.

Traditions and ancestors matter when it suits you and this have been proven by you refusing my wedding which was an order from ancestors.

Who knows what was going to happen to Nandipha if Dalingcebo didn't tell me to go and do a ritual into a maternal home? Were those two men going to find her after the voice of our child had woken her up? If they died what were

you going to say to me, baba no mama? 'Sorry, we didn't know there was danger' 'You'll get through it, life will carry on' You were going to say that right?" he shouted uncontrollably because of the anger that he had within him and when he was quiet there was no response from his parents. "Nandipha is my wife and if you haven't made peace with that you better do it sooner because I am not going to leave her because you have a problem with her. I am not going to leave her because you see her as a non-factor in this family. You didn't even care if my children live or die, right?"

Daliso: "YOU'RE OUT OF LINE NOW! YOU'RE RAISING YOUR VOICE IN THE ELDERS' PRESENCE! YOU'RE OUT OF LINE!"

Mnotho: "And he sees nothing wrong with that."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "Let him express himself because clearly he's angry."

Dalisu: "Not like this!"

Thembelihle: "We're your parents and you're telling we don't care about your children? Where are you taking that?"

Ngcebo: "Yes, you don't care I will repeat that, mama. If you cared you were going to ensure their mother was protected but I know, I have seen you don't care. It wasn't you who was supposed to be protected and that didn't move you not even a little bit that children were involved."

Dalisu: "Yey, wena, mfana! That's your mother you're talking to and you'll speak to her with respect if you still want to be part of this family."

Mlamuli: "Don't even go there, baba because you wanted a meeting with Ngcebo. What did you expect was going to happen? You were going to say everything you want to say without

thinking about his feelings and he should not speak about how feels? What was the point of this meeting?”

Dalису: “He must not speak like his with us. Have you ever done this?”

Mlamuli: “He’s angry and we don’t become angry the same.”

Dalису: “If he thinks after he has spoken like this with us as his parents will lead his wedding nuptials. He must think again! Uyangizwa ngithini wena!”

Ngcebo: “Ngiyakuzwa!” he said and he pushed his chair, he stood on his feet.

Thembelihle: “Where do you think you’re going?”

Dalису: “He must leave if he wants to leave!”

Langalibalele: “Don’t let him leave Ndabezitha. It will not be good if he leaves and his wedding must happen, it’s an order from the ancestors.

Yes, his wife is out of danger now but it's an order."

Dalису: "He'll suffer the consequences if something happens. He must ask his brother, he left like this and his livestock died like flies."

Langalibalele: "This is different; the king was refusing your call to lead. He was refusing his rightful place that was the throne and as a result you were going to put the other son in his place while he was chosen by you and the ancestors were for him to rule. Don't let Prince Ngcebo leave."

Dalису: "He's still disobeying my orders and he will suffer those consequences. Tsk!" he clicked his tongue, "Let's go, MaSthole!" and he left them...

Langalibalele: "Elders you must speak to him."

Uncle elder: "We've never been so disrespected by a child." he commented and the other men

supported... Mlamuli got up to follow Ngcebo...

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“I said if it’s my mother in-law don’t bring it to me sister-friend.” Nandipha said to Palesa who was giving her, her ringing phone. Nandipha was on her two feet cooking light supper for them, Saturday night. They’ve been out. The children were watching TV and Palesa was with them because Thula had gone to sleep... She left her phone with Palesa who was using it and she told her not to bring the phone to her if Thembelihle calls. She had suspected she was going to her if the meeting didn’t go well...

Palesa: “It’s not her but it’s an unsaved number she didn’t even call you as I was seated with the phone. She didn’t.”

“Oh!” She took the phone from her and gave her the spoon. Nandipha placed the phone on her ear and she stood by the stool of the kitchen

island. "Hello?" Nandipha answered the phone call.

Thembelihle: "I have been trying to call you and it seems you've blocked my number. Why did you do that?"

Nandipha closed her eyes shortly. "I didn't block your number." She told her truthfully as she didn't but her husband was the one who did without telling her that he has blocked the number.

Thembelihle: "I am too old that you can try and fool me. Oh! That's what you've been telling my son that he must be rebellious against us because now, he's married to you. Ngcebo has never been disrespectful to us but ever since you've in his life he started disrespecting us. You're trying to destroy my son by turning him against us-"

Nandipha's heart, mind and body didn't wait to

register everything but it shut down completely and she fell on the floor following her phone that fell first after her fingers automatically dropped the call before it fell...

Palesa's head turned within a blink of an eye as her ears heard the sound of her falling down. "NANDIPHA!" She screamed and went down to her level. As she was feeling her pulse Nandipha's phone rang again. Palesa took it and she answered the phone as her brains recalled the number was that one. She wanted to hear who was that person.

Thembelihle: "I am talking to you and you're dropping the call-"

Palesa: "Can you please leave Nandipha alone! Please! Leave her! Agha!" she shouted once and dropped the phone call quickly... She rushed out using the kitchen exit to call Thula who was going to help her put Nandipha in her car because she didn't want to wait for an



ambulance...

Palesa: "Dear God, I failed!" she stressed as she was running...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 38

She kept tapping her right sneakered foot on the floor as she sat in waiting, waiting for a nurse, a Doctor whoever who was going to come and brief her about what was going on with her friend. She'd been waiting for too long... She sighed and opened her bag as Nandipha's phone was ringing.

"What's wrong? Are the children awake, still?" Palesa asked Thula who was the one calling on Nandipha's phone... Palesa was seated on the waiting area.

Thula: “Yes, they’re crying, all six of them and MaZungu and I, are clueless now. What’s happening, is there progress?”

Palesa: “I haven’t seen anyone. Have they eaten?”

Thula: “They don’t want to eat.”

Palesa: “Please, force them to eat. I know my son will eat if the others are eating. You can take them to the garden for fresh air feed them there and tell them that I am coming back. I don’t know, convince them because their mother won’t be coming back. She’ll be admitted.”

Thula: “Alright, I will try my best.”

Palesa: “Okay.” She removed the phone from her ear and placed it back inside her bag. She placed her hands on her face and allowed her thoughts to run even wilder. She wasn’t praying, the minute she had to drive her friend to the

hospital she was angry with God. Nandipha had been in the hospital just a few days ago and she was back there once again, what was God saying? She literally clicked her tongue thinking about what was she actually thinking about God? A lot of bad things had been happening and what was his say? She was scared and all these thoughts weren't making things better.

"Hello?" Dalingcebo's sleepy voice answered Palesa's phone call.

Palesa: "I want – someone to keep – me occupied. Can you do that?"

Dalingcebo: "Hey, hey, sthandwa sami. What's wrong? Why are you crying?" his voice asked sounding more concerning than sleepier.

Palesa: "I am in the hospital waiting on the news about Nandipha. Your brother didn't tell you that she's been admitted?"

Dalingcebo: "No, he didn't tell me. What

happened?”

Palesa: “She received a call from your mother and next minute she was on the floor. I had to rush her to the hospital and I have to tell you that your mother called again and I answered the phone, raised my voice out of anger. I told her to leave her alone. I know that she’ll obviously say that I shouted at her.”

Dalingcebo hissed. “My brother. He said he’s coming that side when you called him?” He asked the relevant question.

Palesa: “Yes. I should have been more careful and answer the phone first-”

Dalingcebo: “Hey, don’t blame yourself, okay?”

Palesa: “Your brother asked me to look after her.”

Dalingcebo: “Yes, he did but you couldn’t have-” he was cut off by a voice, that he heard calling out Palesa by her last name.

Palesa: "Babe, I have to go now."

Dalingcebo: "Keep me on the phone I want to hear the feedback."

Palesa: "I will do that." She promised and removed her phone from her ear, she placed it on loudspeaker and stood on her feet. "Yes, mam."

Doctor: "I can see that you're still alone, where's Mrs Zulu's husband?"

Palesa: "He's coming but I don't think he'll be here anytime soon because he was in KZN when I called him about his wife. How's she, Doctor? Can I see her? I just want to know how's she and the babies."

Doctor: "Alright, I can tell you about her condition but please ensure that her husband gets to the hospital in the morning. My shift is ending now but I will brief him in details and we will make a decision about what to do."

Palesa: "Alright, I will do that but-" she placed her hands before her mouth without finishing her sentence because she was impatient and the Doctor was telling her things that she knew she had to do. Of course! She knew that she had to tell Ngcebo come to the hospital! Ngcebo knew that, himself!

Doctor: "Unfortunately, one twin's heart has stopped beating when she got here meaning she has lost the baby but at this stage -" She stopped talking as Palesa sat back on the chair and she cried... She felt the pain as if she was the one who'd lost the baby and she couldn't even imagine what this was going to do to Nandipha. And her husband? Why did... "... I am sorry for her loss but I urge that you keep in mind that it's not safe to mention that to her now. I can give you a few minutes with her but you'll have to pull yourself together. I gave her a light sedative if we can go to her now you can

“speak to her before she falls asleep. She really needs to rest. Pull yourself together and be strong for her.” She added the words, now she’d went down to reach Palesa’s level and she was brushing her back.

Palesa looked at her phone and she dropped the call without saying anything to Dalingcebo. She held in her breathe, tightly to stop the tears and she inhaled deeply. She wiped her tears and stood up with a stoned heart that was only going to help her face Nandipha without breaking apart.

“Here’s your friend, mam.” The Doctor announced her arrival with Palesa to Nandipha who was laying on the hospital bed of her private room. She had her eyes closed and her hand tapping on her belly. The Doctor grabbed a glass.

Nandipha opened her eyes and looked at Palesa, she smiled faintly. “Have you been crying

because I fainted?" She asked giving her hand over to her.

Palesa: "You scared me, you little crazy bitch." She said with a forced smile and she laughed when she saw Nandipha laughing.

Doctor: "Have this. I will come back after two minutes. That's enough." She gave the glass to Nandipha and she took it with 'thank you' The Doctor left them after she'd kept her eye with Palesa as a reminder on what to do and what not. Palesa nodded her head once for her as Nandipha was having water.

Nandipha: "I think I scared myself too and the doctor told me that I shouldn't stress myself even further because my BP level is not so good. I am actually in danger. Can you believe that? They told you, right?"

Palesa: "Yes, you know that is a must that you don't stress yourself! Don't be drowsy so early."



She encouraged holding Nandipha's hand tightly as she saw her eyes becoming drowsy and she just wanted to make her laugh a little or smile even though she didn't have the strength to do that and Nandipha was the one who was good at that.

Nandipha: "If I sleep I won't stress. You know there's no pain and stress in death and sleep is equated to death in a way."

Palesa: "No, silly! Sleeping is equated to resting."

Nandipha: "My Rasta man?"

Palesa: "I called him and you know that he'll be here before you even know it. Can you believe that man of yours shouted at me?" she raised her voice.

Nandipha laughed. "Why did he shout?" She asked.

Palesa: "I was trying to tell him that you fainted

and he roared 'WHERE'S SHE?' Lord! I didn't know he could shout that much."

Nandipha laughed further and Palesa laughed with her. "I am sorry, babes, and yes, he can shout a great deal. He didn't hurt your ear, right?"

Palesa laughed. "I think that he did and he must pay!" she said touching her ear and they laughed with her friend. "But he'll come." She added politely.

Nandipha: "Tell... him to... come see... us-" she said laying her aching cheeks to rest, they were aching from the laughter and she was feeling sleepy...

Palesa: "I don't have to tell that man anything Nandipha because you know that he'll come here straight and I am pretty sure he won't even pass by the house..." she told her what was known to be obvious and she didn't hear a

response from Nandipha because she was dead sleeping. "She's sleeping." She whispered to the Doctor who'd shown her head through the door. She moved away from Nandipha and she followed the Doctor out... She left the room after she'd informed the nurses that they had to watch over Nandipha around the middle of the night or around 3am because she still had the nightmares.

She stamped her forehead on the steering of the car and she remembered who could be Nandipha's strength now because she didn't trust herself. She opened her bag and she came back with her cell phone. She bought more airtime through the bank. She looked at the time and checked on the world clock, what time was it in London. She was sleeping now! The difference was only a few hours. She had to call her. She made an international call... She tried the third time as Faith wasn't answering her

call...

“Palesa?” Faith’s sleepy voice answered the call.

Palesa: “Mama, I-”

Faith: “What’s wrong? You sound troubled? Is everything alright?”

Palesa: “Please, come back.”

Faith: “Why? Did something happen to Nandipha?”

Palesa: “Yes. She’ll need you.”

Faith: “What happened?”

Palesa: “Mama, I think that it’s better that I tell you in person.”

Faith: “Palesa! I am not a child and Nandipha is my daughter, just tell me what happened to her. Please!”

Palesa: “She fainted and I rushed her to the hospital. I have just been told by the Doctor that

she lost one twin.”

“Oh! Jesu!” Those were Faith’s words that Palesa heard from the line and they were followed by mute signalling that she’d dropped the call. Palesa placed her phone back on the bag and she laid her hands on the steering...

She looked at the babies who were sleeping peacefully on the six cots. Phemelo’s cot had been added because they didn’t know how long they were going to spend together and them, sleeping on the sponges for more days was going to result in conflicts of who stepped on who and who slept bad... Palesa fixed Similo’s blankets as she wasn’t fully covered and she fixed her son last. She then left the children for bed, they were sleeping in the guestroom with Nandipha. She threw her body on the bed that she occupied. She closed her heavy eyes without taking off her sneakers and she felt asleep....

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“They couldn’t keep him in the hospital because they said he just needs to rest and they didn’t give us what might have caused this stroke but they explained what wasn’t found in his results. That only means we need to consult.” Dalisu convinced Thembelihle on a Sunday morning. They were inside their bedroom dressing up for the day... They had to drive back with Banele from the hospital because the Doctors didn’t admit him. Thembelihle told Candice that she didn’t need to be alone with Banele in their house. She suggested that Banele and her move in with them until they find what was wrong with him.

Thembelihle: “Maybe we just need a specialist.”

Dalisu: “We will find that specialist if Langalibalele tells us nothing is wrong with him. And we will need to go now, MaSthole. Go and tell his wife that we’re driving down to

Langalibalele with him.”

Thembelihle: “Yebo, Ndabezitha.” She said and she moved out of their bedroom after she’d finished dressing up... She found Candice playing with her food instead of eating her food. She could see that she was smiles away.

Banele was inside the bedroom that belonged to him before he was married. His mother had made soup for him and she gave it to Candice to feed him. “Candice?” Thembelihle called her name out politely and placed her hand on her shoulder. She was looking down at her with a relaxed face.

Candice: “Mama?”

Thembelihle: “We are going to drive down to the royal healer with Banele and you’ll have to come with us. Please eat your food.”

Candice: “Do you think he’ll help us? What if the Doctors made a mistake? Maybe the lab tests

didn't show the results accurately. I don't understand."

Thembelihle: "My child, we have to try everything that we can and if he doesn't help us. We will definitely look for a specialist or take him to a hospital in Durban. But don't stress yourself because he'll be alright." She said what she knew she, couldn't do. She'd been worried since the previous night and she's been praying for her son to get better.

Candice: "We will go down with him, will we?"

Thembelihle: "Yes, it will be easier because they gave us a wheelchair."

Candice: "Alright." She said and got up from the chair with her plate of food on her hand but Thembelihle held her shoulder to stop her. She looked at her.

Thembelihle: "You can't just begin your day with an empty stomach. You need to eat Candice,

even your sick husband had his soup and bread.”

Candice: “I just-”

Thembelihle: “Sit won and eat.” She insisted and Candice sat down because she didn’t want to keep turning her down... Thembelihle left her eating...

“Candy, you’re here! Shouldn’t you be in your house?” Mntwana asked Candice who was standing before the sink washing her plate. Mntwana had just entered the house through the kitchen entrance.

“CANDICE LET’S GO!” Thembelihle’s voice coming from the hallway reached Mntwana and Candice who were the only ones inside the kitchen.

Candice: “We were supposed to but your brother was hit by stroke last night. I have to go.” She said leaving everything on the sink and

leaving Mntwana's jaw dropped as he wasn't expecting such news...

Langalibalele touched Banele's hand and he flipped his fingers before his eyes, the eyes moved... The four of them were inside Langalibalele's hut with Banele seated on his wheelchair... Langalibalele sighed and shook his head, he didn't need to crack his head about this or even consult about it because he could clearly see what was happening but it was procedure!

Langalibalele: "Since last night he's been like this?" he asked looking at Candice, asking in a language that Candice could understand as he sat back on his position that was before the four of them.

Candice: "Yes."

Langalibalele took the bag of his bones and he requested the usual, 'blow inside the bag' He

began doing what was needed for him to do...

“Hheyi! Hheyi! Hheyi!” He groaned louder as he read the bones... Candice looked at Thembelihle as she felt a little freaked out and overwhelmed by just being inside this hut that had things she didn’t even think she could know. Thembelihle held Candice’s hand as she saw her looking at her with fear...

Dalису: “What are you seeing, mkhulu?”

Langalibalele: “Deep down in your heart Ndabezitha you know what’s happening.” He looked at him with a sharp eye and Dalису didn’t break the contact. Langalibalele waited for him to speak...

Dalису: “I wouldn’t be here if I know.”

Thembelihle: “If you see something, please, tell us.”

“Until Prince Ngcebo weds his wife as your father had requested and as your mother had

appeared to me, Prince Banele's condition will remain the same." Langalibalele announced what he thought would be clear as daylight to them but it seemed it wasn't even close to the daylight they were in the dark...

Thembelihle: "But wasn't the wedding requested because there-"

Langalibalele: "No questions should be asked mam' ndlunkulu. You were given a chance to ask questions regarding this request and follow it but you didn't do that. This is not a game, Ndabezitha, you know this is not a game but you've turned a blind eye. You've defied your father!"

Dalisu: "We didn't think-"

Langalibalele: "This isn't a time to raise excuses. Nkosana' Banele is in that condition because of the excuses you made and excuses you knew you weren't even supposed to make in the first

but you were supposed to jump on this.”

Dalisu: “We will ensure that the wedding happens as soon as possible.” He informed him curtly with a bold voice.

Thembelihle: “But for now, isn’t there something that you can give to him?”

Langalibalele: “No, he’ll remain the same until his brother gets married.” He made it clear and shook his head along with his shoulders seeing the dark hour that had befallen Ngcebo. “I need to be alone.” He announced and groaned loudly his body automatically caving deep into the spirit world...

Candice pushed Banele’s wheelchair while she listened to Thembelihle translate what Langalibalele was saying to them after he’d read his bones.

Candice: “This mean, he’ll remain like this for months. Nandipha is pregnant and she can’t

perform all the wedding procedures.”

Dalisu: “She was going to have a wedding after you as pregnant as she is now and that means she can get married.”

Thembelihle: “Ngcebo would do anything to ensure his brother is fine and if they must come back and have this wedding, he will do that. Don’t worry yourself too much because my son won’t allow his younger brother to suffer while he knows what he can do to give back his physical ability.”

Dalisu: “We will speak to him and you two will have to remain with us so that you can look after your husband with your mother in-law’s help.”

Thembelihle: Yes, you’ll have to stay with us.”

Candice: “Alright, thank you.”

Thembelihle: “Don’t say that.” She said looking at her and Candice nodded once with a short

smile on her face...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 40

“Ngcebo! Ngcebo! Open the door.” Faith banged the door of Ngcebo’s bedroom. She’d just landed back in South Africa a few hours ago, she was with Randall who didn’t want to stay behind for a while because it hadn’t been long since they buried his grandmother. His family understood that he needed to go because of his sister and they didn’t see the reason for him to stay behind because he wasn’t going to enjoy holidays while worried about his sister... Faith had called Palesa first before she thought of driving to the hospital and Palesa told her that Ngcebo was home and he had to see the Doctor.

Randall: "But mum, we should be with Lauren maybe Tee wants to be alone."

Faith: "I told you, he needs to see your sister's doctor and make a decision about what will happen. I can't see your sister while I don't know what will happen. Ngcebo can't lock himself in here now."

Randall: "He's also human and he feels pain the same way you women, do."

Faith: "I will give a tight back slap." She raised her hand at Randall and he took a few quick steps back to hide away from the slap that his mother was promising him now. "Did I say anything about his pain being different to ours? Huh? Did I say anything?" she asked seriously.

Randall: "No, but mum, you're angry now."

Faith: "WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT TO DO! DAMMIT! DON'T YOU GET IT?"

Randall: "Mum-"

Faith: "Run, Randall, run away from my face."
She shouted at him bending down to take off the light brown heel that she had on with, peach high waist pants and a white long sleeve shirt... Randall didn't even say another word but he ran away from his mother to avoid having the heel on his body... Faith clicked her tongue and she threw the heel that she'd taken off her foot down to the floor and she wore it. As she was about to knock on the door again, Ngcebo opened the door for her. Faith sighed.

Ngcebo: "Palesa, called you."

Faith: "Yes, you weren't going to call me. I think we know about that. Look at you!" She exclaimed throwing her white handbag on the floor and she opened her arms for Ngcebo. Ngcebo neglected his troubled self, inside Faith's arms.

Ngcebo: "I am so sorry."

Faith: “Hey! What are you sorry for? You’ve lost your baby and as hard as it is, we have to go and see the Doctor. I know how painful it is to lose a child, I had to pass through two miscarriages to have Randall and his father even suggested that I go back home to Nandipha. He understood my culture and how things worked and he thought maybe I was losing babies because I have left Nandipha back home but it wasn’t that. It’s just wasn’t our time to hold a baby into our arms and think about this, you’ll hold this baby even though it would be for the first and the last time but you’ll hold him and he’ll leave but he won’t leave you alone. He’ll leave you with his brother.”

Ngcebo: “I never wanted to lose any of them.”

Faith: “I know! No parent who’d accepted and rejoiced about the pregnancy, ever wishes to lose that baby, whether a dad or mother. But now, don’t break down Ngcebo, remember my

baby doesn't know about this and I have been telling Randall that all we need to do is put on a bravest face for her until the time is right for us to through this grief with her. If you break down now and don't even go see her, what reason will you give to her?" she asked backing away from him and he looked at him as he wiped his tears. He exhaled.

Ngcebo: "I don't have one. But I tried all my best to protect them I even blocked my mother's number but she managed to call her and she sent my wife straight to the deep-"

Faith: "Your mother?" she checked because she didn't know the reason Nandipha landed in the hospital. She didn't get time to ask Palesa.

Ngcebo nodded. "Did you know, she had a problem with Nandipha and she even-" he didn't finish his sentence but he looked aside. He'd never imagined that he would one day feel so much pain because of his mother. He looked at

Faith who wasn't speaking but she had her eyes closed. "Is that the reason you wanted Nandipha and I to get our marriage annulled, the same day we got married?" He asked as he was trying to make sense of things.

Faith: "We need to go to the hospital."

Ngcebo: "Mama, please, answer me. Did you know?"

Faith: "Yes, I knew and I don't want to talk about this, because it was Nandipha's decision not to tell you. I don't want to speak about your mother." She replied and pressed her teeth together. Nandipha was her priority now and this woman was going to be the last person she needed to talk to. She'd kept quiet and ignored her in the past because she didn't want to keep wasting her breath on her but now, she couldn't keep quiet. She'd gone too far and that husband of hers needed to hear what she had to say!

Ngcebo: "I am not ready to face her-"

Faith: "We are going to the hospital, Ngcebo. You can't stay here while you don't know what's happening with your wife and the children inside her. I am not the one to say how men and women should react to pain and which reactions are not for men. But now, as a husband, it's not your duty to sit here and drown in pain while you don't know what's happening. You still have responsibilities towards your children and wife. Let's go, now!" she said clearly.

Ngcebo: "I will be behind you." he said as her words had penetrated through his mind, he was feeling pain and mostly he was angry but he couldn't let these emotions control him entirely...

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"MAMA!" The girls called out their sleeping

mother in unison. They have eagerly waited for this moment to come see her, where they were going to speak to her. They've planned on the things they were going to tell her.

Palesa: "Hey, slow down, girls. Your mother is sleeping and we must wake her very nicely because she's resting, okay?" She looked at them.

"YEBO!" They chanted and stood back with their hands before their bellies and the others, their hands straightened on the sides. Phemelo was standing next to his mother holding a bag of food. Palesa shook Nandipha awake.

Palesa: "We are here and your rats are impatient." She informed Nandipha with a smile on her face as she was rubbing her eyes. She yawned.

"MAMA!" They screamed and giggled as she was sitting up.

Nandipha: “Sanibona, sawubona, Melo.”

Children: “YEBO!”

Similo: “Mama, yehla phela njengakucala, siyacela.” (Please, get off the bed like you did before. We beg you.) she asked with her head looking up at their mother as they were short standing on that floor.

Nandipha: “Mimi, your father is not here to help me. Where’s he, anyway?” she looked at Palesa because she was looking forward to seeing him.

Palesa: “He’ll come.”

Nandipha: “He doesn’t want to come and see me, Palesa? The nurse told me in the morning that he came here when I was sleeping... Did you see your father girls? Is your father home?” she looked at her children.

Girls: “YEBO!”

Buhle: “Ubaba, yena simbingelelile kodwa

wangavuma.” (We greeted dad but he didn’t greet us back) she told her mother sadly.

Similo: “Ehe, mama, usidlulile thina wangasho lutho simbingelela.”

Thando: “Shishi, naye wamkhulumisa kodwa wathula.” (Thula, also spoke to him but he kept quiet.) she testified after the two sisters.

Nandipha looked at Palesa. “What’s going on Lisa? Please, don’t lie to me. Why isn’t he here? Why is he ignoring the children?” She asked.

Palesa: “I think that he’s still angry with his mother.”

Nandipha: “I am not his mother. This is not his mother but me, his wife. Why isn’t he here? Please, give me your phone.” she requested giving out her hand because she couldn’t understand why Ngcebo would choose not to come see her. His anger was important than her! She clicked her tongue and gave Palesa her

phone back because Ngcebo's phone was on voicemail.

Palesa: "You don't have to be angry like this. Didn't you listen?"

Nandipha: "Didn't he heard that I shouldn't be angry and he knows this would definitely make me angry. Tsk! It's fine, though. It's fine!"

Palesa: "Calm down, we got children here and they were looking forward to seeing you but now, you're angry at their father."

Nandipha didn't say anything but she looked at her children who were looking at her with relaxed faces. She sighed. "If you get home tell your father that he's upsetting me and the babies. Tell him that we're upset, okay?" she instructed her children seriously and they nodded.

Similo: "Somtshela kakhulu mama." (We will tell him loudly.)

Ntokomalo: “Shomemeza shonke, no, Melo futhi, anithi?” (We will all scream and Melo included, right?) she looked at her sister and Phemelo.

Children: “EHE!”

Nandipha opened the plastic bag that Palesa had brought for her. “How can he be angry with his mother and forget about me?” She asked and looked at her friend while she was giving the packet of chips to the children. She needed to ask this question once again because she didn’t understand Ngcebo’s actions.

Palesa: “I happened to tell him everything that has been happening.”

Nandipha: “What do you mean?”

Palesa: “I told him everything about his mother, I told him she’s the reason you’re in this hospital bed and I even told him about the slap.”

Nandipha: “WHAT!”

Palesa: "Yes, I had to tell him everything so that he can know."

Nandipha: "And what will happen if he knows, Palesa? He'll fight with his mother now and they will be on my case about how I want Ngcebo and his mother to fight. I don't need any stress from those people. She'll come here with the older women of the family and they will shout about this without even asking how am I?

Without even asking about my babies because none of them really care about me. They showed me that when Ngcebo was unconscious. I don't want to lose any of my babies because of those people especially not because of Ngcebo's mother. She didn't even ask how am I doing when she called me, Palesa but she just-

Palesa: "Hey! Please, calm down because you're too angry now and I understand why you're angry but this had to stop! Ngcebo had to know

everything about his mother because I didn't want this to reach the stage where she was going to come between the two of you. We don't understand what's her problem and her son should know she has a problem."

Nandipha didn't comment further but she looked at her babies. "Did you miss your mother last night? I missed you." She told them trying to keep calm.

Girls: "Ehe!"

Phemelo: "Thando wanted to sleep on your bed, aunt and she cried even after we've kept quiet because mama said she's coming back."

Nandipha: "Hawu, what did you do, Phemelo?" she smiled placing her hand on Thando's head while she was looking at Phemelo.

Phemelo: "I told her to KEEP QUIET NOW!" He replied and they laughed.

Nandipha: "You did a good thing and what did

my girls bring for mama and their little brothers?
What did you bring?"

Buhle: "Mama, sikuphathele ukudla." (We brought food)

Nongcebo: "Imina futh enithe ashithenge amashiphshi shithengele obhuti." (I am the one who said we should buy chips for our brothers)

Nandipha: "Ah! Really? Let me open them and we will eat them together." she took the packet of chips and she opened it. She looked at her friend.

Nandipha: "Where's your mind? I am no longer angry with you."

Palesa looked at her quickly. "I know you wouldn't be angry with me for too long. But I am just quiet listening to the children speak." She replied.

Nandipha nodded but she wasn't convinced with that response because her facial

expression didn't support it... She then shared the packet of chips with the children while having a conversation with them...

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"Mama?" Nkosazana called out Thembelihle, she was the first person to talk after the long still silence with Thembelihle crying.

Happiness: "I don't think she can talk right now." she replied looking at Nkosazana who was seated next to her... Danielle stood up and she left them, feeling a heavy heart as this was opening up old wounds for her.

"I will go check on her." Mnotho stood up and he walked up to the door, he looked around for Danielle and he found her leaning by the wall of the main house. "Hey, why are you crying?" He asked pulling her by her hand.

Danielle: "I remember as if it was yesterday when we lost our baby and I can't even imagine

what Nandipha might be feeling right now.” she cried inside Mnotho’s arms. He was holding her tightly. “And how trying to move is difficult, we almost broke up and how difficult would it be for them knowing that Ngcebo’s mother had a hand in-”

Mnotho: “Don’t do this to yourself and its God who has the power over a human being’s life. Ngcebo and his wife will get through this.”

Danielle: “How?” she looked at him with tears flowing down her cheeks and Mnotho wiped the tears with his hands. She laid back inside his arms.

Mnotho: “I don’t know but they will.”

“Is everything alright?” Happiness asked appearing on their sight. She’d left the house to check on them. Thembelihle had gotten up from the chair and she left them for her bedroom. “She’s having a-” she didn’t finish her sentence

as Mnotho nodded his head to confirm what she was going to ask.

Happiness: "I will go back inside." She said looking at Mnotho as Danielle was talking but she was crying inside their husband's arms.

Mnotho: "We will come when she's calm." He assured and Happiness turned to leave them... "What is it that will make you feel better? Do you think calling her and speaking with her will make you feel better?" he asked.

Danielle: "I don't think speaking on the phone will be good."

Mnotho: "I am pretty sure some of the family members will go to Johannesburg. Why don't you go with them and maybe you'll feel better if you can talk to her and share your experience?"

Danielle: "Okay, I will go when the family is going over there." she agreed to it and she backed away from him. She wiped her tears.



“Let’s go back and thank you.” She said to him with a short smile.

Mnotho: “Thanks for what?”

Danielle: “For being here.”

Mnotho: “I will slap your long nose for being too forward. Thank you for what!” He said pulling her and Danielle giggled...

“Has anything been decided?” Danielle asked looking at Nkosazana who was the only one seated on the lounge with Happiness and Candice.

Nkosazana: “No, nothing has been decided they just left without saying anything. But I think that we should come back in the afternoon.”

Happiness: “Yes, that’s better because now doesn’t seem good.”

Danielle: “Alright but do you think we’ll have to go to Johannesburg or they will come back here.

I think there would be a burial she was seven months if I am not mistaken, right?" she looked at Nkosazana.

Nkosazana: "Yes, we will surely have to go to them and everything will be decided there if they're coming back or not."

Mnotho: "They will have to come back. They can't bury a child in a foreign city but the child must be with his ancestors. It's how things are done."

Happiness: "And it's out of question for us not to go."

Nkosazana: "You're right. Let's go for now and we will come back." she said and looked at Candice, she nodded her head once. They got up and left...

"You've been quiet since we learnt that Ngcebo has lost his son. You're not saying a thing to me." Thembelihle said to Dalisu who was

seated on his chair inside the dining room he was having his coffee along with breakfast on a Monday morning... None of them had said much to each other since they learnt that Ngcebo had lost his child but in the afternoon they decided they were leaving...

Daliso: "What do you want me to say? Thank you?"

Thembelihle: "I didn't know this would happen, Ndabezitha-"

Daliso: "If I want to speak to you I will speak to you but now, I don't have a thing to say to you."

Thembelihle: "How will I go to Johannesburg while you're not speaking to me? If I knew this would happen I wasn't going to make that-"

Daliso: "MASTHOLE!" he shouted and banged the table as she was making him further angry. He'd stated clearly he didn't want to talk but she was pushing. "You don't listen now! I said I want

to have my breakfast alone and now, am saying I don't want to talk to you and you're talking and you're here after I have said I don't want anyone here. Get out of my face, man!" He shouted his rage out and his wife didn't say another word but she left him alone. Dalisu hissed and he proceeded with having his coffee listening to his mind...

Nkosazana: "Baba, we are leaving now. I don't know if you have something you would like us to tell Ngcebo or you'll call him." she told Dalisu who was standing behind the main house looking far on the mountains.

Dalisu: "Why would I tell you what I want to say to Ngcebo? Who sent you here to ask that?" he asked without looking back at Nkosazana who was standing just behind him.

Nkosazana: "Aunt Nomkhosi and mama saw it best I come and tell you that we're leaving now. And-"

Dalisu: "You can leave."

Nkosazana: "Ndabezitha!" she exclaimed and she turned leaving him standing over there. She marched back to the front... She stepped inside her car that she was driving with Happiness and Danielle. Candice was staying behind with Banele. They were driving to Johannesburg as women of the family, them as daughters' in-law, two aunts and Thembelihle.

Happiness: "I didn't think that baba was going to agree that we don't tell the who family what really happened." She commented and turned on the music. She was seated on the passenger seat while Nkosazana was driving and Danielle seated on the backseat. They following the guards' car and Thembelihle's car was behind them.

Danielle: "What was wrong if he told them the truth?"

Nkosazana: “We might be a family but the elders and other family members don’t have to know everything that happens in our father in-law’s house just like we don’t know everything that happens in baba’ uSbani’s house and the others. The elders and other family members are informed of important and measure things.” She replied to Danielle’s question.

Happiness: “And Nkosazana and I didn’t see it was going to be a good idea for the whole family to know how the other child died. They were going to crucify her and say all sort of things to her.” she replied, she’d spoken to Nkosazana that they ask Dalisu not to tell the family that Thembelihle was the one who called Nandipha and that led her to losing her baby. They thought it through with Nkosazana and saw it wasn’t going to turn out good if the whole family would be told. They decided to ask Dalisu in the afternoon meeting and Dalisu

supported them that they were not going to tell the rest of the family.

Danielle: "I understand, especially her sister in-law Nomalanga."

Nkosazana: "It was going to create more problems than the ones we have now. And the elders are too judgemental."

Happiness: "One could swear they're saints." She said on a low tone and the two other sisters laughed. She shook her head thinking about how much they've judged her in the past.

Danielle: "But do you think Ngcebo will agree to come back?"

Nkosazana: "Why wouldn't he?"

Danielle: "I have never seen him that angry."

Nkosazana: "This is for his child not for himself."

Happiness: "Candice was too quiet and it must

be stressful for her now because I don't think there'll be a wedding soon."

Danielle: "Hhayi! Shame, things happen!" she said and they agreed stressfully...

"I am sorry, mam but nobody is allowed to see her expect for her husband, mother, friend and brother." The nurse told Nkosazana who was with their mother in-law and other sisters' in-law... Aunt Nomkhosi had suggested Thembelihle and her daughters' in-law drive to Nandipha first and they were going to drive straight to Ngcebo's house.

Thembelihle: "Why? Who gave those orders?"

Nurse: "I don't know I have just begun my shift but it's clearly written here that nobody besides these people written here should see her."

Them: "HAWU!"

Danielle: "We mean no harm we just want to see her."



Nurse: "I can lose my job if I can let you see her while it was clearly stated that nobody should see her. I am sorry but you can't see her."

Thembelihle: "Let's go see Ngcebo then." She said in defeat and she turned, they all left the hospital... Nobody amongst them said a word...

## THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 41

"Please, sit." The Doctor showed Ngcebo and Faith the seats that were before her desk. She'd managed to finish everything she was doing because she'd been told they have arrived... "I expected you earlier." She told them but looking at Ngcebo as they were sitting down.

Ngcebo: "I wasn't ready to come after I have been told I lost a child."

Doctor: "I am very sorry for your loss." She said politely and she looked at them both with a face showing concern.

Faith and Ngcebo: "Thank you."

Ngcebo: "I think we can begin. This is my wife's mother and I am her husband."

Doctor: "Of course, I know her mother and on that note, we can begin," she said with a short smile and she paged through Nandipha's file to begin briefing them. "When Nandipha was brought here and Palesa had filled us in quickly about what happened. I began working on her and I did the fetal heart rate monitoring and it seems she's strained and her BP is too high, she's under a lot of stress and that's not good and fainting!"

Ngcebo: "She's been kidnapped and she's been

going through post-traumatic stress and the nightmares, it hasn't even been a week since she was found."

Doctor: "I am sorry for that but Mrs Butterworth why didn't you suggest she sees a psychiatrist or a professional?" she asked looking at Faith.

Faith: "Doctor, I have just landed in South Africa today and I didn't know about the kidnap until she was found and her husband had ensured to go through this with her. She was getting better and that phone call changed everything. I really didn't suggest a professional because I trusted him he would help her."

Doctor: "Alright. I did a non-stress test to count the number of times the babies' heartbeat after a doppler had picked up the heart rates. And the heart beats weren't 110 – 160 times a minute as most babies, and as the record of her pregnancy on the previous month. The lack of a normal heartbeat doesn't always mean

something is wrong with the baby but in this case it means the remaining baby is in danger which is why I advised that the mother must not be informed she has lost the other baby for now.”

Ngcebo: “What will happen with the dead baby? You’ll remove him and leave the other baby or you’ll remove them both?”

Doctor: “At this stage performing a C-section for your wife is not wise but if you feel we should do it. We can do it but it can be risky.”

Faith: “What is your honest advice? And if they don’t want to do it?”

Doctor: “My advice is that, when I discharge her, you take her home or a family holiday and make her as happy as possible because that will increase the health of the baby because it’s not the nutrients that are lacking but psychologically, the mother must be stable and

health for the remaining baby to be stable and healthy, fully.”

Ngcebo: “Wouldn’t that be a problem for the surviving twin to have a lost twin inside the womb with him?”

Doctor: “The risks are minimal because they’re not identical twins but the mother will need careful monitoring from the Doctor and even if you decide to take her on a holiday which will obviously be around South Africa, you’ll need to find a Doctor around that area and inform him of this situation. The Doctor will monitor her while you keep on trying your best to make her happy to uplift the heartbeat of the remaining twin. You’ll then come back and we will do a C-section after telling her she lost the baby or we can tell her after the C-section. I don’t know but the choice will be yours.”

Ngcebo sighed. “We can’t send her to the C-section and take out the dead baby then leave

the surviving baby? She'll have to give birth to a premature?"

Doctor: "We can't do that, Prince, because that will mean we should tell her and she'll ask if we just take her to surgery as an emergency she will ask why she has stitches while her babies are not before her and it will be difficult to--"

Ngcebo: "I understand."

Doctor: "I know it may be difficult that you should be grieving but her on the other hand she'll be talking about two babies while you know there's one alive. But you have no choice, you just have to go along with her and live as if there are two babies and we will help you both if you need support after we've broken the news to her."

Faith: "I just can't imagine the question that the girls will have. They're expecting two little brothers and how will we explain that--" she

closed her eyes with her head forced down and she cried. Ngcebo looked down and he didn't say anything as Faith was crying... The Doctor stood up from her seat and she moved to their side, she pulled Faith up by her hand and hugged her...

Doctor: "This is a difficult time for the family but I have seen on your blog years ago where you talk about the loss of a child. When that time comes, you'll share that with your daughter even though I don't know what will you and Nandipha and Prince say to the girls."

Faith: "Thank you." she said and wiping her tears after backing away from the Doctor. She resolved back to her seat and she looked at Ngcebo. "You need to make a decision and I will support it if I feel it's right and we can get another option if we feel we're not satisfied." She said to him softly.

Ngcebo: "We will just have to pretend the

babies are both alive and we will do everything for the surviving baby and my wife to be stable.”

Faith: “I think that’s the best option for now.”

Doctor: “Alright, I will keep her here for a few days and please, when she’s out, look after her and she must get some rest. You’ll inform me if you go to a holiday or not so that I can know if she’ll be coming in for monitoring. Once they’re both stable, we will take it from there.”

Ngcebo: “That’s all, right?”

Doctor: “And just to advice you that don’t be stressed until she feels that you’re stressed out but fight, that’s all you can do now for your family.” She advised Ngcebo looking at him... And Faith was also looking at him with her head nodding as she was supporting the Doctor.

Ngcebo: “I will do that.”

Doctor: “They’ll need support, Mrs Butterworth and please, provide it for them until we deliver



the baby safely because we don't want to lose them both."

Faith: "Don't worry, I will be with them until we deliver the babies."

Doctor: "That's all. I think you can go see her now and I will keep, keeping you informed until she's ready to be discharged." She said standing up giving her hand over to Faith firstly and they shook hands. She then gave it to Ngcebo...

"Mama, can you go and see her?" Ngcebo requested to Faith, he had his phone on his hand responding to Dalingcebo's text, he'd switched it on.

Faith: "Are you going to run away from my daughter now?"

Ngcebo: "No, but I just need time."

Faith: "And what must she do while you're still 'needing time?' Huh? What must Nandipha think

exactly?" she asked and looked at him closely with her fists placed on her waist. She was no longer moving.

Ngcebo: "I will come and see her."

Faith didn't say anything but she walked away from him to get to Nandipha's room... She exhaled deeply and she smiled from the door, she could hear Nandipha's laughter and her brother laughing with her...

"MAMA!" Nandipha exclaimed with delight as Faith entered the door.

Randall: "Mm! One could swear that you're a three-year-old seeing your mother with candy the way you've just called her out now." he commented.

Nandipha and Faith laughed. "Can you please shut up, boy! My rats are not here and I want to be a child." She told her brother and she hugged her mother with her heart and she closed her

eyes feeling at ease.

Faith: "My baby girl!"

Nandipha: "I screamed when this one got here because my sister friend didn't tell me that you'll be coming back."

Faith looked at her with a smile on her face and she placed her hands on her chubby cheeks, Nandipha giggled. "You think we were going to stay in London while you are laying in here? We weren't going to do and you know, how your brother's kind do things. It's unlike us." She told her.

Randall: "Mum, did you just say 'your brother's kind?'" he asked loudly and widened his eyes looking at his mother but Faith folded her lips while Nandipha was laughing her pregnant lungs out. "There's nothing funny!"

Faith: "Yes! What kind are you, Randall?"

Randall: "I am mixed race and nobody is mixed

from my family.”

Nandipha: “Come on! You know what mama means about your kind.” She mocked him further and they laughed with Faith.

Faith: “Okay, my baby, if that was offensive. I am sorry.”

Randall: “SHE’S SORRY! Did you hear that?”

Nandipha: “Ah! Don’t be at it, mama does say sorry.”

Randall: “She didn’t say if for attempting to paste her heel on my body.” He revealed and that got Nandipha laughing louder until her cheeks had turned red. “Can you tell her to stop laughing, mum?” He requested.

Faith: “Stop laughing at your brother!”

Nandipha: “No, this child, he never ceases to amaze me. What did you do?”

Randall: “Nothing offensive.”

Faith: "How are you, Nandipha?" she asked when Nandipha was calm.

Nandipha: "I am here mama. How did the funeral go?"

Randall: "You asked us about that when you called. How are you?"

Nandipha: "I am in the hospital I am not really fine but my babies are still alive and that's what matters even though their father clearly doesn't want me now." she replied and looked at her palms.

Faith: "That's nonsense! Why would you say that?"

Nandipha: "He hasn't come to see me, mama. What do you call that?"

Faith: "He will come see you and you know that."

Nandipha: "Mxm! Who's his priority right now

because I know that he's in Johannesburg?  
Who's his priority, mama?"

Faith: "Stop thinking like that."

Nandipha: "Morning passed, midday passed, and we are heading to evening now and the husband hasn't come to see me but he's in Johannesburg. That's very nice of him and it's good, I guess." Faith sighed and he looked at Randall because now she didn't know what she was going to say to Nandipha who was complaining. "Did you bring any gifts for us?" She asked and looked at them both, as they were quiet now.

Faith: "We left in a hurry. We didn't get time to buy gifts."

Nandipha: "Okay."

Randall: "She's speaking for herself though." He said out loud but he clearly knew that he didn't buy any gifts but he was saying to cheer her up

and he had a plan on how he was going to give it to her.

Nandipha: “Really?”

Randall: “Yes, but I didn’t manage to buy for the girls and the boys.”

Nandipha: “I won’t them a thing.” She said to her brother with a wink and they laughed sharing a fist bump... Faith looked at them laugh and her mind was with Ngcebo now who hadn’t come to see her daughter and it didn’t look like he was going to come see her anytime soon...

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“Where’s everyone?” Thembelihle asked Thula who was busy packing the clothes of the girls on their drawers... They’ve just reached Ngcebo’s house and the house only had Thula and MaZungu.

Thula: “Mama’ ndlunkulu, Prince Ngcebo left

with Nandipha's mother and brother, he hasn't come back home and Palesa left in the afternoon with the girls and her son. I didn't know if they're going to the hospital. I didn't ask."

Thembelihle: "You didn't ask! Ain't you supposed to be looking after the children and when they leave the house you don't ask."

Thula: "I thought they're going to the hospital."

Thembelihle: "This friend is staying here now?"

Thula: "She's been here since Prince Ngcebo wasn't here."

Thembelihle: "Call her and tell her to come back with my grandchildren. I don't know why would she be out this late with the children."

Thula: "And if they're in the hospital?"

Thembelihle: "It's fine, you won't tell them to come back." she said and she left the Thula

inside the room tapping on her phone... She climbed down the stairs and before she could head to the lounge, Dalingcebo appeared from the front door's direction, he had the two girls inside his arms and Ngcebo was following him with the other two...

Thembelihle: "Sanibona, where have you been?" she asked looking at them approaching her closer to her. Dalingcebo was looking at her with clear eyes and Ngcebo was looking at where he was heading.

Dalingcebo: "Yebo. We are coming from Midrand to take the girls." He replied without stopping for his mother who was looking at Ngcebo, Ngcebo wasn't even looking at his mother but he was passing her by...

"I will go take Buhle." Dalingcebo informed Ngcebo after they've placed the children inside their cots. They left Thula fixing them...

Ngcebo: “And I don’t want any of them in my house.”

Dalingcebo: “Are you sure about that?” he asked looking at her taking the turn to the lounge without answering him if he was sure or not.

Dalingcebo only came to Johannesburg because he was stubborn about it but Ngcebo didn’t want them to come. He told Mntwana clearly that he wanted to be alone especially because Nandipha didn’t know and he listened but Dalingcebo didn’t take any of that. He drove to Gauteng anyway...

“Hawu, sawubona, Ngcebo.” The two aunts greeted Ngcebo who was stepping inside the lounge where they were all seated down watching TV and eating.

Ngcebo: “Yebo, aunty, ninjani?”

Aunts: “Siyaphila ngoba siyahamba. How are you?”

Ngcebo: "I am not fine and I am here to request something." He informed looking at them all to check who was inside the lounge...

Aunts: "What is it?"

Ngcebo: "My wife doesn't know she lost a baby and with respect I ask that you go back home because there's no need for you to be here." He broke it down to them formally because of the two aunts who were with them.

"HAWU!" They all chanted in surprise.

Thembelihle: "We are here to support you until it's time to take the child back home for burial. And you're telling us there's no need for us to be here?"

Ngcebo: "You're here to support me from what? I didn't say I need your support. You just came here to see how much damage you've done and even do more damage and you call that support?"

Aunts: “HHAYBO! NGCEBO!”

Nkosazana: “Ngcebo, don’t speak like that.

Ngcebo: “I don’t want you in my house, and I will say this once again because when I said it the last time you didn’t hear it. Please, stop calling my wife, stop calling Nandipha because there’s nothing valuable you say to her. I don’t want to have a restraining order against you because you gave birth to me but you didn’t give birth to Nandipha, stop calling her.” he said clearly looking at his mother who was looking at him with a white face. He didn’t even want to look at her and he was trying his best to keep calm. He didn’t want to say big hostile words to her but he wanted to make things clear lastly.

Happiness: “Ngcebo, don’t do this to your mother.”

Ngcebo: “Why are you still sitting down because I am telling you all to leave my house? I don’t

want you here because there's no need for you to be here."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "Ngcebo, things are not done like this."

Ngcebo: "I can listen to someone else if they can tell me that but amongst these faces I see here. There's not even a single person who has a right to tell me how things are done."

Thembelihle: "I am your mother, Ngcebo."

Ngcebo: You were supposed to remember that when I was begging at your feet but you forgot that you're my mother. That didn't work and now, you are my mother? When you were supposed to do what was right for me you didn't say you'll do it because you're my mother. You haven't been acting like my mother lately and so please, go."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "A child must not treat his mother like this because you'll need her one day,

Ngcebo. She'll always be your mother."

Ngcebo: "Yeah, I have needed her and she did nothing to help me. Please, leave because I don't want you here."

Dalingcebo: "Ngcebo, our great aunts are here and why don't you let them stay the night and they'll go tomorrow morning."

Ngcebo: "They're not driving alone, two cars are outside and so, I want everyone in this room to leave. Ndlunkulu, please make things easy for me just lead everyone out of my house as a leader."

Nkosazana: "Ngcebo, I understand that you're angry-"

Ngcebo: "You understand nothing, don't even lie because you've never been through what I am going through now. I don't want any of your lies telling me you understand, you understand nothing! And bhuti Mlamuli knows that I didn't

want anyone coming here I didn't even want Mntwana and Dalingcebo, himself. But he came forcefully."

Nkosazana: "Your father-"

Ngcebo: "He's equal to his wife they don't give a damn about me and so, please, I don't want to carry your bags out of the house just leave."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "You'll bury this child alone, Ngcebo? Now, you're talking as if you don't need your family. Will you bury this child alone? I am asking!"

Ngcebo: "I don't know aunty but I can see you've come here to talk about burials and you're still asking me about burials after I have told you that Nandipha doesn't know her child is dead."

"How can you hurt me like this for a mistake I did to get Banele married first before you? How can you throw me out of your house at night?"

Thembelihle asked Ngcebo crying a sea of tears because of the hurt she was feeling, the pain that her son was causing inside her already painful heart.

Aunt: "A child should not make his mother cry, Ngcebo that's not a blessing. Your mother must not have tears because of you those tears will turn into sorrow for you and your family."

Ngcebo: "I should have tears because of my mother? What about my tears? Or you think I don't have tears because I am a man? My tears will turn into what? Dust?" he asked looking at her but she didn't answer him... Ngcebo didn't speak further but he left them...

Happiness: "Dalingcebo can you please speak to him because this is not right." She said looking at Thembelihle who was crying inside Aunt Nomkhosi's arms.

Aunt: "Speak to your brother, Dalingcebo."

Dalingcebo: “Ngcebo will not listen to me but he will just tell me to leave as well if I can even try to talk him out of his decision. And leaving him right now, is not something that I am prepared to do.”

Danielle: “I think that we need to respect his decision.”

Thembelihle: “He’s my son and I want to be here for him!” she shouted and moved away from Nomkhosi’s arms feeling further hurt...

“Here are your bags, you can go now. You have a relative here, Mthimkhulu is your relative, you can go sleep in his house if you don’t want to drive back home.” Ngcebo said to the ladies and he placed the bags he found in the guestroom upstairs and Thula walked in with other bags.

Aunt Nomkhosi: “Hhayi, let’s go. I am tired and I want to rest I don’t think I can be able to handle

the drive back home. We will have to book somewhere.”

Happiness: “It’s okay, we will go to my father’s house.”

Aunt: “We don’t want to bother him at this hour.”

Happiness: “He won’t have a problem.” She said encouraging them but she didn’t stand up first because she wanted to leave last... Nkosazana held Thembelihle’s arms as she was wailing now, as she couldn’t believe that Ngcebo was chasing her out of his house...

“Ngcebo, I know that mama did you wrong but we’ve spoken to baba that this should be between our family that mama called Nandipha and that led to her losing the baby because the whole family will crash her and crucify her-”
Happiness was cut off from saying what she was trying to say to Ngcebo. She was left

behind because she wanted to tell Ngcebo about what was decided and leave him with words that were going to make him reconsider his decision about his mother because every person, whether old or young, needed their mother. But she couldn't even finish her words.

Ngcebo: "You should be searching for a shield to cover yourself for whatever that's coming your way and stop trying to cover other people. I don't have to listen to whatever you have to say."

Happiness: "What are you talking about?"

Ngcebo: "Leave my house, there's the door." he pointed the direction of the door without answering Happiness. And when she was trying to open her mouth and talk again, Ngcebo stopped her. "I said leave, everyone has left." He insisted and Happiness was forced to leave.

Dalingcebo: "What was that about?"

Ngcebo: “Not now, Dalingcebo.” He turned to leave.

Dalingcebo: “Nandipha’s mother called to tell me that Nandipha is complaining about you not coming to see her and she’s upset. Do you think what you’re doing is a good thing?” he asked following him to the kitchen.

Ngcebo: “How can I face her and pretend, Dalingcebo?”

Dalingcebo: “I don’t know but you’ll have to do it. How do you think she feels when she’s alone as you’re not going over there to see her?” he asked and Ngcebo failed to answer the question because he didn’t know...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 42

“Here’s tea, what’s wrong? You look miles away.” Danielle gave the cup of tea to Happiness who was seated quietly on the couch of his father’s lounge. The other ladies were in the bathrooms upstairs having their bath. Mthimkhulu wasn’t home, the maid was the only one in the yard.

Happiness: “I am just thinking about what Ngcebo said to me.”

Danielle sat next to Happiness on the couch with her cup of tea, they’ve all had supper that they bought in a restaurant.

Danielle: “What did he say to you?”

Happiness: “I was trying to speak to him about mama and he just told me that I should search for a shield for whatever that’s coming my way and stop protecting myself.” She revealed and she looked at Danielle...

Danielle: “Huh? What did he say that means and

why would he say that to you? Didn't you ask him as you're trying to crack your head now?"

Happiness: "I did ask him but he didn't tell me what does that supposed to mean and now, I am worried because I don't know why he said that."

Danielle: "Maybe there's something that he saw and if he saw something he must tell you or our husband that he saw something. He can't keep this to himself. He definitely saw something."

Happiness: "If he saw something, when was he going to say it? Why didn't he say that earlier because it's his responsibility to speak about if he sees something? Why did he keep quiet and say it when I am before him?"

Danielle: "I think we need to tell mama about it and she will know what to do because you can't just relax with this."

Happiness: "But right now I don't think it's the

right time to talk to her about this because she's heartbroken by what happened."

Danielle: "Yes, she's heartbroken but I am just grateful that we didn't get to see Nandipha because imagine what was going to happen if we did?"

Happiness: "You're right about that."

"I am going to bed now girls I will sleep with mama." Nkosazana informed the two sister wives. She was standing behind the empty couch holding a bottle of warm water and dressed up in her nightwear.

Happiness: "Alright, but we didn't even talk if we'll be going straight home or what will happen next."

Nkosazana: "I think we will all talk about that tomorrow. Goodnight."

Ladies: "Goodnight."

Danielle: "I think I will also need to head to bed now." she said standing up and Happiness stood up after her, they followed each other up the stairs...

"I am so shuttered bhuti and I don't even know what I will do fix this." Thembelihle told her brother that she was talking to on the phone. She was dressed up in her night dress and was seated on the bed.

Thokozani: "Why did you call her? I don't even know what to say. What is your husband saying about this?"

Thembelihle: "He's not saying much and he's not taking my calls. I don't know what to do and I don't know what is it that he'll say to me."

Thokozani: "There's nothing you can do for now I think you have to go back home and talk things through with him because Ngcebo is angry for now."

Thembelihle: “Alright, I will do that.”

Thokozani: “I thought you and Ngcebo’s wife had a good strong relationship.”

Thembelihle: “She has hurt me a lot, bhuti it’s clear that she doesn’t see that.”

Thokozani: “You were supposed to tell her if it didn’t look like she knows.”

Thembelihle sighed. “I have always said it and she never listened to me. I want to rest now, please, send my regards to my sister in-law.” She said.

Thokozani: “Alright, goodnight.”

Thembelihle exhaled the worry and she placed her phone down. She then laid her strained body down and she closed her eyes to rest...

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16th of December, which was a Tuesday morning, a public holiday. She put on her brown

sandals that complemented her knee length white light dress. She got up to fix her long Brazilian weave and she took her yellow handbag. She headed out of her bedroom. She was dressed up for the hospital to see Nandipha and she was going to drive to home because she was needed by her father at home. Phemelo was still sleeping...

“You!” She exclaimed and dropped her bag on the wooden floor of her stairs and she climbed the stairs down to him. She was laughing as Dalingcebo was standing by the end of the staircase, he’d been looking at her as she was climbing down the stairs checking herself up.

Dalingcebo chuckled as he was looking at her run down to reach him. Palesa’s maid had been the one who opened up the gate for him.

“Hmm!” He groaned boldly as Palesa was throwing her body on his arms and her legs hooking up around his waist. Dalingcebo

laughed and held her, it pleased his heart deeply to receive such a reaction from her, a reaction that he wasn't expecting. He wasn't too close the previous night when Ngcebo informed him he was being driven to Palesa's house to get the children.

Dalingcebo: "It's like you haven't seen me in weeks but it's been days."

Palesa: "The three days had been difficult and it's still is difficult to go there and talk about something that you know is no longer there. I am happy to see you because it will be lighter for me." she told him holding his face and she kissed him without letting him speak another word, without thinking about the maid that was around the house and her son who could wake up anytime. She was seeing him and that was all that meant everything to her now. She was appreciating his presence and flesh as she was kissing him with her emotions clinging on him

as her body yearned for more of him within the minutes of that kiss. She's been stressed and here, now, she was resting.

"Let's not get carried away because I don't want to take you on here and not now because you're surely going out." Dalingcebo said on a low tone that sounded seductive in Palesa's ears. He looked at her still holding her as she was still on him. "You smell very nice. Where are going?" He complimented and kissed her bare shoulder that was showing on the thin straps dress.

Palesa: "I am going to the hospital because I have to drive home."

Dalingcebo put her down and he hugged her. "Does that mean I won't get the chance to see you as you're going home?" He asked and pulled away from the hug. He moved away from her to get her bag that she'd dropped.

Palesa: "I am going for one night."

Dalingcebo: "I came here to bring you some breakfast I wasn't going to stay because you have Phemelo here. Ngcebo told me he's with you."

Palesa smiled feeling special. "Yes, he's sleeping and where's that breakfast. I haven't had my breakfast." She asked and followed Dalingcebo who was heading to the kitchen where he'd left her breakfast... "Thank you. Can you drive me to the hospital then because I won't get to spend time with you today and I will have this breakfast while you drive? How's that?" She requested placing the takeaways inside the microwave to warm the food.

Dalingcebo: "Okay, I will drive you my putsununu." He said and he smiled as Palesa was giggling at the sound of that.

Palesa: "Your brother went to see her yesterday? He's not in the hospital now, right? I don't want to disturb them if he's there." She asked taking

the food off the microwave and she gave it to Dalingcebo while she took her bag.

Dalingcebo: "No, he's in the house with the girls."

Palesa: "Ao! Is he even planning on going there to see her? How can he do this now because Nandipha has been waiting for him since Sunday."

Dalingcebo: "He keeps saying he'll go see her." he replied leaving the house for his car and Palesa was following behind him. "How's the big guy?"

Palesa: "He's excited that he'll be going to Botswana with his grandfather and uncles. That's the only thing he speaks about." She replied and stepped inside the car and Dalingcebo gave her, her food.

Dalingcebo: "And you're not going with them?"

Palesa: "No, I will stay around." She replied

closing the door and Dalingcebo took his seat...  
He drove the car to get her to the hospital...

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“I don’t even know what we should do about this but I think the family should meet up tomorrow and talk about this.” Aunt Nomkhosi said to the faces that were seated around the dining table of Thembelihle’s house. They’ve just gotten back home about two hours ago and they have informed, Dalisu, Mlamuli, Mnotho, Banele, Mntwana and Candice without the extended family members about their trip to Ngcebo’s house that turned out otherwise. Dalisu didn’t react to what they told him Ngcebo did, chasing them out...

Mlamuli: “What should the family talk about, great aunt?”

Nomkhosi: “About this situation we’re facing with Ngcebo. We were in his house to support

him and he chased us out, his mother left his house crying.”

Danielle: “I really think that now is not the time that we can push Ngcebo because this is still new to him and his wife doesn’t know about the baby they’ve lost. We can’t be talking and getting him to understand he was wrong while he’s hurt and angry, while his wife doesn’t know about this. We have to be realistic that yes, mama didn’t mean for a baby to be lost when she called Nandipha but I don’t think there’s not even a single person amongst us who wouldn’t be angry if they lost a child through their parents’ actions. We expect hurt from our partners, we leave room for disappointment for our partners but we expect little or no hurt from our parents.” She told them and said it deliberately in the presence of the two aunts... Happiness and Nkosazana looked at her with surprise as she was saying what she wasn’t

supposed to.

Mlamuli: “MaNkosi is absolutely right and I think she’s the only person here who understand the depth of the pain Ngcebo is drowning in right now. You can’t be doing this right now, holding meetings for him. Give him space.”

Aunt: “I don’t understand what she’s talking about now. MaSthole called Ngcebo’s wife? That’s not what we know.”

Dalisu: “She called his wife because I wanted to talk to her and the call was cut that’s when she fainted and lost the baby.” he came into the rescue because he didn’t want any disorder and he didn’t want them on his wife’s case.

Thembelihle: “But I am the one who made the call.” She said as she was surprised that her husband was covering up for her. She wasn’t expecting this from him because he’d been

quiet.

Dalisu: "But we don't want the family to know about this."

Danielle: "I am sorry I just blurted-"

Thembelihle: "Nobody is thinking straight at this point."

Mnotho: "And we ask that you don't tell the family because this will cause more trouble than the trouble we're drowning in now."

Aunt: "Ay, you were wrong, Dalisu."

Dalisu: "I know and now, let's put this to rest because Ngcebo's wife doesn't know about the baby they have lost."

Mnotho: "I think it's a good thing that Dalingcebo is there with him and he'll be the one to inform us about their progress."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "Hhayi, I didn't expect this then and if I knew about this, I wasn't going to drive

all the way to Johannesburg to make of fool of myself. You sent us to Johannesburg but you didn't tell us that you had a hand in this Dalisu. How can you do this?" She raised her voice because she was upset that Dalisu didn't tell them what really happened before sending them to Ngcebo.

Dalису: "Reasons have been stated aunty."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "You were at least supposed to tell the two of us. Ngcebo is talking about tears caused by his parents I was there, thinking he's talking about you refusing his wedding but he's talking about you purposefully landing his wife in the hospital! You purposefully killed his child."

Dalису: "No-"

Aunt Nomkhosi: "Yes! It was on purpose because it was said to us after we wanted to speak to his wife, it was said that we must not

call her. And on purpose, knowing what you're doing you called her and said whatever that landed her in the hospital! Ayi! Ayi! Asambe. MaZulu." she said shaking her head and she stood on her feet, her sister stood up after her and even after Dalisu had asked them not to leave. They didn't listen, they left the house...

"I didn't expect that you will hide that I am the one who made the call." Thembelihle said to Dalisu who was getting inside the bed at night. Thembelihle was already seated on her side of the bed thinking. "Ndabezitha, can we please, talk? Don't shut me out like this." She pressed.

Dalisu: "What is your problem with Ngcebo's wife?"

Thembelihle looked down. "Nobody seems to understand the hurt that Nandipha has caused me." She said to Dalisu without looking at her.

Dalisu: "What pain?"

Thembelihle: “I loved Nandipha, like she was my own child from the minute I saw her and how they got along with my son and Ngcebo who has never been serious about a woman. He had a serious interest in her but that’s not the reason I liked her. I naturally liked her personality and innocence, we were close but that changed when she lost her father.” She paused and placed her hand on her hot forehead. She’d held this in for too long and maybe she was going to feel better after speaking with her husband. “I tried to be there for her and got her to speak up but she didn’t. Knowing how much she valued her sister, I tried to get them to go through loss together and I was right that she just needed her. But that didn’t happen, she grew distant from me bit by bit and I was trying best to reach out but she didn’t open up to me.”

Dalisu: “Are you blaming yourself now?”

Thembelihle: “No, that’s not what I am saying but she kept things from me, like her being pregnant and even when Ngcebo’s name was on the newspapers I tried speaking to her but she didn’t open up to me. She didn’t tell me she was pregnant, angry with Ngcebo and going through everything that she was going through. She lied to me and told me she was fine. And I told her she was distant, she told me she was going to change but she didn’t. I was hurt that she aborted the baby but I was more shuttered that she didn’t trust me and cry to me as a mother. I was shuttered by that and couldn’t even talk to her because I really didn’t know how I was going to express my anger and hurt.”

Dalisu: “MaSthole, she didn’t even tell her mother about this and you were shuttered that she didn’t tell you? You were her mother in-law.”

Thembelihle: “I don’t expect you to understand, Ndabezitha. But things changed a lot from there,

she didn't tell me they've broken up with Ngcebo and when she was disowned and struggling. She lied to me when I asked why she was working while studying, she kept that a secret from me and she only told me because she'd found her real mother. Nandipha has hurt me and she has taken a lot from me, her actions resulting to my granddaughters not visiting me as much as I want. I don't have a solid relationship with them like her mother has because they visit her whenever she wants them. Even through all that I have forgiven and tried to keep the relationship but I have always felt the difference and distance compared to how things were. And I felt like she didn't care about our relationship like she did before." She wiped her tears as she was reflecting back now, she was feeling great pain. Dalisu pulled her into his arms and he held her tight as she was crying.

Thembelihle: "She didn't care and she didn't even call as much as she used to. And Ngcebo never saw her wrongs but he kept protecting her. She never pushed Ngcebo too hard that the children should come here and that showed me that she'd changed. She has hurt me but that's not taken into consideration and nobody sees how much Nandipha has taken from me. Yes, Buhle was sick but she didn't even show not even a slightest compassion for Happiness who was running away from Mnotho and that was the last nail for me because she showed me how selfish she was. Things were supposed to go well for her and she was supposed to keep everything while other people suffer. She didn't even wait a day but she acted without thinking of the other person who has been abused. But even after that I tried telling her she was distant because I didn't want us to hate each other, she didn't seem to care. Nobody cares about how she's hurt me not even

Ngcebo.”

Dalisu: “You never said anything and you made a mistake of taking her as your daughter. She is your daughter in-law not daughter and it can be close to impossible to treat her as your child. It’s okay, you loved her, that was not forced but it came natural and she was the youngest of them all and she’s still the youngest daughter in-law even now. But you were supposed to leave a room for disappointment and now, do you think your son will understand what you felt and forgive you?” he asked looking at her and Thembelihle didn’t answer him but she instead cried. “You were supposed to speak and speak not to bottle things up. You’re an adult and when something is in your chest, daughters’ in-law should know they’re hurting you. Look, now, keeping quiet didn’t help you, MaSthole.” He added.

Thembelihle: “But why didn’t she do anything

about Ngcebo's behaviour? What kind of a wife is she to my son if he lets him behave the way he does and don't even show him the right way? That's because she doesn't care if Ngcebo has a relationship with us or not and that's what I was trying to get off my chest when I called her. If Ngcebo is with her, all is good and she doesn't care about what he does for his family."

Dalisu exhaled and he didn't say anything further, he only wondered if there was a chance for them to fix this... A lot of things have been messed up...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 45

"Alright, I have listened to the complaints from both husband and wife and I will discharge the dear wife today." The Doctor announced to

husband and wife who were looking at her with hopeful eyes.

Nandipha smiled dearly and she looked at her husband who was standing next to her. She was overwhelmed by the fact that she was finally going home. It hadn't been nice, sleeping and waking up on the bed, unable to go out and see the beautiful sun and feel it warm, its heat embracing her skin.

Ngcebo: "Those are the most wonderful news we have received so far." He commented and looked down at Nandipha who was still smiling.

Doctor: "Yes, yes, I can see that someone was tired of seeing my face and since it's Friday, niyo groova neh?" she joked giving the discharge papers to Nandipha... Ngcebo and Nandipha laughed at her statement hilariously.

Nandipha: "Is it possible for me to go 'ngiyogroova'?"

Ngcebo: “No, babe, why are you even asking? It’s not possible.”

Doctor: “Prince Tee, you are the Doctor now, huh?” she asked looking at Ngcebo who had his eyes on his wife but he looked at the Doctor as soon as he heard the Doctor call his name.

Ngcebo chuckled. “I am not the Doctor but I am the Doctor of her heart.” He said with a charming smile directed to the Doctor.

The Doctor shook her head. “I think your wife has been crying more than you’ve been crying for her to go back home. If she was to go ‘ayogroova’ let the woman go and have fun. I will bring the nurse to help remove the drip and you’ll be able to go and have fun.” She advised Ngcebo heading out of the room and she giggled before closing the door...

Nandipha: “You heard what the Doctor said? It’s your wife that has been complaining and crying

to come home but not you! Sies! You didn't miss me!" She told Ngcebo and moved her feet from the bed while Ngcebo was busy filling in the discharge forms on her behalf.

Ngcebo chuckled. "She wouldn't have listened to you if I didn't tell her first that you should come home to your bed." He said.

Nandipha: "Oh! Ngcebo, you just miss me in bed nje wena." She looked at him with a cautious eye as she waited to hear his response but he laughed. "There's nothing funny here, you must answer my question." She added.

Ngcebo: "No, but that's where you are heading because you won't be working yourself with anything not even bathing the girls."

Nandipha: "That can't happen I will bath my babies and I won't sit on your bed all day. You've shown your true colours. Ci. Ci."

Ngcebo laughed and looked at her as she

removed her pyjamas. “Before I even say anything about what you’ve said. How can you take off your sleepwear without knowing which nurse is coming in here? What if a male nurse will be the one who’ll be coming over here?” He asked looking at her belly and he noticed that the belly was lopsided down to the left... That made him wonder how the other baby was surviving in there. Did he notice he was jumping alone now? Did he see that his brother was no longer moving?

Nandipha: “It’s alright, Rasta, he can take a close look I don’t mind.”

Ngcebo: “That’s absurd! Wear your gown until a nurse comes in here Nandipha. It’s enough those men saw you half naked and now you want to add a third man on that list. Wear your gown.”

Nandipha laughed. “Lord! You’re so dramatic! And you have grudges, you still remember that

two men saw me half naked? Mm. Mm.” She said and she grabbed the gown that he was telling her to wear.

Ngcebo: “Yes, that a good thing. Let’s wait for that nurse and you’ll be able to change into your orange dress. And what true colours are you talking about?”

Nandipha: “You’ve shown me your true colours and I won’t wear that dress. Usile.” She said and turned her head to look at the door’s way and indeed a male nurse walked inside the door. She didn’t turn to look at Ngcebo but she looked at the nurse with her lips folded.

Ngcebo: “Why don’t you look at me now? You can see what’s happening.”

Nandipha: “It’s just a coincident Rasta.” She said looking at him now and the nurse greeted them both, after they’ve greeted back. He moved to Nandipha and he did what he’d come

inside the room to do.

Nurse: "It's not painful, is it?"

Nandipha: "It is but, you have soft hands, hey. What do you use on them?" she asked touching the nurse's hand that wasn't holding her wrist.

The nurse chuckled. "I use nothing, mam." He replied and bandaged Nandipha after he'd removed the drip on her...

Nandipha: "It's like you soak them on a fabric softener."

The nurse laughed. "I don't even use the softener on my clothes. You'll have to take it easy with this hand then until you're healed." He instructed when he was done with her hand. He cleared the dirty cotton wools.

Nandipha: "I will remember that. I thought I will know your secret so that I can use on the husband over there." she said to the nurse and he laughed at Ngcebo on his way out of the

room.

Ngcebo: “Were you flirting with the nurse? I didn’t even notice.”

Nandipha giggled and took off her gown. “Why would you think I was flirting with him because I was only trying to help you have soft hands. You’ll touch me when we get home, right?” she lowering her tone turning it to a soothing cynical and her eyes relaxed on him.

Ngcebo: “You’re flirting with me now and you’re showing me your true colours that you were telling me I am showing you.”

Nandipha laughed. “I am down now Rasta lami. Let’s go home. We won’t go get the girls but we will see them tomorrow. How’s that?” she asked, dressed up on the orange dress that Ngcebo had suggested she wore.

Ngcebo: “That’s a brilliant idea because you can’t bath them as yet with that hand.” He

replied and took the two bags of his wives. Nandipha took their phones, Ngcebo's wallet and car keys. They followed each other out...

"You're doing better now and I am pretty sure that soon, she'll be good that we can tell her what happened. Just keep being the husband she knows." The Doctor encouraged Ngcebo as Nandipha was standing by the reception desk.

Ngcebo: "It's not easy as you see it."

Doctor: "I know but you have to do it. For the past three days since you've been coming here to see her. I have seen progress in her condition and I hope that won't change at home. It should remain the same."

Ngcebo: "My worry is that if our girls come back, she'll have her focus on them and that will give me more time by myself and I won't be able to block-"

Doctor: "She's coming this way now. But you'll

need to do your best.” She said and they stopped talking as Nandipha had reached them... They said goodbyes and the couple left the hospital...

“I thought your brother is home.” Nandipha commented as they were slowly climbing the stairs of their quiet house.

Ngcebo: “Yes, he was here in the morning but he has a girlfriend around here. Do you remember that?” he asked holding her hand tightly. “Ungangilingi mina uwe la. Don’t rush the stairs but walk slowly as I am.” He encouraged.

Nandipha: “Yes, I am walking slowly. I just want my bed.”

Ngcebo: “No, you just want to have sex with me that’s all that’s in your mind.”

Nandipha: “Ngcebo! How can you say that because I am not even thinking that but I just

want to rest?”

Ngcebo: “Rest how because you’ve been resting in the hospital?” he checked and opened the door of the bedroom. He let go of Nandipha’s hand now.

Nandipha: “It’s not the same.” She said sitting on the bed and she discarded the dress off her body while Ngcebo headed inside the closet with her bags. She laid on the bed and she released a heavy sigh, searching her mother’s phone on Ngcebo’s phone. She placed the phone on her ear.

Faith: “Ngcebo?”

Nandipha: “Mama, I am home now. I am no longer in the hospital.”

Faith: “That’s wonderful news, I should tell Randall that you’re out because he’s preparing himself for the visit.”

Nandipha: “No, I am out and I hope the girls are

not hoping to come to the hospital with him because I just want to rest for today and tomorrow without them here and requesting for my attention.”

Faith: “It’s alright, nana.”

Nandipha: “We will talk later and I will talk to them.” she promised and hung up the call after saying ‘goodbye’ to her mother. She closed her eyes and allowed the fresh smell of the bed’s blanket to intoxicate her... Ngcebo looked at her to check if she was really sleeping, she was asleep, he left the room...

“Sobuya nini pho ekhaya mama?” (When can we come back) Buhle asked Nandipha on the phone... She’d woken up to a house that didn’t have Ngcebo or Dalingcebo, she washed her body and made food for herself. MaZungu was the only one around as Thula had gone with the children to Faith’s house... Nandipha was now ready to sleep but her husband wasn’t back

home.

Nandipha: “Mama doesn’t know, Buhlezi. Why are you two still awake?”

Similo: “Asizeli thina sihleli no gogo.” (We’re not sleepy)

Nandipha: “Your mother is sleepy now and she’ll come to granny’s house tomorrow. I will see you all. Would you like that?”

Girls: “YEBO!”

Nandipha: “Okay, goodnight, my babies.”

Girls: “Goodnight.”

Similo: “Uphi ubaba? Sothi goodnight nakuye!” (Where’s dad?)

Nandipha: “Your father is sleeping now. He’s snoring like Thando and Nongcebo, I think that you should do the same.” She said and the girls giggled at the sound of that... Nandipha dropped the call after wishing her mother

'goodnight' She took Ngcebo's phone and wondered where he went without his phone. She placed both phones away because his brother wasn't answering his phone when she called and Palesa wasn't answering too. That made her believe that they were together. And she didn't know where Ngcebo was...

She exhaled and laid her body down. "He's with his friends." She stamped and she closed her eyes to get some sleep for the night. But she couldn't sleep, she felt her blood getting warmer and she held her arms. She exhaled trying to keep up with her breathing that was quickening but she was getting warmer. She pressed her thighs together and crossed her legs after she'd turned on the bed. It didn't ease up how she was feeling. She had the greatest longing and it was irritating that wasn't going to be fulfilled now. She turned on the other side of the bed and opened the first drawer, she took

the key and unlocked the second drawer. She pulled the box of their sex toys out of the drawer and placed it on top. She neglected her body back on the bed and this time her hands removed her night dress and threw it on the floor, she allowed her hands on to her breasts. She massaged the nipples that had swelled because of the desire. She was yearning to be touched but there was no one here to touch her. She was yearning to feel the warmth and strong grip of her husband's hands but he wasn't here to do that. She had herself. She felt that her loneliness was greater than the sexual desire that she was feeling now alone in this bed... She moaned lightly sending her hand on the side of her belly to reach her thudding wet flesh. But before she could even touch her wet body entrance, she heard the two voices of the two brothers and the heavy footsteps rushing towards the direction of the bedroom that she was in.

“Fuck!” She swore and rose her sexually hungry body off the bed to quickly place back the boxes back the drawer but Ngcebo was too close...

“Hawu!” He disappointed looking at his naked pregnant wife laying on the bed but she was busy on the drawers. He couldn’t see her face but he saw her night dress on the floor, he marched to it and took it.

Nandipha placed the key back where it was and she looked around for night dress without looking at Ngcebo.

Ngcebo: “It’s here with me. Couldn’t you have waited for me?”

Nandipha: “Bring it back to me I want to wear it.”

Ngcebo: “Why because I found it on the floor?” he asked and the wife didn’t answer him but she pulled the covers of the bed and covered

her body. "Eish." He complained and marched to the bathroom with her nightdress...

"You were sleeping here and I didn't want to wake you just to tell you I am going out, I have spent some time in the house and you weren't awake." Ngcebo said to Nandipha laying his naked washed body at the back of her naked body. He invited his knee in between her thighs. "Masturbation is healthy but I am here now, there's no need for it unless if I wanted to look at you do it. It's pleasing to look at you but not now, I am here." he spoke to her politely while his hand massaged her breasts and he heard her breathing rising.

Nandipha: "Don't-" her breathe broke as her vulnerability was heightened by his presence and his hands touching her, fulfilled the desire and the need of him that she had when he wasn't with her.

Ngcebo: "I shouldn't what?"

Nandipha: "I have waited for you for too long."

Ngcebo: "Yes, and I want to give you every bit of pleasure that you want."

Nandipha: "No, don't torture me with foreplay
Ngcebo."

"Kiss me then, you don't even want to kiss me?"

He requested rising his upper body and he looked at the side of her face, he smiled as she was facing him now. "I did say you're showing your true colours now." he commented.

Nandipha giggled whole heartedly as his presence washed away the loneliness that she had felt without him. She pulled him by his neck and kissed him intensely... He pulled her by her thighs, he was kneeling just down by the edge of the bed, Ngcebo didn't listen to what she'd told him she wanted but he acted on both their needs to make up for the fact that he'd left her with sexual desire alone...

Nandipha: "You don't listen Ngcebo, do you?"

"This bed has been lonely without you. You don't want this, huh?" He asked her softly and he placed her bums on his thighs while looking at her gleaming face and he placed her legs on the sides of his shoulders...

Nandipha: "I want it."

Ngcebo: "Close your eyes then." He told her without acting, she closed her eyes... Nandipha gasped as his tongue swept her outer sensitive flesh and the roughness of the tongue made her moan the pleasure she was feeling...

Now, standing on his feet after she'd achieved her first cum, he pulled her to the edge of the bed and stamped her legs on his chest. He invaded her, giving her what she actually wanted earlier and his thrusts began slowly...

"Ngcebo... Ngcebo..." She repeatedly cried out his name as the level of ecstasy was hitting her

like hard, consuming her and she loved every bit of it.

Ngcebo: “Hmm?” he responded to the call and he went on harder feeling his climax building up, he remembered not to rush it because surely his woman was going to collapse after this and wake up the following morning... He thrusted slowly and in circular motions now, hitting the right corners, hidden spots of her walls and a smile was what he was seeing.

Nandipha: “I love you.” she told him from a happy, fulfilled heart.

“I love you, too, nana, let’s jog for the last time.” He said and held her thighs tightly, he increased the pace of his thrusts until their sharpest climax... Ngcebo groaned louder and pressed tight on her thighs...

Nandipha caught her breathe and she smiled looking him with eyes full of nothing but love

that her heart felt for him. “Why did you keep me waiting?”

Ngcebo: “I didn’t keep you waiting sthandwa sa Ngcebo. You were sleeping and that actually means you’re the one who kept me waiting.”

Nandipha: “Come cuddle me as sweaty as you’re.”

Ngcebo: “Let Ngcebo finish breathing in here and I will cuddle you.” he promised her and graced her with a lazy smile. “You’ll sleep now. I know.”

Nandipha: “No, you know you have to put me to sleep. We were just jogging, right?” she replied to confirm and Ngcebo laughed.

He removed himself from her and looked at her as she laid on her side of the bed. Ngcebo moved to his side and he slipped his body onto her back. “I will say goodnight before anything then, goodnight my fohloza.” He said softly.

Nandipha smiled. “Goodnight, Rasta lami.” She said and allowed him inside her for a sleeping soothing drug...

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“Is there anything that you’re seeing, mkhulu?” Mnotho asked Langelibalele, he was seated before Langelibalele with Happiness next to him. Langelibalele had just thrown the bones on the animal skin and he was reading them, he would groan here and there with his shoulders convulsing.

Langelibalele: “Nkosana, I see Prince Njabulo alone and crying...” he revealed to them and he groaned louder responding to the spirits.

Happiness and Mnotho looked at one another as they couldn’t understand was that meaning. Happiness placed her hand in Mnotho’s hand and he held her hand tightly. “Why is he alone and crying, mkhulu?” Mnotho asked.

Langalibalele: “HHEYI! He’s alone, alone without his sister but I don’t see his mother as you’ve described Prince Ngcebo had seen her.”

Mnotho: “What does that mean?”

Langalibalele: “Let’s look at Nonjabulo and Njabulo, whatever hits the children hits harder on their mother and my explanation says that maybe what Prince Ngcebo had been shown.”

Happiness cried instantly. “Does this mean I will lose my daughter? Why is her brother standing alone without her because they’re both my children?” Happiness asked Langalibalele emotionally.

Langalibalele: “Let’s hope the ancestors will reveal it to us but it can also happen that we see Njabulo alone because no necessary rituals were done for Nonjabulo to be yours fully by tradition, Prince Mnotho.”

Mnotho: “But she’s my daughter, her mother



was married to me when she had her. Isn't she automatically my daughter?"

Langalibalele: "There's no automatic in tradition, Nkosana."

Happiness: "What can we do now?"

Langalibalele: "This should be enough to help you and should the ancestors reveal something to me. I will inform you." he promised them, Happiness and Mnotho clapped their hands... Langalibalele then freed them...

"I think I will have to call my father and tell him about this because I really don't know what's happening." Happiness said to Mnotho as they walked up to Mnotho's car that had driven them down.

Mnotho: "Yes, you must tell him and we will take it from there." he supported her and he looked at her and, worry was written on her face...

As Happiness and Mnotho were driving up from Langalibalele, Mntwana and Simthande were driving down to consult with him.

Simthande: "This place is so green and quiet. Do you enjoy being here?"

Mntwana chuckled. "Didn't you enjoy being in your home?"

Simthande: "I didn't have a home and you know that."

Mntwana: "Before your mother revealed that you were not the daughter of her husband. Didn't you enjoy it?" he looked at her shortly and he admitted that she looked disgusting, her face had the pimples she'd never had before and the dark marks were making it unbearable for Mntwana to look at her. She arrived in KZN the previous night and he wasn't feeling good with being around her. And that confirmed it, that she was really bewitched. They didn't even

share a bed even though it was within his wishes before he saw her...

Simthande smiled shortly. "I enjoyed it. I have really missed you as you were not around the city." She told him.

Mntwana: "Can we talk after you've gotten help?" he looked at her as he wasn't getting a response, Simthande was looking down massaging her hands. Mntwana didn't say anything as she wasn't responding...

"So, now, you won't say anything after everything that has been said over there?"

Mntwana looked at Simthande who had her head leaning on the window as they were driving back to Ngcebo's house... He could see that she was crying, she's been crying the minute Langalibalele revealed to her that her sister was the one who bewitched her because of envy, envy of her peace and envy of the relationship she had with Mntwana.

Simthande: "You didn't pay him to say all that?"

Mntwana: "WOW! JUST WOW!"

Simthande: "I am sorry, it's just that, she's my sister and how can she do this to me? How can she enjoy every moment of hurting me? Why?"

Mntwana: "She doesn't care about nobody but herself and you didn't believe me but you believe her because she's your blood. Do you even know that I am the one who pays your rent and food as you live together? She didn't want to look after you but you didn't believe anything I said against her. I was the bad guy and your sister was the angel." He shouted out of anger now that the truth had been brought to her eyes... Simthande didn't say anything but all she could do was cry in shame and hurt as her sister had hurt her again...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

## S6 == EPISODE 44

“I don’t know if I should call Ngcebo and ask him about this or I should go to Langalibalele. Happiness is worried sick.” Mnotho wondered out loud after he’d told Mlamuli that Ngcebo had said a few words about Happiness being in danger. Mlamuli haven’t said a comment but he was quiet and thinking... They were driving together on Thursday morning which was the 18th of December. They were inside Mlamuli’s car to their mother’s palace. “What are you thinking?” He asked and looked at him.

Mlamuli: “You can’t call Ngcebo at this stage he has enough problems already. I have just told him last night that Banele has stroke and that’s because they got him married first while he was the one who was supposed to get married.”

Mnotho: “I will be asking what he saw. What

harm can that do?”

Mlamuli: “If he has to tell you, he will tell you and what more can he say because he has told Happiness that she’s in danger. Right now, we should stop pulling him sideways for him to help us. Even with Banele’s situation, I told him clearly that Banele is not dying and so, he should focus on his wife, the wife that doesn’t know she’s carrying a dead child. That’s where his focus should be now not anyone else. Even Candice gets that. If there’s a need for him to call Happiness and inform her of something, he will.”

Mnotho: “But when was he going to do that if Happiness wasn’t in his house with the rest of ladies? When was he going to say what he said?”

Mlamuli: “I don’t know but let him be and go see Langalibalele with your wife.” He gave the instruction and advice and he stopped the car

inside their mother's parking. They both got off the car and they marched up to the house where Mntwana was by the flowers of the house pacing up and down while he was talking to whomever that was on the phone with him.

"Who's that making you pace up and down like that?" Mlamuli asked Mntwana, looking at him shortly as he was walking straight to the door.

Mntwana chuckled. "Sanibona." He greeted his brothers and didn't answer to the question that Mlamuli was asking... Mnotho and Mlamuli greeted him back and they headed inside the house.

"Who's that?" Simthande asked Mntwana on the phone.

Mntwana: "It's my older brother. I have told the family healer that you'll be coming and what type of problem do you have and he said he'll help you. So, please, be on the plane by 1pm

and I will be waiting for you in Durban.”

Simthande: “Alright, I am busy packing now but where will I be staying? You stay with your parents in the palace, right?”

Mntwana: “Yes, but I am in my other brother’s house for now.”

Simthande: “Okay, I will proceed with my packing then. I will call you before I get on the plane.” She promised.

Mntwana: “Sharp!” he removed the phone from his ear and he hung up the call. He marched back to the house wondering if her coming here was going to be more than helping her or they were going to get their relationship in order. He didn’t ask a thing about her sister because he knew that was going to cause problems once again and what he did was ignore Nikhona’s calls when she called him. She even sent a message telling him ‘her sister was sick and he



hadn't even come to see her' that message left Mntwana confused but even in that confusion, he didn't call Nikhona...

"The elders haven't said anything about coming over for a meeting?" Mlamuli asked his father who was seated on the lounge reading a newspaper. He has been seated with Mntwana before he left to answer his phone.

Dalису: "No, they haven't and the main reason they haven't, it's because they think it's me who actually spoke to Ngcebo's wife."

Mlamuli: "You're underestimating them now dad. Didn't you see how aunt Nomkhosi went all angry on you?"

Dalису: "Ey, Mnotho, your wife, she must know when to talk and when not to talk because she's the one who couldn't keep quiet about this."

Mnotho: "Awu, baba, anyone could have said that in the mist of everything that happened.

She didn't mean it. And it shows that she isn't the one who came up with this idea. I don't think she was going to forget something that came from her."

Dalису: "Hhayi! She must pay attention."

Mlamuli chuckled and stood up. "Why does it seem like you are getting scared of your elders now? Aunt Nomkhosi was on your neck." He reminded him as he saw that he was only getting the grip now that he'd reminded him how Nomkhosi was angry with him.

Dalису: "Leave me with my peace Mlamuli, you're disturbing me." he said to him and Mlamuli laughed, he showed Mnotho they should head to Banele as they were in the palace to check on Banele. "Hhayi, don't sit here now, go with your other brothers. They're here to check on Banele." He said to Mntwana who was sitting back on the couch while Dalису was searching for Ngcebo's number with means to

call him.

Mntwana: "Hawu, I have seen Banele, baba. And we were still talking."

Dalisu: "Go now." he encouraged and he looked at him, Mntwana got up from the couch and he left the room mumbling words to himself...

Dalisu placed his phone on his ear and he waited as the phone rang.

"Hello?" Ngcebo answered the phone call.

Dalisu: "How are you, Ngcebo?"

Ngcebo: "I am fine and you?"

Dalisu: "I am not fine and I don't think that you're fine. I am your father and you can't lie to me while I am asking 'how are you?'"

Ngcebo: "I am fine."

Dalisu sighed. "I saddened by the loss of my grandson's life before he could even land into this world for us to see him and hold him. And I

am deeply sorry son, that your mother had to be one to have a push in his death.” He said to Ngcebo and he paused hoping he was going to hear him breathe a word but there was silence on Ngcebo’s side. He could hear him breathe signalling that he was still on the line. “What your mother did was wrong and there’s nothing that can change and make it right and I hope you’ll find it in your heart to forgive her because she regrets her actions. You’re our son Ngcebo and we love you there’s nothing that can change that. I know your wife doesn’t know you lost the child but I don’t think there’ll be harm if I call her.”

Ngcebo: “Don’t call her.”

Dalisu: “It’s only right that I call her and ask how she is. What possibly can that do? And I will have to apologise on your mother’s behalf. How do you think she feels that as your parent, I didn’t call?”

Ngcebo: "Don't call her." he said lastly and there was total silence after that signalling that Ngcebo had dropped the phone call.

"He doesn't want you to call her?" Thembelihle asked Dalisu after he removed the phone from his ear. He was looking at it. She was standing by the entrance of the house with a tray of food for Dalisu. She stood there when she realised that Dalisu was on the phone with Ngcebo.

Dalisu: "Why are you eavesdropping? How long have you been standing over there?" he asked looking at her as she kneeled to put the tray of food on the coffee table. And she sat on her seat after that.

Thembelihle: "It hasn't been long. Please, answer me."

Dalisu: "He doesn't want it."

Thembelihle: "Hhayi!" she shook her head and kept quiet. She looked at Dalisu and he was

also quiet. "I forgot to tell you that Ngcebo said something to Happiness when we were in his house." She said.

Dalису: "He said something?"

Thembelihle: "Yes, he said Happiness should look for a shield to cover herself because there's something coming her way but he didn't tell her what was that. I think that he might have had a dream about her."

Dalису: "Why didn't she ask when she had a chance to ask?"

Thembelihle: "She did ask but Ngcebo tell her."

Dalису: "She must call Dalingcebo and ask him to ask Ngcebo. He will tell Dalingcebo if he asks but he mustn't tell him he's asking on anyone's behalf."

Thembelihle: "Okay, let me go and tell her. I don't think we will have any Christmas celebrations this year because of what has

happened.”

Dalису: “I don’t know. You’ll decide with your daughters’ in-law.”

She nodded, she stood up and she marched to the kitchen where her daughters’ in-law were. The children were playing around the yard of the palace... Thembelihle sat down on the chair and she told Happiness what Dalису had suggested she must do.

Happiness: “Hha! Mama, I am scared to call Dalingcebo.”

Thembelihle: “Why are you scared? What’s wrong if you call him?”

Danielle: “Hhayi, I also wouldn’t want to call Dalingcebo.” She mumbled looking at Happiness and Nkosazana laughed.

Nkosazana: “What’s wrong with Dalingcebo?”

Candice: “He’s unpredictable. I think that’s why

she's scared to call him but you shouldn't be scared because this is your life we are talking about."

Thembelihle: "Yes, get up and call him." she encouraged and Happiness nodded her head. She stood on her feet and she walked out of the house.

"Hello?" Dalingcebo answered his phone call.

Happiness: "Yebo, Dalingcebo, it's Happiness speaking."

Dalingcebo: "Hmm? Hmm?"

Happiness: "How are you?"

Dalingcebo: "I am fine and how are you?"

Happiness: "I am fine I am calling because I need your help."

Dalingcebo: "With?"

Happiness: "I think you remember what Ngcebo said to me when I was in his house and I asked



him to clarify but he didn't. I am asking that you ask him if he'd seen something for him to say what he said and what is it that he saw. I am really worried about what he said to me."

Dalingcebo: "Why didn't you call him and ask him?"

Happiness: "Eh, I don't think that he'll tell me because he didn't tell me when I asked him that night."

Dalingcebo: "He was angry, call him now."

Happiness: "I don't want to be insensitive, Dalingcebo. Please, I know that he'll tell you if you ask because you're his brother."

Dalingcebo: "He was given the gift for a reason and if you ask he will tell you what you want to know. There's no need for you to ask me. Call Ngcebo."

Happiness: "Okay, thank you." she said and removed the phone from her ear but she didn't

call Ngcebo. She moved back inside the house.

Thembelihle: "What did he say?"

Happiness: "He said I must call Ngcebo."

Danielle: "You said it, Candice!"

Thembelihle: "Hawu! What's wrong if he asks him?"

Happiness: "He's said there's no need for me to ask him to talk to Ngcebo but I should call him. And he said he will tell me if I ask. I don't think I can call Ngcebo. I won't."

Thembelihle sighed. Nkosazana took out her phone from the apron's pocket and she called Ngcebo. She waited as the phone rang.

"Ngcebo's phone hello." Nandipha answered the phone.

Nkosazana: "Hawu, Nandipha, how are you?"

Nandipha: "I am fine and how are you?"

Nkosazana: "I am fine. Have you been discharged? We came to the hospital to visit you but we were not allowed to go inside."

Nandipha: "No, I am still in the hospital. Ngcebo is out. Do you have a message? I can pass it or you'll call him back."

Nkosazana: "No, it's-"

"He's here. Rasta, the queen is on the phone."

Nkosazana heard Nandipha inform Ngcebo and there were shuffling sounds.

Ngcebo: "Hello."

Nkosazana: "Yebo, Ngcebo, how are you?"

Ngcebo: "I am good and you?"

Nkosazana: "I am fine. I am calling because I have seen Happiness has been stressed the past few days, mainly since we got back from your house."

Ngcebo: "And?"

Nkosazana: “She told me that you said something to her about protecting herself and I am asking on her behalf if there’s something that you saw?”

Ngcebo: “She’s running with blood flooding down her face and she keeps looking back for someone or something, I don’t know. That’s all I saw.”

Nkosazana: “Yoh Jesu! Do you perhaps know what does that mean?”

Ngcebo: “No.”

Nkosazana: “Okay, thank you and how are the girls? We couldn’t see them that night? How are they coping without their mother’s presence?”

Ngcebo: “They’re with their grandmother. I have to go now.”

Nkosazana: “Thank you.” she removed the phone from her ear and she looked at the eyes that were already looking at her.

Thembelihle: “He said how are the girls?”

Nkosazana: “He said they’re with their grandmother.”

Thembelihle: “And Nandipha, she’s been discharged?”

Nkosazana: “No.”

Happiness: “Did he tell you about what he saw?” she looked at her and Nkosazana told her what Ngcebo had just told her. And there was total silence in the room. Happiness closed her eyes and cried.

Thembelihle: “Hhayi, don’t cry. We will go to Langalibalele and ask what is that we need to do for you to be safe.” She comforted her while Nkosazana stood up from her seat. And she held Happiness by her hand to hug her...

“I will drive home now and what you need to do is go to Happiness because she seemed disturbed after she learnt what Ngcebo saw.”

Danielle said to Mnotho who was standing before her by her car.

Mnotho sighed. "Alright, I will do that. It's better because Pearl is asleep because I have promised her to drive her to Durban. And please, don't stay in your mother's house for weeks." He said.

Danielle: "Come on, I will stay until Christmas."

Mnotho: "That's a very long time. You should come back before that."

Danielle: "I want to rest." She said pulling him into a hug and Mnotho gave her an intimate goodbye kiss... He held the door for her. "I love you."

Mnotho: "I love you too." He closed the door for her and he looked at the car as it was driving out of the premises... He then jogged back inside the house...

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“I didn’t expect to see you.” Mthimkhulu said to Luvuyo and he showed her the couch. He’d been inside his office looking and analysis cases that were still open for him to solve when the holidays end. The maid called him for Luvuyo.

Luvuyo: “I suppose we both didn’t expect something from each other because I didn’t expect what you did.” She said and looked at him as he sat on the single couch... She had to fly back to South Africa after she heard from Lonwabo’s friend that actually Happiness was back with Mnotho. Luvuyo didn’t find Happiness’s mood right when she called her and she asked Lonwabo’s gangster friend to find out what had been happening with her and Nonjabulo because she could feel that something wasn’t adding up with Happiness. She didn’t even sound happy to speak to her but she had awkward vibes that she’d never given

her before. And she never called her again to allow her to speak with the children. That was enough for her to feel something wasn't right...

Lonwabo's friend then did the research and he confessed everything that actually happened, from the PI confronting him and him, telling him the truth about Lonwabo. And he promised to fix his wrongs...

Mthimkhulu: "What do you mean by that?"

Luvuyo: "You asked to speak to me and I came here, you asked for forgiveness for everything you did to my brother. I told you he can forgive you only if you can ensure that Happiness and her children are happy and protected. I asked that you ensure she doesn't go back to that hell -"

Mthimkhulu: "Yes, I know but it wasn't by force that she went back. It was her choice to go back to him and I have refused it but it's what

she wanted.”

Luvuyo: “Really? It’s what she wanted? You sent her back there, you were supposed to stand your ground because you promised me. How can you trust that man? How can you? It’s us, whom she used to cry to, not you. I know what that man did to her. There’s no kind of abuse she didn’t experience in his hand and you kindly sent her back with MY BROTHER’S DAUGHTER! It’s fine then if you wanted your daughter to go back there but my brother’s daughter?”

Mthimkhulu: “Young lady, I understand your frustrations but I was going to lose her if I refused to give her my blessings. I wasn’t happy and I still don’t trust her husband but I just didn’t want to stand in her way.”

Luvuyo: “Okay, fine, you gambled with your daughter but I won’t gamble with my brother’s daughter. I am sorry but I am not as too trusting as you are and my brother taught me not to

trust people. I made a mistake by trusting you and trusting Happiness.”

Mthimkhulu: “There’s nothing I can do.”

Luvuyo: “Yes, there’s something you can do. I want the best Lawyer in town because I want my niece’s custody-”

Mthimkhulu: “What! That will hurt my daughter. You can’t take her child Happiness loves her daughter-”

Luvuyo: “I know but my brother’s daughter will not stay with her mother’s abuser, a rapist and a man who killed her father-”

Mthimkhulu: “WHAT!”

Luvuyo: “Yes, your daughter hid that from me. I want to take my brother’s child. Do I have a case and will you help me?”

Mthimkhulu: “I will help you in one condition.”

Luvuyo: “That is?”

Mthimkhulu: "Let convince Happiness to leave her husband."

Luvuyo: "No, you failed to do that."

Mthimkhulu: "Okay, if Happiness decides to leave her husband if you want custody, if she leaves her husband you'll let her have her daughter unless if you have proof that Mnotho killed your brother. He can go to jail."

Luvuyo: "I don't think I have enough proof for that and even with taking her custody, I don't think my testimony and the pictures where she was beaten would be enough to prove he was an abuser."

Mthimkhulu: "There's someone who has a solid evidence of that but do you agree that if she willingly leave Mnotho, you'll let her raise her daughter?"

Luvuyo: "Yes, I just don't want her next to that man. But you haven't answered my question. Do

I have a case? Can I apply for custody?”

Mthimkhulu: “Yes, you have a case and you can apply for custody.”

Luvuyo sighed in relief and she closed her eyes... She didn't want to tell Mthimkhulu everything because she didn't trust him... She wanted her brother's daughter away from Happiness and her so called husband...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 43

“Don't you think you need to go home now?”

Ngcebo asked Dalingcebo was seated next to him, they were having their supper silently inside the dining room. Dalingcebo had been in the house alone with the girls, Ngcebo wasn't home. When Dalingcebo got back from Palesa,

he found Thula and the girls alone, Ngcebo wasn't home and he didn't say where he was going... Faith and Randall came by in the afternoon and Faith took the children.

Dalingcebo: "Why should I go home?"

Ngcebo: "I don't get why you're here because I am doing fine and what about Qhawe? How do you think he feels as you are not home?"

Dalingcebo: "I am not leaving here until your wife comes back here and for your sake I hope she comes back here."

Ngcebo: "Why do you say that? Did her mother say something?"

Dalingcebo: "Nc. Nc. Look at you! Where have you been all day because you clearly didn't go to the hospital to see Nandipha?"

Ngcebo: "Please, Dalingcebo don't ask me questions."

Dalingcebo: “She’ll not come back here if you act like this. I don’t know who in their right mind can ignore his wife who’s in the hospital. Or maybe you want the remaining child to die as you’re showing her you don’t care.”

Ngcebo: “How can you say that?” he shouted at him out of rage and his red blazing eyes gazed at him as Dalingcebo was talking crap to him now. “What should I go and say to Nandipha, huh? I should smile on her face and tell her that everything is going to be alright while nothing is alright.”

Dalingcebo: “Who really cares about the fact that you have to pretend that everything is alright while it’s not?” he asked, deliberately being mean to him because he was pissing him off by acting this way. He saw no valid reason for Ngcebo to behave like this. And all he could do now was to push him to the edge and leave him with guilt because he wasn’t being fair.

“We’ll be talking a different kind of grieve if your wife decides to leave you for being insensitive and negligent of them because what can you say to her? What’s your excuse for not going to the hospital to see her?” he asked.

Ngcebo: “I told you but you’re acting as if you don’t know.”

Dalingcebo: “Well, she doesn’t know that you can’t face her because it’s your mother who has a hand in the death of your child. And that’s not something you’ll tell her. I will tell you this, I will leave here when your wife is being discharged from the hospital whether she comes here or not. And for your sake, I hope she comes back here, if she doesn’t I will leave you here alone still.” He threatened him hoping that was going to force him to go to the hospital because he knew one thing, losing Nandipha was the last thing he would wish for. That wasn’t something he needed to confirm, he knew it. “I will have

this food with the TV. I was alone all day, anyway.” He added and he stood up, he left Ngcebo without hearing what he had to say...

Ngcebo stood up from the chair he took his plate and marched to the microwave, he shoved the plate inside the microwave. He marched to the key holders and he took the keys of his Porsche and he grabbed his wallet that was on the dinner table with his phone...

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She forked her food with the ‘spoon’ and she sighed, she was bored and all she wanted now was to at least sleep comfortably without any drip on her. She was looking at the food that her mother had left for her when she was in the hospital to visit her with the children a few hours ago. She was listening to deep house trying to distract herself. She was moving her head with the music and she began hitting the dish with the spoon that was on her hand. She

stopped only when the music stopped because of the incoming call.

“Sawubona, mama?” Nandipha answered MaNtombela’s call.

MaNtombela: “How are you, Nandipha?”

Nandipha: “I am fine and how are you?”

MaNtombela: “I am worried about you and my knees can’t even allow me to travel just to come that side and see you. You were kidnapped and now you are in the hospital but I can’t see you.”

Nandipha smiled. “Mama bakithi. You’re getting old, no, you’re not even getting old, you’re old now and there’s no need for you to travel long distances just to see me. I am doing fine and I will be discharged soon. And I will keep you informed, of my progress.” She freed her because she didn’t want her travelling just to see her. It was better that she was even thinking of seeing her unlike someone who was

just a drive away.

MaNtombela: “It’s not the same on the phone as when I am there.”

Nandipha: “Oh! Bakithi, my old woman, have fun with Qalokuhle there before she leaves you to go see the Table Mountain. Last night she couldn’t stop talking about how much fun she was going to have with her mother and she asked if I didn’t want to come and bring the girls.” She said and she laughed along with MaNtombela who was laughing, she raised her eyes as the door was opened and Ngcebo walked inside the room. Nandipha sent her eyes back on the lunchbox of food that was before her.

MaNtombela: “I don’t know how she’ll be talking when she comes back from that Table Mountain. Hheyi! She talks a lot and she reminds me of you when you were a child just like Similo, these children talk.”

Nandipha moved her face away from Ngcebo as he was trying to kiss her cheek. She didn't look at him but she heard him pull the chair. "I think Similo is extra mama. I didn't talk that much I was way better." She defended herself.

MaNtombela: "You've never admitted that. Child, you should get some rest, sleep as much as you can because soon your hands will be full."

Nandipha smiled. "I will get some rest, mama, thank you. And goodnight ntombi endala." She said politely.

MaNtombela: "Goodnight, mntanami."

Nandipha removed her phone from her ear and she placed the phone next to the lunchbox without stopping the music that was resuming. She picked up the spoon that was before her and she proceeded 'forking' her food.

Ngcebo: "Sawubona, Rasta lady." He greeted her calmly and he placed his hand on

Nandipha's wrist that was playing food. "Why are you not eating because you're supposed to be eating?" He asked taking the dish from the over bed tray table. He placed the dish on his left hand and he looked at Nandipha who was wasn't looking at him but she'd taken her phone.

Ngcebo: "Nandipha, I am here. Can you take note of that?"

Nandipha: "Oh! I should take note of you being here because now, you've felt like, I should go see her now and she'll have to take note of me."

Ngcebo: "No, but have your food please."

Nandipha: "Why are you here now? You got here on Sunday and you're here tonight. Where have you been all this time? You wanted to do whatever you were doing so that your wife can complain because it's fun if she does."

Ngcebo closed his eyes shortly and he didn't answer her for a while, he just drove to the

hospital without knowing what he was going to say to her about not coming to the hospital to see her. He was supposed to get to her with a straight reason to why he wasn't coming to visit her. "Babe, we will talk but can you eat this food that you've turned into a mash. I can't even tell what was here and was not here on this dish." He said looking at her but Nandipha pushed the over bed tray table and she fixed the blankets that were covering her. She laid body down on the left side, that gave Ngcebo her back.

Nandipha closed her eyes... And Ngcebo on the other side pulled the lead of the lunch box and he covered the food, he put the food away. He got up with the chair and he moved from the side the chair was suited. He placed the chair on the side she was facing because he knew she wasn't going to turn. He looked at her tummy and what he knew that Nandipha didn't know hit him. It hit him hard that only one baby was alive in there and he wondered if she'd

realised that or she wasn't taking note of the moves. Ngcebo taunted his jaw and he realised that this was difficult for him to do.

Ngcebo pulled Nandipha's hand that was visible to his eyes. "It wasn't easy for me to come here and talk to you because I have been upset with my mother and I didn't know how I was going to face you." He said to Nandipha.

Nandipha opened her eyes and looked at his face, she'd heard him move but she didn't turn because he'd moved to face her. "You didn't know how you were going to face me? That's an excuse." She said.

Ngcebo: "Don't you dare tell me that it's an excuse and forget that you're the one who kept what was really going on between mama and you."

Nandipha: "Oh! So, that's why you haven't been coming here to see me? Is that really your

excuse? The fact that I didn't tell you what your mother has been saying to me? I am here because of your mother and you didn't come to see us while I am rooted here doing nothing because of your mother."

Ngcebo: "I don't want us to fight."

Nandipha: "No, you're the one who started this and it's clear that you wanted to fight with me because I wasn't going to keep quiet while you showed me that you don't even care about us."

Ngcebo: "That's out of line now! Because you know that I care about you and our children but you just don't want to understand me."

Nandipha: "Understand what Ngcebo? Did you even give me a chance to understand? No, you didn't but you didn't show your face here and you had your phone switched off until last night, and you still didn't take my calls. Why don't you tell me that I don't want you anymore?"

Ngcebo: “Hheyi, fuck you, man wena! Why would you just think like that? I am telling you how I felt but you don’t want to understand a thing about that. You’re telling me crap now I don’t want you?” he shouted at her out of rage that he had burning rage inside him because she didn’t want to understand little that he was telling her. “Why are you quiet now?”

Nandipha: “Why should I talk because you’ve just swore ‘fuck you’ at me?”

Ngcebo hissed and placed his hand on his face feeling deep that he wasn’t in a right mind to be talking to Nandipha right now but what other option did he have? He couldn’t keep hiding from her... He held her hand tightly and looked at her. She was looking down with tears coming out of her eyes. Ngcebo stood on his feet and he pulled Nandipha into a hug. “I am sorry, I didn’t mean to hurt you but I was still angry and all I was avoiding, was this, fighting with you

because I am angry. Please, forgive me. I am here now and I won't miss a day." He promised holding her face now forcing her to look at him as he was talking. He'd wiped the tears on her face.

Nandipha: "You were supposed to ask me why I did what I did."

Ngcebo: "Your friend told me and even that reason made me angry because I was laughing with my mother while she had a problem with you. It's like she was making a fool of me. I never stopped laughing with my father even though I knew he had a problem with you. He made sure I knew it and that was honesty even though it made me angry that he was holding grudges, I still appreciated that he wasn't pretending. With my mother, it's like she was busy stabbing me in the back while laughing on my face. You're my backbone Nandipha and you know how important that bone is in a human's

bone. If it can be damaged a human being spends his entire life sitting down. And whoever hurts you, they stabbing my back, they must have a problem with you and ensure that I know it. Not to laugh with me and when I have turned my back they're hurting you because I can't see now and you just keep quiet. Do you understand that?"

Nandipha: "Yes, I do. I just didn't want you to fight with your mother because of me. I didn't want that, Ngcebo."

Ngcebo: "What did she say to you when she called you? And don't think of lying to me, Nandipha." He asked while Nandipha's face was still on his hands. She was no longer crying now.

Nandipha: "She was blaming me of your behaviour. She said I have taught you to disrespect them. I didn't take it well and when I wake up I was scared that I was going to be

told that I lost my babies.” She was looking into his eyes as she replied. Ngcebo taunted his jaw and he didn’t breathe a word.

Ngcebo: “Did she really slap you?” he asked caressing her cheeks and Nandipha nodded. He didn’t say anything but he kissed her lips moving his hand at the back of her neck and Nandipha tried to pull him down because she wanted him to be closer to her. Ngcebo sat on the space of the bed and they shared their kiss intensely.

“We’re in the hospital, remember?” Nandipha said to Ngcebo in between the kisses and he was sending his hand beneath the blankets.

Ngcebo: “So?” he asked and touched her soft thighs as Nandipha was wearing a short pyjama. He chuckled deeply as Nandipha was fastening his belt while their lips were still locked into a kiss. “Should I remove it halfway?” he asked kissing her neck and he felt that Nandipha’s

hand was trapped inside his pants.

Nandipha: "Someone will come in here."

Ngcebo: "Nobody will come in here. We still have time and I can stay as much as I want. They're too busy." He said removing his pants leaving them halfway his legs and he sat back on the bed. Nandipha shifted a little to give him more space to sit and they resumed by kissing each other while Ngcebo pulled her pyjamas short down with his right hand massaging her breasts.

Nandipha: "Ngcebo... I want you... for real..." she cried while her left fist was full of Ngcebo's penis that was warm and erected, she busy caressing him slowly and reaching up to the sensitive part of him.

Ngcebo: "We can't have sex in here, Nandipha." He replied in short breath as he was feeling the pleasure but that was not stopping him from

questing her openings with his middle finger and he listened as she moaned on a low tone. He explored her slowly not hard until he found the small hard nub of pleasure inside her, and he focused on it creating circles that made her face look even more beautiful as he was looking at it while his emotions were paying attention to what she was doing herself. This was multitasking and it was highly pleasurable... Nandipha was feeling great waves of pleasure because this man was touching her where he knew that pleasure was kept. And she kept moving closer and closer because she was loving everything... Ngcebo suspected that her cum was closer as he would feel her tightening around his finger. He fastened his lips on her lips to hush her, she hardly embraced her cum quietly when she'd been without him for a long while and he didn't want her to be possibly heard by anyone closer... He invaded her mouth with his tongue and they both triumphed inside

each other's mouths as they cum... They sighed and Nandipha's head fell back on the pillow. Ngcebo following her, he laid his head on her chest. They listened to each other's heartbeats and their heavy breathing without speaking.

Nandipha: "This is not fair! I want to go home!" she complained and pushed Ngcebo away from her chest. She opened the drawer for dry towel.

Ngcebo: "What is not fair now?" he asked taking the towel from her hand and he cleaned himself carefully while waiting for a response. "I am asking."

Nandipha: "I think you need to go now and I will be fine."

Ngcebo: "I can't have sex with you in here, Nandipha."

Nandipha: "I said nothing about that."

Ngcebo: "I know that's what you're complaining about and you should at least be grateful that I

tried.” He said removing the blankets from her. “Lift your legs phela unless if you don’t want me to clean you.” he requested and Nandipha lifted her legs without saying anything... Ngcebo looked at her standing on his feet now with his hands inside his pocket.

Ngcebo: “What do you want?”

Nandipha: “I want to go home and sleep with you in my bed not here.”

Ngcebo: “I am not sleeping with you here though.”

Nandipha: “Mxm!”

He folded his lips to avoid laughing at her and he grabbed the chair. “I will lay my head on your thighs and we will talk until you fall asleep, then I will leave you. How’s that?” He asked looking at her belly.

Nandipha: “That’s not what I want.”

Ngcebo: "It's what you'll get though."

Nandipha: "Mxm!"

Ngcebo: "I will talk to the Doctor tomorrow and ask when she's discharging you. Give me a pillow." He requested as Nandipha was laying on the side that she was on before. Ngcebo placed the pillow where he'd been seated and he laid his head down... They had their conversation on that position...

"Ngcebo! Ngcebo! Wake up!" Nandipha shook Ngcebo as she was certain that he was having a dream because his head and shoulders were convulsing while his face was heavily sweating... She shook him until he was awake.

Ngcebo inhaled deeply. "Can you give me water?" he requested taking the towel that they've used before and he wiped his face with the other side.

Nandipha: "Here. What were you dreaming

about?” she asked giving him the glass of water and Ngcebo took the glass.

Ngcebo: “It’s Happiness.”

Nandipha: “What about her?”

Ngcebo: “She’s running alone on the gravel road and she has blood rushing down her face showing she has a head injury. She’s crying and keeps looking back as if someone is running after her. That’s all I am seeing and it’s the second time that I am having this dream.” He looked at her.

Nandipha: “Oh!” she exclaimed and looked at him as he placed the glass down and looked at his phone. “Why don’t you go home and you’ll rest in your bed?”

Ngcebo sighed. “Yeah! I should go now and you, your head injury – Tsk! Argh! I mean the nightmares. Are you still having them?” he asked.

Nandipha: “Yes.”

Ngcebo: “Eish. I will bring that muthi Langalibalele gave you and we’ll burn it in here because what other choice do we have?” he suggested standing up. Nandipha nodded, Ngcebo then bent his head to kiss her goodbye...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 47

“This mess could have been avoided but now, we are here suffering and when I calculate. How long will it take for you and Nandipha to get married?” Dalingcebo asked his brother who was seated on the passenger seat of Dalingcebo’s vehicle. They were taking the

route sending them to their parents' palace on the 20th of December which was a Sunday, a sunny Sunday.

Ngcebo: "I don't know, she'll give birth to a premature baby, she'll have to stay in the hospital, we will have to bury the other child and we will have to mourn the child and only after that can we get married."

Dalingcebo: "That's like four months from now because I think three months for a little baby unless if she wants to do the whole six months."

Ngcebo: "Yeah, it's three months and Banele will be seated on that bed or wheelchair doing absolutely nothing."

Dalingcebo: "Yes, what can be done, seriously? There's nothing that we can do to speed up things now since there's a child that has left us."

Ngcebo sighed and he shook his head thinking of the difficult time that was lying ahead. He wondered how Nandipha was going to take this and he couldn't even guess but all he hoped for, was grieve not consuming her like it had done with her father's death. He didn't want to go through that time with her once again because it'd been more difficult for him to watch her go through that. But maybe this time was going to be different because this loss was cutting on them both. "I am only hoping that she'll not lose herself." Ngcebo said to his brother out loud.

Dalingcebo: "No, count yourself in there because you haven't grieved Ngcebo and when Nandipha begins her stages of grieve yours will be reactivated. Now, you haven't but you've only buried it for her sake."

Ngcebo: "Dalingcebo, I am better. Nandipha is just worst. She just keeps quiet and walk around like a shell with no emotions."

Dalingcebo: “But she manages to bounce back to the person she is. You’ll have to be grateful for that and this part right here is where you live through thick and thin.” He said and looked at him, Ngcebo was nodding in support.

Ngcebo: “With my first child I was a mess but I accepted why she did it even though it was difficult. I partly took the blame because I knew how she was when I left and I had to be insensitive. But this time around, it just cuts deeper and harder because it’s my mother.”

Dalingcebo: “And you’ll see Ngcebo, you’ll call me and tell me ‘You said it’ you’ll be expected to forgive mom because you forgave Nandipha. And they will say that to your face. They’ll forget that when getting into relationships an expectation to be hurt or be broken is always there, bafo and that expectation even stop other people from dating but who can expect their mother to do what she knows exactly that could

endanger your child's life? Who can expect that, Ngcebo?" he looked at him.

Ngcebo: "I don't think there's someone who can expect that even if their mother hates their wife but when it comes to your child, that's a different story. It's a very different story." He supported and he drove through the palace after they've opened the gate for them.

Dalingcebo: "Ey, let's just hope all this will pass." He said and Ngcebo supported him, they stepped out of the car. Dalingcebo marched up to the main door while Ngcebo was taking out his phone from his pocket to call Nandipha before he could even forget about it.

"I have been expecting your call." Nandipha answered the call.

Ngcebo chuckled. "If I called at night you would have been ready to scream, isn't?" he asked and sent his free hand inside his pocket.

Nandipha: “Yes, you know this woman you chose to make your wife.”

Ngcebo laughed. “I know her very well and that’s the reason I decided to call her early before I forget and tell her that we travelled safe. We’ve reached our destination now with every part of our bodies intact.”

Nandipha giggled. “That’s a good thing because I can’t even imagine how it could be if we can lose some of your body parts, you know those critical ones.”

Ngcebo chuckled. “Like my feet and legs?” he guessed otherwise as he could hear by the sound of her lazy voice where her mind was playing at.

Nandipha: “Well, yes because you can’t run around the girls without those two.” She supported in defeat and she heard Ngcebo laugh without raising a comment. “Why are you

laughing?” she asked.

Ngcebo: “Why don’t you count yourself because I know you like it when I run after you? Don’t I run after you with my feet and legs?”

Nandipha: “You used to. Run along Ngcebo I can hear chickens making noise there.” she said to Ngcebo quickly with a sudden relaxed voice.

Ngcebo: “Hey, are you chasing me away now? What’s wrong with chickens? And I can’t even hear chickens around here.”

Nandipha: “I have to go Rasta, thank you for calling.”

Ngcebo: “Who’s in the house now?”

Nandipha: “Nobody. Why are you asking?”

Ngcebo: “I will call you later.” He promised and removed the phone from his ear after he’d heard a comment from Nandipha. Ngcebo

placed his phone inside his pocket and he marched to the front door with a frown as the sun did no justice on his skin. He sighed as his feet stepped inside the lounge where Dalingcebo was seated down with Banele, Candice and Nkosazana... Dalingcebo was holding a conversation with the two ladies asking about his brother's progress. He'd found them seated alone without Banele...

"Sanibona!" Ngcebo greeted looking at Banele and he sat next to Dalingcebo as Candice was already seated next to Banele's wheelchair. Looking at the condition that Banele was forced to remain in, he couldn't help but feel helpless. There was absolutely nothing that he could do to help Banele at this stage. There wasn't going to be any wedding for his healing without Nandipha's presence and she was in no state to have a wedding that he was told it needed to be grand like every royal wedding... Ngcebo smiled

as he saw a little smile forced on Banele's stroked mouth and he tried to speak but he couldn't form clear words as he'd been struggling. Candice looked at her husband as he was trying to speak to his brothers. She listened to him closely.

Dalingcebo: "Can you hear him, Candice?"

Nkosazana: "You can also hear him if you can listen to him closely."

Candice nodded her head after she'd picked up what Banele was trying to say to his brothers. "He's trying to ask how are you?"

Ngcebo: "Oh! I am fine, bafo. I had to come and see you. How are you feeling? Do you feel any pain?" he asked and Banele shook his head answering that he wasn't feeling pain... Ngcebo looked at Dalingcebo and he then looked at Candice. "How's he?" he asked.

Candice: "He's the same, every day." She replied

and looked down, she couldn't deny how her heart jumped when she saw Ngcebo walking inside the house. She felt the hope that she didn't have but it got to her... How could she feel hopeful about something that she knew wasn't even close from happening? She'd been burdened by looking at her husband like this and the thought of them, them, the fact that 'they' were supposed to be on their honeymoon by now. It killed her slowly...

Ngcebo: "Ey, this is beyond my control." He said and sighed, he hated being the barrier of bad news but he couldn't just stay in Gauteng without coming by to check on his brother. Even though he didn't come with hope for Banele and his wife, he needed to see him. He needed to see how his brother was. "How are you coping, Candice?" He asked.

Candice shook her head that was forced down, she shook it repeatedly and she cried her

feelings without breathing them out to Ngcebo. Nkosazana pulled Candice into her arms and she hugged her dearly.

Ngcebo: "I wish I can fast forward things but I can't. Nandipha is still stuck inside a bubble of happiness that she's fine and our babies are fine and I know the truth will break her. And she'll have to grieve, a wedding is something that will come last. I am really sorry, bafo." He looked at Banele and he raised his unaffected hand, he waved for him to stop worrying.

Candice: "I understand, Ngcebo. I will wait, we will wait." She promised looking after Ngcebo while she wiped her tears and she looked down as she felt a hand holding her free hand, it was her husband's hand that was holding her tightly. She smiled and looked at him. Banele closed his eyes shortly.

Dalingcebo: "Time will pass and soon, Nandipha will know what's going on and we will all take it

from there.”

Nkosazana: “We’re hopeful and how’s she?”

Ngcebo hissed and shook his head. “Like, I said she’s stuck in a bubble.”

Candice: “She’s not struggling with what happened to her. I am talking about the kidnapping. She’s not struggling with that, is she?”

Ngcebo: “The nightmares bother her but during the day, she’s fine, she’s with the children and it’s all good. We’re just waiting for the second baby to improve.” He replied and took out his phone from his pocket as it kept beeping none stop and he couldn’t ignore it.

Nkosazana: “That’s better. Mama no baba, they’re not home, they will come back late. They all went to Queen Nomalanga’s palace with your other brothers and Happiness for a ritual taking place there.”

Dalingcebo: "Okay."

"We'll go prepare something for you."

Nkosazana said to the two brothers and she pulled Candice with her.

Candice: "Banele can type on the phone with his free hand if you want to hold a conversation with him. But the phone mustn't be too bright because that has an effect on his eyes." She told the two brothers, specifically Dalingcebo who was looking at her and Ngcebo was concentrated on his phone.

Dalingcebo: "Okay." He said and supported with a head nod... The ladies left... Dalingcebo stood up from the couch. "What's popping on that phone now?" he asked marching to the couch next to Banele and Ngcebo stood up after him.

Ngcebo clicked his tongue. "These children have messed with my clothes and they're totally ruined." He replied sitting next to Dalingcebo on

the couch that was next to Banele, he was still responding to Nandipha, sending shots at her as he was blaming her for his clothes that were ruined.

Dalingcebo: "They ruined the clothes, how?"

Ngcebo: "Nandipha left the basket on the bedroom door, she was taking them for a wash and the girls dragged the clothes inside their room. Look, they remade my clothes with paint." He gave the phone to Dalingcebo showing him the pictures and Dalingcebo laughed, he passed the phone to Banele as Ngcebo was trying to take the phone from him... Banele's face gleamed hilariously without the sound of laughter coming out of his mouth.

Dalingcebo: "You must whip them."

Ngcebo: "They're trouble and I always tie them on the couch when I will be busy and tell them not to tell their mother because you put them

on the couch for them to watch cartoons and you'll find Ntokomalo alone on the couch. The others would be messing something somewhere." He said angrily while he was busy replying to Nandipha's text.

Dalingcebo: "Banele, says that's child abuse." He informed Ngcebo reading on the phone that Banele had passed to him. He'd written a comment.

Ngcebo: "They force my hand and now, I can't tell this woman I married to do the same because she'll be dramatic about it. Ghha!" he groaned and put his phone on silent to ignore the upcoming texts.

Dalingcebo: "You're trying to say, she has never caught you?"

Ngcebo: "No, I only do it when I am busy... How did this happen?" he asked Banele moving from the topic about his children... They waited as

Banele was typing a reply narrating to them how this happen... Dalingcebo took the phone first and he read what Banele had written. He pressed his face and passed it to Ngcebo, they all couldn't hold it as Banele had noted they would laugh... They bombed out the laughter as they couldn't possibly imagine...

“Ay, Ladies, we will – I will leave now. I don't know about Dalingcebo.” Ngcebo said to the ladies, time have passed and it was getting darker outside. They've stayed with Banele having the conversation with him.

Dalingcebo: “I am leaving as well.”

Nkosazana: “Won't you wait for mama and baba?”

Ngcebo: “Ey, I have to go and rest, Banele. I will come see you before I drive back home. I think tomorrow, I will be heading up.” He promised looking at his brother and he saw a nod. They

shared a fist bump with his free hand and Ngcebo hugged him... They then left the house... Ngcebo took out his phone and opened the passenger seat of Dalingcebo's car.

Ngcebo: "I want to go and see Qhawe before you drive me home." he informed Dalingcebo and placed his phone on his ear dialling Nandipha's number in response of the ten missed calls from her.

Dalingcebo: "Alright, my boy! I have missed him."

Ngcebo: "I told you to come back home." he said and removed the phone from his ear, he dialled the number once again.

Dalingcebo: "We would be talking divorce if I didn't come back."

Ngcebo: "Hheyi, wena! Divorce from who, huh?" he gave him the surprised eye and Dalingcebo laughed without answering him. He removed

the phone from his ear and clicked his tongue before dialling for the last time.

Nandipha: "I am busy."

Ngcebo: "What are you busy doing that you can ignore my calls?"

Nandipha: "I am busy. I called you and you didn't answer after you read my texts and you didn't even reply."

Ngcebo: "I had to give my attention to my brother and anyway what you showed me pissed me off. How can you let this happen?"

Nandipha: "I didn't know the girls were around I told you that."

Ngcebo: "That's an excuse. I want those clothes Nandipha. Do you know how much I spent on those jeans? What are scissors for? Isn't dangerous for a child to carry a pair of scissors? And under your watch children are carrying a pair of scissors cutting my shirts." he heard a

sigh from Nandipha not an answer that he was expecting. “You don’t sound bothered even. You’ll buy these clothes Nandipha, isn’t?” he asked.

Nandipha: “No, the children weren’t under my watch. You’ll have to talk to their nanny because I was to have your clothes washed.”

Ngcebo: “Oh! It’s her who left the basket neglected, isn’t?”

Nandipha: “No, but at least I don’t have clothes to wash and iron now.”

Ngcebo removed the phone from his ear and he looked at the phone after hearing that response from Nandipha... Dalingcebo laughed at him as he placed the phone back on his ear only to click his tongue and remove it once again. He dropped the call and rammed the phone back on his pocket.

Ngcebo: “There’s nothing funny about this.”

Dalingcebo: “It’s just clothes and paint, children’s paint.”

Ngcebo: “Yeah, I figured you won’t get it.”

“You need to chill. It’s just fabric.” Dalingcebo said as he parked his car before his house and he got off the car after Ngcebo.

“Such chubby cheeks, ntwana. What is MaNxongo feeding you?” Ngcebo asked Dalingcebo’s seven months’ baby Qhawe who’d grown chubby.

Dalingcebo: “Tell him he’s feeding me amasi.”

Ngcebo laughed. “He’s getting darker now and soon, he’ll be as dark as you are. But he’s not shying away from resembling his real father.”

Dalingcebo laughed. “Are you trying to tell me that you’ve chowed his mother and ngibambe ijazi mina njengamanje?” He asked giving him the baby’s face cloth to wipe the dripping saliva.

Ngcebo: “That’s exactly what I am saying and akulona ijazi if it’s my child.” he joked and they laughed along with Dalingcebo, the baby screamed. “Yes, your mother but umjita doesn’t scream like this.”

Dalingcebo: “Ey, voetsek Ngcebo, don’t plant ideas in his head.”

Ngcebo chuckled. “We’re tomorrow, right? I don’t want to stay long here I have to see those children who ruined me.” He looked at his brother.

Dalingcebo: “Yeah, sure, but won’t you go see the parents?”

Ngcebo: “Ey, kwahle. I am going to have my rest now. Let’s take Qhawe for a drive to my house before MaNxongo comes back here and I will have to reject her drink because I am full.” He informed his brother getting up.

Dalingcebo: “Head to the car I will go take the

car seat and inform her I am driving out with the baby.” he said giving Ngcebo his car keys, he took them and he headed out of the house talking to baby Qhawe...

“Hmm! Hmm! Sawubona.” Ngcebo greeted Simthande who standing before the stove cooking. Ngcebo had just arrived in his house.

Simthande looked back. “Ngcebo, hey, how are you?” she asked with a pure smile that hid her surprise and she turned back to close the pot.

Ngcebo: “I am fine and how are you?” he opened the fridge for water.

Simthande: “I am fine. I didn’t know you were coming but where’s the noise?”

Ngcebo chuckled. “The noise? What do you mean?” he asked.

Simthande: “I mean the children.”

Ngcebo: “Oh! They’re back home with their

mother I came back to check on Banele.

Where's your boyfriend?" he asked and looked around as if he was searching for Mntwana who was clear not with them.

Simthande: "He left this morning, he told me he was going with his parents and brothers to your aunt's palace."

Ngcebo: "Oh! I'll be in my room then." He said and left Simthande after she'd replied... He dumped his body on the couch and he phone laid on his palms as he began chatting, replying to texts on WhatsApp ignoring texts from his wife...

"You're awake here. I saw the lights!" Mntwana confirmed showing his head on Ngcebo bedroom door and he stepped inside the bedroom after he'd seen Ngcebo standing behind the wardrobe slipping a vest on his body.

Ngcebo: "Yeah. I am awake. You're back early

so.”

Mntwana: “I wasn’t with the family I was in Durban.” He told him and threw worried body on top of the messy bed.

Ngcebo: “Huh? What’s in Durban?”

Mntwana: “The princess is in Durban with her friends and she asked to see me. I drove there to see her but couldn’t spend the night and let Simthande sleep alone in here but if I knew you were coming, I wasn’t going to come back.”

Ngcebo chuckled and shook his head. “So, now, she just comes to Durban. She doesn’t fear that some people might see she’s the princess?” he asked, Mntwana had told him who Neliswa was.

Mntwana: “She was young when she left and that’s good enough for her to believe that they won’t see her.”

Ngcebo: “You’re unbelievable Mntwana. You left your girl here to attend the other girl, who in fact

isn't your girlfriend."

Mntwana: "Haa! Don't look at me like you've never done that because I know that you've done that a several times and maybe worse."

Ngcebo: "You were a kid when I was your age."

Mntwana: "Just admit you've done it."

Ngcebo: "I won't admit shit."

Mntwana: "Let's go and have dinner, my girl cooked."

Ngcebo: "I will eat later I want to see if I can communicate with ancestors maybe try to explain the situation. Banele doesn't deserve this."

Mntwana got up from the bed looking at Ngcebo's phone that was ringing. He passed the phone to him but Ngcebo didn't answer it. He threw it back on the bed. "Let's go. I will eat later not now. I have to do this." he told his

brother leaving the bedroom with him.

Mntwana: “Eish, you can say that again. He’s supposed to be cruising with his wife not sitting on the wheelchair like that.”

Ngcebo: “Yeah, go and eat with the madam. Don’t wait up for me.”

Mntwana: “I think we will go to the lodge with her in the morning.”

Ngcebo: “For breakfast?”

Mntwana: “No, just in case the family comes here. Don’t you think they will come here? I wouldn’t want them to find her here.”

Ngcebo: “No, don’t leave because I am leaving tomorrow.” He walked away after Mntwana had breathe a comment to what he as saying...

“I thought you’ll never come back.” Mntwana commented seeing Ngcebo passing by the exit of the lounge and he stopped walking, Mntwana

got up from the couch. He marched up to his brother seeing he wasn't coming inside the lounge. "You're completely damp." He commented.

Ngcebo took off his vest. "I said don't wait up for me because I wasn't sure when I was going to come back." he said wiping his face with the vest that was covered in a smoke smell of the incense he'd burnt.

Mntwana: "I didn't listen. Is he going to be alright?"

Ngcebo: "Nothing will be alright Mntwana and it's unfair."

Mntwana: "The ancestors are angry, aren't they?"

Ngcebo: "Angry is not a suitable word. Let me go shower, just go to bed, we will talk tomorrow morning."

Mntwana: "Alright, ugidle grand."

Ngcebo: “Sho, ntwana. Nawe no mam lapho.” He said proceeding to his room for a towel he was going to need in the bathroom. He was angry at how much the ancestors were never understanding! It was just ridiculous and he hated what was happening to Banele! He headed to the bathroom swearing all the way until he reached the bathroom...

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“His brothers were here today.” Candice told Dalisu and Thembelihle who were seated with her on the lounge, they were having tea that she’d prepared for them... They’ve just gotten back...

Dalisu: “Which brothers, Dalingcebo and Ngcebo?” he looked at her.

Candice: “Yes, they spend a lot of their time with him here, communicating through the phone. He seemed a bit relaxed. He hasn’t been

telling me that he was worried about Ngcebo.”

Thembelihle: “My son! He can’t even express himself now.”

Dalisu: “Don’t worry about Banele, MaSthole. It’s a good thing that Ngcebo is here. We should see him.” he looked at Thembelihle.

Thembelihle looked at Dalisu as she felt his eyes on her. “How can you say that because you know that Ngcebo doesn’t want to see me?” She asked and she recognised that, just saying that with her mouth was breaking her beyond. She never thought there would ever be a day where she would say this about her son, a child she carried inside her womb, nurtured and loved with her whole being, today that child didn’t want to see her. That child had thrown her out of his house at the darkest hour of the day...

Dalisu: “Are you going to avoid, Ngcebo now?”

Thembelihle didn't answer her husband but she placed the cup of tea on the coffee table and she got up to leave them because of the fresh tears coming out of her eyes caused by pain that she was feeling...

Dalису: "Did Ngcebo say when he was going to leave?"

Candice: "He said he's leaving tomorrow."

Dalису nodded and he placed the coffee that he was drinking on the table and he left Candice, he followed his wife...

"It has been days now and we haven't spoken about Ngcebo and his wife. I think that now is the time that we speak about this matter."

Uncle elder said amongst the elders of the family who were having breakfast with Dalису and his wife. They've come to the house to have a word with them.

Dalису: "His wife doesn't know about the child,

yet.”

Aunt elder: “What came over you, Dalisu, huh? What should we do now as you’ve had a hand in your grandson’s death?” she asked looking at Dalisu.

Aunt Nomkhosi: “And you sent us to his house without telling us the whole truth. I don’t understand what made you do this.”

Dalisu: “It’s wrong now that I have called her but it wasn’t wrong when she was supposed to be questioned in that meeting we wanted with her?”

Aunts: “HHAYBO!”

Uncle elder: “Are you trying to justify what you did by comparing it to the meeting that we wanted? Is that what you’re trying to do?”

Dalisu: “No-”

Uncle elder: “What are we supposed to do now?”



MaSthole, why are you quiet now? We were told you said the call was made by you and your husband did the talking. Why are you quiet now?"

Thembelihle: "I don't have much to say." She replied and looked down, she didn't know what to say because it didn't sit well with her that Dalisu decided to take this blame alone without even checking with her, first.

Aunt Nomkhosi clapped hands once. "She doesn't have much to say! What should be done now? We haven't even heard from MaZondi's mother. Did she call you, MaSthole?" she asked and looked at Thembelihle.

Thembelihle: "No, she didn't call me but MaNtombela did call me."

Uncle elder: "Hhayi, hhayi, we should be stuck between two women now? Who between them is supposed to be in contact with us concerning

Ngcebo's wife? That has never been clarified."

Aunt elder: "Ngcebo paid the ilobolo cows to MaNtombela and her husband. They're the ones who raised Ngcebo's wife and that means everything should be communicated with her. We don't even know much of this other woman."

Sbani: "But she's her mother and isn't she the one she's close to?"

Daliso sighed as this talk made her realise that how little did the family know about Ngcebo's wife. What was difficult for them to figure out who they needed to communicate with between MaNtombela and Nandipha's biological mother? How could there be so much distance between them? But there haven't been situations that forced them to talk about this and Ngcebo's wife haven't been too close to them. That was the explanation Daliso got on his own out of this situation discussed on the table...

Aunt Nomkhosi: "It looks like there's no answer to that and that means we need to go to Ngcebo's house. We can't just sit back as if nothing happened."

Uncle elder: "Sisi is right. We can't proceed as if nothing happened but it's best that we go to Ngcebo's house and speak with him about this. I don't know if there's someone with a better suggestion." He looked amongst the members but there was nobody who had a suggestion...

"You're not coming with us, are you?" Dalisu asked Thembelihle who was seated on the bed inside their bedroom. The family was ready to leave the palace for Ngcebo's house after they've confirmed with Dalingcebo that Ngcebo hadn't left the village...

Thembelihle: "How can I go?"

Dalisu: "Stand up and let's go, Ngcebo will not tell you to leave his house in my presence. And I

will tell him he was wrong. I have called Mlamuli.” He held Thembelihle’s hand and he forced her to stand up... They left the room...

## THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

### S6 == EPISODE 46

“When are you actually coming back home? You live in Ngcebo’s house now?” Thembelihle asked Mntwana on the phone... Mntwana was seated on the high stool of the kitchen counter while watching over Simthande’s pots as she was bathing using the muthi that Langalibalele had given her.

Mntwana: “I am watching over here because I was asked to do so.” He replied, he didn’t want to go back home as yet, he was still enjoying the peace and quiet of living alone. The palace was always busy and Banele who could at least

entertain him as Ngcebo was not around, he was unable to do a thing and he couldn't even talk. The only thing he did was go to the palace to check on him and he would drive back to Ngcebo's house.

Thembelihle: "Watching over the house? Ngcebo's house is always empty until he comes home. What do you mean by watching over?"

Mntwana: "Mama, I was asked by Ngcebo to be here. Why do you want me to come back home because there's nothing happening there? It's not like we have events coming up and we will be busy."

Thembelihle: "There's your brother here and he's sick, you are not here now because Banele is sick but if he was fine, you would be following each other."

Mntwana closed his eyes. "Mama, you can't tell me that I should stay with Banele 24hours. I

come to the palace to see him daily and his wife is there with him. Why do you expect me to be home?"

Thembelihle: "It's like that now, huh? Just because your brother is sick you can't be here with him but you're always after each other when he's fine."

Mntwana: "I come daily, mama. What should I do now?" He asked trying to hide the irritation in his voice because he couldn't understand why his mother was complaining about this now. He didn't understand!

Thembelihle: "I don't see why are you staying there alone."

Mntwana: "I was asked to and mama, I am not coming back home anytime soon. There's nothing major happening, please, let me be."

Thembelihle clicked her tongue and she dropped the call. Mntwana sighed and looked at

the phone, he wondered why was she trying to force him to come home while he didn't want to come back home. He proceeded with chatting on his phone.

"I am done now I can take over from here just in case you want to go and shower." Simthande said to Mntwana as she walked inside the kitchen cleaned up and dressed in a long pink light dress.

Mntwana: "It's fine. I won't move. Did you call your sister?"

Simthande: "No, I don't even know what will I say to her. I can't believe that all along she has been fooling me. I was happy when our relationship seemed to be working but she just -"

Mntwana: "Don't keep wasting your tears on her now."

Simthande: "What should I do because I am hurt?"

I have been a fool and I have hurt you in that process of being a fool. And look, you're still here helping me. I don't know if you're feeling pity for me-

Mntwana: "Stop it! I love you and you'll be better after you've washed yourself the way Langalibalele advised and I think it's better that you remain here until I am ready to go back to Cape Town because what will she do then?"

Simthande: "But I can't stay here until then, your family will still have a funeral, right? I can't stay here but I also don't want to go back there without you."

Mntwana: "You're right, you'll stay in my apartment until I return. How is that? It's not like she'll be seeing you around if you are there and you're protected now even if she can see you around."

Simthande: "I am sorry, Mntwana. I have



messed up our relationship that was coming out beautifully even though I had issues but we were good together until I allowed my sister to come between us.”

Mntwana pulled Simthande by her hand closer to him and he looked at her face that was bearable to look at, now. “I am the one who encouraged you to fix a relationship with her and that’s because I just wanted you to have your family. That’s why I said we should look for your father but you didn’t want that. I know that you’ve been alone for too long but maybe we can find him and maybe he also doesn’t know that he has a daughter. We all need family, Simthande.” He said to her while playing with her fingers.

Simthande: “What if I find him and he also hurt me like my sister?”

Mntwana: “You’ll be hurt but you’ll be able to move on. Finding him won’t be difficult because

we will just look amongst the circle of your stepfather's friend and we will approach them one by one if they're still alive."

Simthande inhaled hard and she felt this was making her scared. "Can you give me time to think about this and make a decision?" She asked.

Mntwana: "Yes, of course."

Simthande: "And can you forgive me for doubting you and being a fool, for everything that I said to hurt you while you were trying to show me the truth. I was just blinded by love and happiness of finding my sister."

Mntwana smiled and he moved his face to her lips, he gave her a brief kiss. He didn't want to say much because he still didn't trust Simthande with her insecurities and issues but he strongly didn't want to break up with her. He just didn't want to let her go because he knew

there was a beautiful woman just buried in all the issues that she had. “My mother just called me and complained that I am not coming home. Do you want to meet her?” he asked.

Simthande laughed looking into his eyes. “No! How can you ask me that? Can you see how horrible my face looks?” She asked.

Mntwana chuckled. “Ey, it looks horrible babe but don’t worry because we still got time here and we will go and visit her.” He told her.

Simthande moved to the stove. “And what if she doesn’t like me? The last guy who took me to meet his mother, his mother didn’t like me but his sister did like me and you don’t even have a sister.” She asked opening the pot.

Mntwana chuckled. “Don’t worry because she will like you and even if she doesn’t like you that won’t change that you’re my girlfriend.” He said and opened Neliswa’s WhatsApp text message.

>> “I am driving down to KZN, Durban for Christmas with my friends. Can I see you?” <<  
He read the text.

Simthande: “If that’s the case then I would love to meet your mother. The woman who’d groomed such a man for me.” she said holding Mntwana from behind... Mntwana chuckled and he pressed the power button on his phone before he could even respond to Neliswa’s text message...

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“What’s wrong?” Faith asked Nandipha who was meeting up with her on the hallway of her house. Nandipha was in the house with Ngcebo Sunday night, they were home to take the girls back to their house... Nandipha had stopped walking and she was touching her belly as she could feel her baby kicking.

Nandipha: “I don’t know if I am being awkward

or what. But it doesn't feel like my other baby is kicking. I have been paying attention that all the movements and kicks are coming from the right but this lopsided left is just kind of quiet."

Faith smiled but her heart was beating a tight harder. "You're being silly now. The babies are kicking just fine and it's fair that you won't feel them the same."

Nandipha: "No, mama, I have had five babies in here and they've kicked and moved. I would feel them move and kick I can't be confused with just two babies."

Faith: "Yes, you can be confused! You've been under a lot of stress and please, stop worrying yourself about such things because the Doctor was going to tell you or us if something was wrong. Just go to the girls." She encouraged brushing Nandipha off, she didn't move until Nandipha moved away from her. Faith exhaled and she marched to the lounge where Ngcebo

was with Randall.

“She’s starting to have questions now about the babies’ movements. What did the Doctor say yesterday, Ngcebo? I don’t want to keep this for too long now. My daughter should know about this and grieve her baby.” Faith informed him and asked Ngcebo about Nandipha, talking on a low tone as she sat next to Randall.

Ngcebo: “She didn’t ask any questions to me.”

Faith: “She just asked me now.”

Ngcebo: “The Doctor said it’s still not healthy because the baby’s heartbeat hasn’t reached the normal heart beat but she’s improving.”

Randall: “She is improving slowly.”

Ngcebo: “It just has been days.”

Faith: “Yes, but time is against us.”

Randall: “Why don’t you go to a holiday for two? Cape Town, Kimberly, I don’t know wherever

she'll be relaxing and having every fun possible. Do you remember when I took her to a holiday, she came back rejuvenated. Or you can even go around Gauteng, do things you haven't done before."

Faith: "Yes, that might be a good idea, Ngcebo."

Ngcebo: "And the girls?"

Faith: "You don't have to worry about those five. They don't even want to go now, they know real fun lies with grandma but they always ask their mother 'sibuya nini ekhaya mama'" she mimicked the girls' voices last and they had a good laugh about it. "And you'll skype them. I don't want you to take them with, but I want you two to go and distress, you'll also need it Ngcebo because difficult times are still to come when you'll have to grieve together. And we don't know how Nandipha will take it."

Randall: "Yeah, what do you say, bro? I am also

here with the girls and they roll with their uncle. There's nothing to worry about."

Ngcebo sighed. "Alright, I will talk to her about it tonight and we will make preparations but if she's stable before we could leave. We will have to break the news down to her because this is difficult for me."

Faith: "I understand. I will just hold the two of you in prayer because you'll need it-" they all looked at the back side as they heard the noise of the girls, laughing and their footsteps running...

"BABA!" They giggled and rushed to their father even though their mother had stopped running after them. They were all dressed up to leave.

Ngcebo: "Hey, little rats. Are you all fine?"

Girls: "YEBO!"

Nongcebo: "Umama kade eshilekisha kakhulu." She told her father and she looked at

her mother, she laughed along with her sister. Nandipha was standing at the back of the couch where Ngcebo was seated looking at them.

Similo: "Ehe, ha!"

Ngcebo: "Oh! Does that mean you are ready to go home?"

Girls: "CHA! ASIHAMBI/ASHIHAMBI!" (No, we're not leaving)

Nandipha: "Now, that's out of line. You're all going home with us or else if you don't want to go home, you'll never visit grandma."

Similo looked back at her grandma. "Gogo?"
She called her out.

Faith: "Your mother is joking but you'll have to go home with your parents and they will bring you back soon. If you come back granny will take you out."

Ntokomalo: "With uncle?"

Faith: "Yes, with him."

Thando: "Ashambe out manje noba umama no baba abashiyshi out!"

The adults laughed. "That's not true." Ngcebo said to Thando and he pulled her by her ears forcing her to giggle and her sisters along with her. Ngcebo stood on his feet and he lifted Nongcebo off the floor. "Mama, we will leave now."

Faith: "Let's walk my minions out and when you come back, we will go out and we will go sleep in hotel beds. Do you want that?"

Similo: "Ha! Njengase Pitoli gogo, khathi sihambe nobaba nomama?"

Faith laughed. "Yes, just like in Pretoria, Mimi." She agreed pushing them out of the house with their mother following behind with Randall and Thula.

Similo: “Ha! Nizwile, yini?” she asked her sisters on a low tone and they all agreed that they’ve heard what their granny promised them...

Randall helped Ngcebo buckled the girls inside the viano...

“Look after yourself my child.” Faith said to Nandipha and she hugged her.

Nandipha: “I will do that even though I don’t know why I wasn’t included that I will also be sleeping in hotel beds.”

Faith laughed. “Just let my girls have their time yours will come.” She said.

Nandipha: “I wonder!” she turned to her brother and she hugged him... She then stepped inside the viano and Ngcebo drove out...

“They’re busy talking about hotel beds. Look at them.” She said to Ngcebo as she looked back at her children who were making noise inside the car talking about going out and hotels beds

not leaving what they were going to wear.

Ngcebo: “Don’t worry because I will take you to your own hotel bed while they go with their grandmother.”

Nandipha: “Are you serious about that?”

Ngcebo: “Yes, don’t you want to relax under the sun in Cape town beaches while you sip some nice drinks and have some Cape Town fish?”

Nandipha giggled. “I would really love that, babe but I have left the girls for too long. I was kidnapped and when I got back I was hospitalised. I should spend time with them.” She said what was inside her heart.

Ngcebo: “I know but we will be going for a few days just to pamper you and those two inside you. And you’ll come back to this five chaos.”

Nandipha: “Okay! Okay! I would love that Cape Town holiday.” She agreed to it delightedly and she kissed his cheek quickly. Ngcebo laughed...

Nandipha then began going on and on about what she needed to bring...

“Ntwana, I have decided with her mother and brother that I am taking her on the holiday. And I was thinking.” Ngcebo introduced to Dalingcebo and he threw his body on the empty bed of the guestroom. Dalingcebo was busy packing his clothes as he was leaving the following day.

Dalingcebo: “You were thinking, about?”

Ngcebo: “Can we all go? Like you and her friend. Like do a collective holiday thing. I think that will uplift her even higher. What do you think? I really need to get her in shape so that she can know sooner what’s happening.”

Dalingcebo: “Holiday? Yeah, now, I can use some holiday considering how hectic this year have been. Hey!”

Ngcebo: “Yeah, you lost your two lovers in one

year.” He mocked him and he laughed first before Dalingcebo could even laugh.

Dalingcebo: “Hheyi! Gwani wena! Voetsek!”

Ngcebo: “Ivari mos, why are you angry?”

Dalingcebo: “I will change this shit and let you leave alone.”

Ngcebo: “I will still ask Palesa to come along and maybe she can find a new man in Cape Town.” He threatened and Dalingcebo throw his sneaker on him. Ngcebo groaned loudly as the sneaker hit him. “Mgodoyi!”

Dalingcebo: “Mgodoyi, amasende akho!”

Ngcebo: “Ukube ushaye wona ke ubuzothini?”

Dalingcebo: “Ngeke usawasebenzisa vele usuzele kwanele manje.” He said and they both laughed hilariously...

“Hhaybo! What’s wrong?” Nandipha asked appearing on the door with her head... She was

inside the girls' room when she heard Ngcebo's groan.

Dalingcebo: "Nothing is wrong, makoti."

Nandipha: "E.eh! Why was he groaning then?" she asked looking at Ngcebo shortly and she made the long pause on Dalingcebo.

Dalingcebo: "How do you know it's him who was groaning maybe it was me."

Nandipha: "I know it was him. Ngcebo?"

Ngcebo: "He's hitting me, wife because I am a child."

Nandipha widened her eyes and looked at Dalingcebo. "Dalingcebo? Why are you hitting him now? Do you want me to take him? I will take him." She asked seriously and the two brothers laughed.

Dalingcebo: "Don't take him. I was putting him on the lane for you."

Nandipha sighed and shook her head. “Please, no groaning. You frightened me. I thought you were falling or something.” She said lastly looking at Ngcebo.

Ngcebo: “Yes, mam, no groaning.” He said and Nandipha closed the door.

Dalingcebo: “Ey, drama this one!”

Ngcebo: “Tell me about it! But on that holiday, I will have to drive down tomorrow first to visit Banele because I haven’t seen him since the stroke. My assistant will plan with the ladies.”

Dalingcebo: “Yeah, that’s a good idea. I will go down with you.”

Ngcebo: “Okay, sure, let me go to my drama queens then! I will have to tell the bigger one that I am leaving tomorrow.” he got up and left his brother...

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Happiness stepped inside her car and she drove out of her house's premises. She was driving up to Thembelihle's palace. She connected her phone to the speakers and she dialled her father's number.

"MaMthimkhulu?" Her father answered the phone call.

Happiness: "Mthimkhulu, how are you?"

Mthimkhulu: "I am fine child and how are you?"

Happiness: "I am not fine-"

Mthimkhulu: "What has happened? Did your husband do something?"

Happiness: "Dad, calm down! My husband did nothing. You still don't trust him, baba. Do you?"

Mthimkhulu: "Yes, I don't trust him and you've lied to me about him Happiness. You made me give you and my granddaughter out to him while he had a hand, no while he was the who killed

Lonwabo!”

Happiness: “WHAT!” She screamed and she braked her car instantly, she disconnected the phone and placed it on her ear. “Where did you hear that?”

Mthimkhulu: “Why did you lie to me?”

Happiness: “He didn’t kill him but the uncle of his wife is the one who killed him. Mnotho didn’t kill Nonjabulo’s father.”

Mthimkhulu: “That means they were in this together and where were you?”

Happiness: “Dad, have you been digging things on me?”

Mthimkhulu: “No, you did well by calling me. You should come home and we need to talk.”

Happiness: “Baba, I can’t come home. I should be here because I think that my children’s lives are in danger...” she told him everything about

Ngcebo's dream and about what Langelibalele told them.

Mthimkhulu sighed. "You see, that means you should come back home and stop that nonsense you call marriage if you don't want to lose Nonjabulo. I had her aunt here, she was here angry that I have allowed you to go back to Mnotho while I promised that I will protect you and your children from him as that was what her brother would have wanted."

Happiness held her chest and she began panting and she swallowed hard. "What did she want? And who told her that I am back with Mnotho? It's her who told you Mnotho was involved, how did she know? Baba, when was she there and why didn't tell me!" she shouted.

Mthimkhulu: "I am your father!"

Happiness: "I am sorry."

Mthimkhulu: "She wants her brother's child but I

managed to make a deal with her that if you can leave Mnotho. She will not fight you for custody of the child. And she agreed to that condition because she doesn't want to take Nonjabulo from you but she wants her away from Mnotho. How can you let your child be raised by the man who was an accomplice in her father's murder?"

Happiness: "No! She can't do that, baba! I love my husband I won't leave him and Luvuyo can't have my daughter. I gave birth to that child, she's my child!"

Mthimkhulu: "Yes, she can have Nonjabulo. Remember, firstly, she raised Nonjabulo from birth and you were like a part time mother to her. Now, you're living with an abuser that is not the biological father of Nonjabulo. She has a case against you my child and I strongly advise you leave Mnotho and be with your children."

Happiness: "This was your plan, right! You did this, baba? You're the one who called Luvuyo

and you told her about Mnotho and I because you have issues with Mnotho? How can you do this to me? I am your daughter?”

Mthimkhulu: “I am not the one who told her anything but she came here with information and she’s angry with you. But because you’re my child I begged her not to take the child provided you leave Mnotho and she agreed to that.”

Happiness: “She will not take my child! Her brother was a gangster and which court can allow a child to be taken by her? My child is happy here!” she shouted at her father out of frustration and fear, she cried instantly.

Mthimkhulu: “You’ll have to have proof that and her brother being gangster doesn’t prove her to be one. I don’t want you to go to court and the best thing you should do is leave Mnotho because my child you’ve lost this case while you haven’t even been served. If she doesn’t get

the custody, the child may still not remain with you. I can be the first person to be reviewed before she's taken to social services. The best way is to leave Mnotho."

Happiness dropped the call and she buried her face on the steering. She cried as she could feel that now her world was turning. She couldn't believe that Luvuyo would do this to her...

Nonjabulo was her daughter! What did she have against Luvuyo to fight her?

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 48

"Umcabangile kodwa ubaba wakho ngenkathi uganga no sis bakho?" (Did you think of your father when you were being naughty?) Ngcebo asked Nongcebo on the phone, Ngcebo was seated back on the couch with his head laid

back and his eyes closed. He had his feet placed on the coffee table... He was having a conversation with his daughter on the phone in the morning. Mntwana and Simthande had long gone for Richards' bay not the lodge...

Nongcebo: "Ehe, baba. Nishilo mina ukuthi bayaganga akaze belalele." (Yes, daddy. I told them they're being naughty but they didn't listen.)

Ngcebo: "Unamanga akaze ukusho lokho nawe uvese wapenda izingubo zami. Ngizokushaya futhi uma ngifika ekhaya. Ngizoqala ngawe." (You're lying you didn't say but you also ruined my clothes. I will whip you when I get home. I will start with you.) he promised her and he waited for a response from his daughter, a response he knew was going to be a defence...

Nongcebo: "Howu! Cala no Buhlezi, mina nizocasha kumama. Thina shimcelile ugogo ukuthi athenge futhi izingubo zakho. Wathi

akanayo imali kumele shishebenze.” (No, begin with Buhle. I will hide to behind mom. We asked granny to buy your clothes but granny said that she doesn’t have money.)

Ngcebo laughed. “Ukuphi ugogo wakho? Umbone nini?” (Where’s your grandma? Where did you see her?) He asked.

Nongcebo: “Shiye kagogo nje ebushuku no mama. Shika gogo manje noma besalele oBuhlezi, no Mimi, no Thando, no Ntoko. Mina anilele kodwa nikhuluma no baba wethu sonke.” (We went to granny’s house at night with mom. We are at granny’s house now and my sisters are still sleeping but I am not sleeping. I am talking to our father)

Ngcebo chuckled. “Oh! Phela, umama wakho akangitshelanga ukuthi niye kagogo nawe usho manje ngoba sengikubuza. Ubungasho ngani? Imina futhi ofinile angithi wena awakaze utshele umama wakho ukuthi ufuna ukukhuluma nami.



Awungikhumbuli yini, Nongcebo?” (Oh! Your mother didn't tell me that you're going to granny's house and you didn't tell me too. Why didn't you tell me? And I am the one who called you, you didn't tell your mother you want to talk to me. Don't you miss me, Nongcebo?)

Nongcebo giggled delightedly. “Baba, niyakukhumbula mina. Mina kodwa benizocela kumama ukuthi nicela ukukhuluma nawe uma shenidlile kodwa, hawu! Mama yena wanika mina ifoni wathi ‘Nangu ubaba wakho.” (Daddy, I miss you. And I was going to ask mom that I want to talk to you after I have eaten but surprisingly mom gave me the phone and said ‘Here's your father)

Ngcebo laughed. “And where's your mother now, princess?” he asked. Nandipha gave the phone to their daughter without speaking to him as he'd called her in the morning... He understood the reason behind her actions.

Ngcebo: “Ushekhishini yena baba, no gogo bayapheka. Nimnike ifoni? Baba, uzobuya nini, pho? Unashishayi phela thina.” (She’s in the kitchen with granny, they’re cooking. Should I give her the phone? When will you come back?)

Ngcebo: “I am coming back today, get up and go give the phone to your mother. I will call you again when your sisters have woken up.”

Nongcebo: “Yebo, baba. Nizogijima!” she promised and... What Ngcebo heard were footsteps of his daughter running... “Mama, nangu ubaba.” (he’s dad, mom) she told her mother on the other side of the line.

Nandipha: “Okay, I will come with your porridge soon and you’ll eat your other breakfast with your sisters. Do you want to sit here with us?”

Nongcebo: “Ubaba! Mama, uyafona!” she raised her voice.

Nandipha: “No, your father wanted to speak to

you.”

Nongcebo: “E.e! Uthe nikunike ifoni nje!”

Ngcebo removed the phone from his ear as he couldn't hear any words exchange between Nongcebo and Nandipha. He clicked his tongue and got up from the couch realising that Nandipha had dropped the call. He marched to the front of the house to attend the knock on the door.

Ngcebo: “Should I pay to speak to you now?”

Nandipha: “Should I speak with you only when you want to speak with me? I call you, you don't answer the phone. I text you, you read and don't respond. But if you call I should jump on the phone.”

Ngcebo opened the door and his eyes landed on his father who was with his brothers, Mlamuli and Dalingcebo. He stood aside and they entered the house. Ngcebo followed

behind. "I will speak to you after a few minutes-"

Dalisu: "We will have a meeting here. I don't think it will last minutes." He said to his son as he'd heard him promise what he knew wasn't going to happen.

Ngcebo: "I will speak to you-"

Nandipha: "I heard that."

Ngcebo clicked his tongue once again and he moved out of the house while he was redialling Nandipha's number after she'd dropped the call once again. "I am trying to talk to you and you're being cheeky for no reason at all." He didn't wait for Nandipha to speak.

Nandipha: "What was I supposed to do because there's a meeting?"

Ngcebo: "I called you and I should be the one to drop the call not the other way around. And don't forget that you're wrong here."

Nandipha: “What were you calling me for? How are you speaking to me now while there’s a meeting over there? I should receive another call where I will be told that you are disrespectful because of me?”

Ngcebo: “Who knows who I am talking to, huh?”

“Ngcebo, dad wants to speak to you before the elders get here.” Dalingcebo told Ngcebo who was standing by the entrance porch of the house.

Ngcebo: “I am coming.” He said looking back at Dalingcebo shortly without dropping the call with Nandipha. Dalingcebo left him... “I will talk to you after the meeting. I am coming back today and you and the girls should be home. I won’t have time to drive to your mother’s house.”

Nandipha: “I will follow the order.”

Ngcebo removed the phone from his ear and he

hung up the call, he marched back to the house with that sudden anger that he really couldn't tell where it was coming from! He wasn't really angry with his wife even though he was angry but this one wasn't entirely generated by her. But maybe it was just how things were, how, everything was!

"Sanibona." Ngcebo greeted his father and brothers, he sat on the couch after placing his phone on the coffee table... They greeted him back...

Dalису: "We will have a meeting with the elders but I thought I should come by first before they all get here. How are you?"

Ngcebo: "I am fine and how are you?"

Dalису: "Nobody is fine, Ngcebo and it would be best if you don't lie because I think nobody amongst us here doesn't know what you're going through." He looked at Ngcebo and he

wasn't looking at him... Ngcebo was seated on the single couch, he was way past the stage of sharing his feelings with his father or his mother. He wasn't going to begin now because he'd lost a child...

Ngcebo: "I don't know what you expect me to say baba. I got nothing to say."

Dalису: "Your mother was wrong Ngcebo but I think you need to hear her out and hear where she's coming from. And what really happened between her and Nandipha, I am not making excuses for your mother but she's your mother. You know that she loves all of you."

Ngcebo: "Is the meeting going to be about mama?"

Mlamuli: "No."

Dalису: "No, but I wanted you to know that I have seen it fit that the family doesn't know that your mother made that call to Nandipha

because-”

Ngcebo: “You can protect your own baba, I don’t mind. I didn’t expect that you’ll tell the truth anyway because anything and everything is done to protect your wife but nothing is done for others. I won’t say anything.”

Dalису: “Ngcebo! Don’t take this like that and don’t forget that this is your mother and what you did, throwing her out of your house. That was wrong! My mother and I would quarrel about your mother but I have never thrown my mother out of my house because of a disagreement.”

Dalingcebo chuckled and shook his head. “A disagreement, baba? You call what happened between mama, Ngcebo and Nandipha, disagreement?”

Dalису: “There’s no reason that can force a child to do what your brother did to your mother. It’s



not right, Dalingcebo. Me, as monarch, I didn't have a friend and it's my mother who I confided in. And we never saw eye to eye every time but nothing changed the fact that she was my mother. And you mustn't be angry for too long with her because you'll always need her."

Ngcebo looked at his older brother then his father. "I am 31 years of age and till this day, I don't know a slap from my mother. I have only gotten a hiding from you, baba as a child and teenager but my 25 years old wife had to be slapped by my mother only because she called bhuti Mnotho to save our daughter. My child is dead because of my mother and it's enough that you're telling me I have to hide that she did this. And now, you're comparing your arguments with grandma to what mama has done to me? Hhayi, I think we should wait for the meeting if all you wanted to talk about is mom. You justify the actions of people closer to

your heart but other people. It's a different story for them. We should just wait for the meeting because it's clear it won't be about mama since they know nothing about the truth-" he said clearly and stopped himself from talking because it wasn't going to help...

Dalisu: "I didn't know about that and I am not trying to make any justification-"

Mlamuli: "Ndabezitha, please hold it, baba."

Dalisu: "I am trying to talk to my son!" he raised his voice looking at Mlamuli, he didn't comment to his father but he rose up from the chouch to leave them but luckily the elders were already walking inside the house. Thembelihle had driven with them as Dalisu wanted to speak to Ngcebo first before the meeting could even begin... After they're greeted each other, they dissolved down.

"Where's Mnotho and Mntwana?" Uncle elder

asked looking at the brothers who were present inside the room.

Mlamuli: "Mnotho couldn't come because of his wife."

Dalisu: "And Mntwana? Wasn't he here Ngcebo?"

Ngcebo: "He was here but he had to go to Richards' bay."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "Awu, Ngcebo, we don't even have words to describe the pain we feel for what has happened in the family, for what has happened to you and your wife. And I didn't even know what had happened when we got in Johannesburg. The whole family is hurt."

Uncle elder: "Ey, impela, what happened opened a wound to us all and it's an excruciating wound. We've just ended a mourning period for your bother and now, we have lost a grandchild."

Aunt elder: "Yes, and we understand that your

wife doesn't know about the other child but we are worried we don't know who between her mother should we communicate with?"

Ngcebo: "Communicate?"

Aunt elder: "Yes, your mother tells us that MaNtombela is the one who called her but your wife's biological mother hasn't called her."

Mlamuli: "Why is her mother expected to call? I don't understand."

Uncle elder: "We're family, Mageba."

Thembelihle: "That's not even a question you can ask, Mlamuli. MaNtombela managed to call and that says a lot about her."

Mlamuli: "What's wrong if one of the family members call Nandipha's mother? I don't get this but maybe I know nothing."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "Ngcebo, what do you say?"

Ngcebo: "I don't want to talk about anything

while Nandipha knows nothing about our dead child. I don't see the point of any discussions." He said abruptly and there was total silence that followed a sigh of two elders.

Aunt Nomkhosi: "I think that makes sense but knowing who between their mothers should communicate with us is important."

Ngcebo: "They both support Nandipha."

Aunt elder: "Does that mean they'll both come here for the funeral."

Dalingcebo: "They were here when Ngcebo was unconscious. What can stop them from coming now?" he asked and they supported...

Aunt Nomkhosi: "I think we should join hands and pray because there's nothing to discuss. It's the Lord who can heal our bleeding hearts." She suggested and they joined hands to pray...

Dalisu: "Before we leave. I would like to say it clearly that I have made a decision that I was

going to announce to the whole family about Ngcebo's wife." He said to the family after the prayer and they all gave him attention. "I have reached a decision that it was time for me to take my word back about Ngcebo's wife. We didn't get to have the meeting because she was not amongst us but I will say this now, that I am taking my word back and I am opening my gates for her because it has been long. The time-"

"HHAWU!" The elders surprised in unison and they looked at one another with pleasing smiles as they didn't expect that Dalisu would announce this... Even Thembelihle wasn't told about this and she was surprised. She looked at Ngcebo and he wasn't showing any emotions but his eyes were gazing at his hands that were on the table.

Aunt Nomkhosi: "That's a good thing, Ndabezitha and this will close the gap and

distance between the family and Ngcebo's wife."

Elders: "Yes, that's a good thing."

Aunt elder: "A proper ritual will have to be done and the family will have to work on restoring the peace that we've lost." she said and the family supported her statement.

Mlamuli: "None of us were expecting this, baba."

Dalisu: "I figured it was time to move on."

"SIYABONGA!" The family chanted in support of what Dalisu had said.

Thembelihle: "You're not saying anything about what your father had said, Ngcebo. Don't you have anything to say?"

Ngcebo: "I don't know what to say."

Aunt Nomkhosi: "It's understandable and this is something that should be discussed after the

funeral but it's good that your father has said it to us."

Uncle elder: "Yes, and it's best that we let you prepare for the road."

Ngcebo: "Thank you for coming."

"Where's this young boy, Mntwana?" Dalingcebo asked Ngcebo who was locking the door of his house as they were heading out now.

Ngcebo: "He checking in and out in Richards' bay with his girlfriend."

Dalingcebo laughed and opened the door of his car. "This boy, I hope it's a woman his age. Do you remember how he costed us when he got lost?"

Ngcebo laughed. "Don't even remind me of that shitty New year's." he said and they laughed, they spend the rest of the drive reminiscing as they drove to their mother's palace to check on Banele before leaving...



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“Mama, dad will come home tonight?” Njabulo asked his mother who was dressing him up for bed. Happiness was alone in the house with the children. Nonjabulo was already sleeping... They’ve had a long day at the palace and she didn’t get the chance to tell Thembelihle what was really going on. She was still in disbelief that Luvuyo wanted to take her daughter away from her.

Happiness: “Yes, he will come back home. He’ll be coming with Siphosami because their mother is not home. She went to visit her mother.”

Njabulo: “Why didn’t Siphosami leave with them?”

Happiness: “He said he wants to stay behind and he’ll be staying with us until Pearl and their mother comes back from Durban.”

Njabulo: “We won’t go to visit grandpa? I miss him now.”

Happiness: “We will go but we won’t go anytime soon. And now, you should sleep young man. I want to go and take a shower too.” She said placing Njabulo inside his cot and she covered him. “You’re getting older now for this bed. We should get you another bed. You see?” she smiled at him.

Njabulo: “Yes, mama but Nonjanja is not old for her bed.”

Happiness laughed. “Yes, she’s shorter like her father.” She said looking at her son with a smile and she hoped that she was going to find a strong defence team. She couldn’t afford to be separated from her daughter and for her children to be separated from each other.

Njabulo giggled. “Mama?” He called out his mother.

Happiness: "Yes, Njiva?"

Njabulo: "Nonjanja's dad is watching us from heaven?" he asked and pointed where heaven was. Happiness smiled and she nodded her head, she then played with her son's ears and it didn't take long for Njabulo to fall asleep.

Happiness placed the phone on her ear, she'd just finished dressing up for bed and now, she thought it was a good idea that she calls Luvuyo. Maybe if she can request to meet with her, she was going to hear her out.

"What do you want?" Luvuyo answered the phone call without greeting her.

Happiness: "Luvuyo, how are you?"

Luvuyo: "No, just tell me what do you want? Why are you calling me?"

Happiness: "Can we meet?"

Luvuyo: "Meet? Why should we meet now

because you're in Swaziland with the children? Why should we meet?"

Happiness turned her head to look at the door as it was being opened. Mnotho walked through the door looking tired. "I am sorry that I lied to you."

Luvuyo: "Okay, I have nothing to say to you but just know that you can stay with your abuser but my brother's daughter will not be raised by his killer that you've been hiding away from me. I won't let that man raise my niece. And even if he didn't kill my brother I wasn't going to allow Nonjabulo to be raised by that filthy man. You may have forgotten what he did to you but I will never forget that and I will make sure the court knows it."

Happiness: "Luvuyo, I didn't just hide him but he's also hiding the fact that Lonwabo ordered the shoot-" she was cut off by the sound signalling that Luvuyo had dropped the call on

her. Happiness placed the phone aside and she closed her eyes feeling the pain before she could even face the court.

“Hey, what’s happening?” Mnotho asked Happiness and he pulled her into his arms as Happiness was crying the tears of pain that she was feeling.

Happiness: “Luvuyo, wants to take Nonjabulo from me because I am back with you now and she knows now that you and Danielle’s uncle killed Nonjabulo’s father. I was told by my father that she came to his house to talk about serving me and dad bargained that if I can leave you, she won’t take Nonjabulo.”

Mnotho: “That’s bullshit! What does she think I will do to Nonjabulo? I take her as my daughter. She’s in fact my daughter and how did she learn that Thabani and I were involved in Lonwabo’s death?”

Happiness: "I don't know! I can't lose my daughter, Mnotho and I don't want to lose you either. We're a family and we are happy together."

Mnotho clicked his tongue as he was angered by this. He didn't like the fact that Happiness was crying now and in his mind, he didn't know what is it that he could do to help her. "Don't worry, mkami, we will find the best defence team when it comes to children's custodies. I won't let her take our daughter and there's nobody that will come between us. Our ancestors brought us together and we will die together, because we're made for each other."

Happiness: "And if the defence team doesn't win the case for us? What will happen, Mnotho? I will lose my daughter? I hardly raised Nonjabulo and it hasn't even been a full year since I have been with her and now, she'll be taken from me. Why is this happening to me?"

And what will happen to the family if the truth can come out that you and Danielle's uncle killing Lonwabo because he killed the family member and shot two members for me. And I knew about that! That will ruin my relationship with the family."

Mnotho: "Don't stress yourself because nothing like that will happen." He comforted her and he moved up on the bed with her still inside his arms and inside his head he was thinking about this. He couldn't help but worry that should everything come out things were going to bad and relationships were going to be ruined. He feared the truth coming out was not good for any of them. But he didn't know what he could to prevent this court case...

"I will go have a quick shower and come back. I have put Siphosami on the bed." He informed Happiness who'd calm down and he covered her body with the light bedcover they were

using for the summer and he left her after Happiness had given him a go ahead to leave...

Mnotho chuckled as he lifted the bed cover. "I left you dressed up in your night dress and I am coming back to your naked body." He commented seeing Happiness was naked under the covers.

Happiness: "You know I don't like us sleeping with clothes. What's the use of them? Because we should sleep, skin closer to one another's skin." She reminded him placing her hand on his chest and she rose up from the bed... Mnotho smiled looking at her small beautiful breasts.

Mnotho: "Did these breasts have milk though?" he asked touching them as Happiness was sitting on him after she'd removed his pyjama pants.

"They did have milk." She replied moving her hands softly on his hard bumpy lower abs and

she laid her body down on his to kiss him passionately slow. Happiness breathed his strong masculine body wash and she moaned deep on her throat as Mnotho was massaging her hard nipples... She felt his strong penis leaping against her bums in response of the nipple kisses Happiness was giving intensely to Mnotho... Happiness held Mnotho's hand, her hand travelling from the back as Mnotho was trying in creep himself inside her.

Happiness: "Why are you rushing me because I am not done?" she asked softly and looked at him. She was hoping that tonight, she could show him how she loved patience when making love. How she loved for him to take his time before giving her the actual intercourse. It wasn't easy for her to speak to him about such things, she hadn't reach that level in their relationship but she was hoping that tonight, she could show him...

Mnotho: "I can feel that you are ready and I am ready."

Happiness: "Yes, but I just want to have fun with you."

Mnotho smiled calmly. "Alright, have fun, MaMthimkhulu." He allowed her and Happiness didn't hesitate but she took the lead completely now forcing Mnotho to follow to every touch and caress until she was ready for him... She rammed her body onto him and Mnotho groaned, exciting the wife on top. And she began moving up and down slowly, looking at his face that showed how much he appreciated the pleasure that his wife was giving out...

"That was pretty awesome! Are you sleeping now?" Mnotho asked Happiness as he cuddled her after their pleasing encounter.

Happiness: "Yes, I am exhausted now." she replied and she smiled as her husband kissed

her cheek before wishing her 'goodnight.'

"I did say you must not come back after Christmas." Mnotho said to Danielle on the phone. He was speaking to her in the morning as he was standing before the stove preparing breakfast for his family that was sleeping, still.

Danielle: "I haven't been with my mother. How do you expect me to come back before Christmas? I want to be home, Mnotho."

Mnotho: "I am not allowing you and that means you should come back."

Danielle: "I am afraid I am not going to listen to that."

Mnotho: "Excuse me! Are you defying me now, huh?"

Danielle: "Why should I come back home?"

Mnotho: "Happiness needs you here, she's sad that Nonjabulo will be taken away from her by

her aunt and she could use some of your support. But it's clear that you're not willing to give her that, right?"

Danielle: "Why didn't you just tell me that from the beginning because I didn't know that Happiness is sad about that? She didn't tell me!" she shouted.

Mnotho: "Mind your tone now! You're not speaking to a child. How many times must I remind you that you must mind your tone when speaking to me?"

Danielle: "I am sorry."

Mnotho: "Are you going to come back home or not?"

Danielle: "I will come back it's not like I have a choice, anyway." She said and hung up the call without waiting for Mnotho to comment...

Mnotho looked at his phone and he chuckled in disbelief. He called her again.

Danielle: "Hello?"

Mnotho: "Why are you being like this?"

Danielle: "I said I will come back."

Mnotho: "It's not like you have a choice, anyway. Say it again." He commanded and Danielle didn't say it once again. She kept quiet...

Mnotho clicked his tongue and he dropped the call... He then finished up the cooking...

"I have been thinking that, is there a way that we can prove Luvuyo as involved in gangster activities along with her brother?" Mnotho asked Happiness giving her a bowl of ice cream and he sat next to her outside the house on the garden chairs. The children were playing on the yard...

Happiness: "Thank you. And how can we prove that? Can we even prove that Lonwabo was a gangster? I don't think we can do that because he wasn't doing petty crimes but he was into IT,

something that's close to impossible to prove and I don't even want to mention his sister."

Mnotho: "We can't back down without trying. Do you know any of his enemies who can actually help us prove he was a gangster and his sister, along?"

Happiness: "I do but I don't know if they'll help us."

Mnotho: "Ey, yabona kodwa nawe-"

Happiness: "Please, don't even start!" she stopped him before he could even begin to proceed with what she'd guessed he wanted to say to her now... Mnotho sighed and he stopped talking as he'd been stopped...

Mnotho: "Proving her sister and him were gangsters is the only thing that can help us at this stage. And maybe finding information about her boyfriend." He insisted and he looked at her. She didn't say anything but she nodded

her head in support of what he was saying...

Happiness: "Can they allow her to take the child to Botswana."

Mnotho: "I don't know but we should do everything and anything to win." He looked at her and she gave him a nod... They sat in silence while the three children were playing...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 49

"Are you calling me because you're drunk?"

Mntwana asked Neliswa on the phone, he was seated inside his car that was parked on the parking lot of the Inkwazi mall. He was waiting on Simthande.

Neliswa giggled. "I am not drunk but I am just tipsy. I don't know if you know the meaning of

the word tipsy.”

Mntwana laughed and shook his head but immediately took a close look at the lady he suspected to be Simthande but... he figured quickly that it was not her. “Okay, Princess you’re not drunk but you’re tipsy. What are you doing?” He asked rubbing his worried eyes, he was sleepy but he removed his fingers from his eyes to see Simthande coming by.

Neliswa: “I am laid back on my hotel bed and I thought of calling you. I will be going back to Cape Town in a few days and I feel these holidays would be a bore. I can’t even picture them.”

Mntwana: “Don’t you think that you need to go home this year? Just this year! You can never be bored at home. Just go home.”

Neliswa: “Are you out of your fuckin my mind!” she raised her voice.

Mntwana: "What's with the shouting this days? You really need to get your mood and hormones checked you can't be snapping anyhow."

Neliswa hissed. "It's just work stress nothing much." She replied calmly.

Mntwana: "I am not convinced by that and I am really serious about going home to see your family. You can never know, Neliswa."

Neliswa: "I miss you though, there's no way I can see you once again. I feel like we didn't get enough time yesterday."

Mntwana: "I am busy now and there's no way I can come to Durban to see you but I will come back in a few weeks."

Neliswa: "That's just not enough."

Mntwana: "If you can go home and try reconcile with your parents I can definitely see you once again. But if you go back to Cape Town we will see each other after weeks and maybe mid-

January.”

Neliswa: “It’s a good thing you’re not the only man around then. Bye.”

Mntwana: “Oh! Bye.” He said without stopping her from doing what she’d just told him. He didn’t even know if she was saying that to make him feel any kind of jealousy or she was talking this way because she was tipsy. But either way he didn’t feel good about what she’d just said even though at the back of his mind he was reminded that they were not in a romantic relationship, it was just sex!

He clicked his tongue and lifted his phone to call Simthande who wasn’t coming back still, but he didn’t have to call her. He’d spotted Simthande walking towards the car conversing with a woman.

“Are you already making friends now?”

Mntwana asked Simthande who was taking the

passenger seat and clicked the key of the car.

Simthande: “No, how can I make friends because I am leaving soon?”

Mntwana: “I can never know how women think, babe.”

“Sorry.” She said to him and she took her ringing phone from her bag. She clicked her tongue and taunted her jaw before answering the phone. “What do you want from me? Why are you calling me?” She asked without greeting.

Nikhona: “Is that how you greet me now, sis? You’ve gone for too long and you haven’t even called to tell me how are things over there and you haven’t been responding to my texts.”

Simthande chuckled. “Why are you pretending as if you care about me because we both know that you don’t give a fuck about what happens to me.”

Nikhona: “What are you trying to say? I care

about you.”

Simthande: “No! All along you wanted Mntwana and you’ve been seducing him behind my back. I can’t believe how much of a hypocrite you’re Nikhona.”

Nikhona laughed in believable disbelief. “That’s what he told you? Wow! This boyfriend of yours. I don’t even find him attractive.” She said in defence.

Simthande: “Oh, that’s why you saw it fit to bewitch me? For what reasons did you do that, Nikhona? What did I do to you? Huh?”

Nikhona: “I did what! I don’t even believe in that shit but your fuckin boyfriend told me the only way to get rid of you is only if I follow his orders -”

Simthande: “Just stop it with your lies! And you know what? I want you to get the hell out of that flat and go back where you coming from. I don’t

ever want to see you again because you are poison in my life. Tsk!” she removed the phone from her ear and she dropped the call.

Mntwana: “I am-”

Simthande: “Not now please.” She pleaded and closed her eyes, she allowed her tears to break free. She’d prisoned them for too long and she didn’t want to make a mistake of suppressing this pain, this betrayal from her own sister. A sister who’d hurt her once again had made a return to hurt her even further...

Mntwana: “Don’t cry like this for Nikhona. She’s not worth it.”

Simthande: “She’s my sister! And I don’t expect you to understand because you don’t even know how it feels to be me.”

Mntwana: “And that’s why I said we should find your father. If we can find your him maybe, you’ll feel the wholeness in your life-”

Simthande: “Just drop it, Mntwana! Drop it!” she shouted looking at him with her wet face and she didn’t wait for him to even utter a response but she closed her eyes laying her head back on the car seat... They had the rest of their drive in silence... And Mntwana was thinking about, what if he could just get Simthande to meet his mother maybe she was going to feel better. He didn’t see a better way to uplift her spirit than introducing her to his mother and for her, to meet the other ladies in the family. And more importantly he needed to ensure that he finds her father because she needed real family...

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22nd of December, Happiness was driving from Danielle’s house straight to Thembelihle’s palace. It’d been a while since she’d been to the palace as she’d been busy trying to find ways to get to anyone, one of Lonwabo’s enemies and alliances who could help her with defeating

Luvuyo but she wasn't getting lucky. But Mnotho had encouraged that they don't stop... She drove through the palace she was alone inside her car. She'd left her children at Danielle's house as they've requested to stay behind and she allowed them with an agreement that she was going to fetch them later...

"Hello, Candice. Where's mama?" Happiness asked Candice who was seated on the porch chairs reading a history book on a sunny Tuesday.

Candice: "Hey, Happiness. Where have you been?"

Happiness: "I have been busy, sister trying to get things together and I thought I should come check on mama and how things are over here."

Candice: "She told me that she's going to her sewing room."

Happiness: "Okay, how are things? How's Banele?"

Candice: "It's still the same, his brother, Ngcebo and Dalingcebo were here a few days ago. And things over here are still the same."

Happiness sighed stressfully. "It's like there's this dark cloud following every one of us. I don't even know what can be done." She said.

Candice: "Maybe things will ease up after the wedding."

Happiness: "Do you think so? That wedding will take months to come."

Candice: "There's nothing we can do. Your wedding is a white wedding and that is something unrecognised. You'll also have to postpone yours, right?"

Happiness: "Yes, that's what will happen. I will come back to you after I have spoken to mama, okay?"



Candice: "Alright."

Happiness nodded with a smile and she left Candice. She proceeded inside the awfully quiet house. No child was around! Qalokuhle was with her mother and Nhlakanipho was with Nkosazana's sons in the palace...

She opened the door of the room and she closed it quickly as she saw Thembelihle seated before the chair of the sewing machine, crying. She was crying woefully with her head forced down and her shoulders and body convulsing reflecting the pain that she was feeling deep inside her heart. She'd come far, she'd never had it easy in life and Dalisu and marriage wasn't something she'd dreamed of but she embraced it. She found a man amongst other men and she embraced him, she allowed him into her life and they built a home. She'd fought and prayed for their happiness. They were blessed with children and they've done

everything in their power to raise them right. Their father wasn't always there because of his responsibility to the throne but she held her house together and she couldn't possibly imagine how it could have been if Dalisu had other wives... It was beautiful, their home was warm filled with love and happiness until their sons grew up and chose partners... Now, everything was falling apart, what was a beautiful warm home was not even close to that now. They've lost a grandchild because of her anger and their son was just a cabbage, Ngcebo wasn't even talking to her, he hated her and there was nothing she could do to fix this. There was no happiness between her and her husband but just dullness. He was angry with her still and she had to live with that triple pain each day...

"Mama, what's wrong?" Happiness asked Thembelihle and she went down to her level to

hug her tightly... Thembelihle didn't answer Happiness but she just let it all out as Happiness held her tightly. "I am sorry for everything." She said feeling the pain times two now and her inner broken woman screamed for help and strength that she didn't even know if it was there, there, somewhere.

Thembelihle: "Ngcebo hates me, Happiness. My own son hates me and I don't even know if there's a way to fix this. How can I?"

Happiness: "God will always provide a way if we go to him honestly."

Thembelihle: "I have prayed and confessed all my wrongs to him. I have poured my heart and my pain but he doesn't hear me, Happiness. Ngcebo doesn't even want to see me. And Banele, he can't even function on his own. I don't even want to mention the grandson that we will bury-"

Happiness: "Don't be hard on yourself mama. There's nobody who's perfect in this world and you made a mistake. You were angry when you made that phone call and that messed everything out. Being a mother doesn't mean that you're perfect and you'll do perfect things. Ngcebo needs to understand that."

Thembelihle: "How can he understand that while he doesn't want to talk to me? Who can make him understand that I am not perfect?" she looked at her and took the clothe on the table to wipe her face. Happiness grabbed a chair and she sat down facing Thembelihle who was cleaning herself.

Happiness: "There's nobody who can make him understand beside his wife."

Thembelihle: "I don't even want to call Nandipha because I don't want to cause any damage. And she wouldn't even want to listen to me."

Happiness: "I will talk to her. I won't say anything about the baby but I will talk to her and make her understand where you're coming from as a mother. She'll be a mother to a boy soon and she'll go through this one day."

Thembelihle: "You wouldn't have understood yourself."

Happiness: "I would have and Nandipha might understand as well and I believe she's the only person who can make her husband understand where you come from. You didn't mean any harm you could never mean harm to any of your family members mama. Everyone knows that. And in that women's event, Nandipha spoke boldly about forgiveness. I don't think she can hold a grudge of what happened. I will talk to her as a sister."

Thembelihle drew a long sigh as she felt a little hopeful. She held Happiness's hands tightly with her eyes closed. "Thank you. Mnotho told

me what has been bothering you about Nonjabulo and what your father said.”

Happiness: “Yes, and I am so stressed.”

Thembelihle: “My child you can love and lead a relationship with Mnotho while living in your father’s house or while you live somewhere in Durban.”

Happiness: “MAMA!” She exclaimed and widened her eyes as she couldn’t believe what Thembelihle was actually saying to her.

Thembelihle: “Are you prepared to lose your child and stay with your husband and Njabulo without your child, Happiness?”

Happiness: “I am not prepared but Mnotho and I will fight.”

Thembelihle: “Do you remember those pictures and what if Nonjabulo’s aunt have more evidence against you? What can be difficult in staying with your children and having

relationship with Mnotho without living with him and allowing Nonjabulo close to him?”

Happiness: “He’s my husband and we were brought together for a reason. I will not let Luvuyo destroy my happiness and my home. I can’t spend the rest of my life in my father’s house and I can’t dance to Luvuyo’s tune.”

“I get you but if you lose this case that means you’ll lose your daughter. And it’s way better to lose your husband than your child.” She advised and Happiness looked down without breathing a word. Thembelihle realised she was in no position to give this advice because she, herself she was living with her husband and maybe Happiness wasn’t going to see this situation the way she was viewing it. It wasn’t in her wishes for Happiness and Mnotho to be apart because they were made for each other. But the ancestors never said it was a force for them to be together. She was a diamond brought for

Mnotho's happiness and peace, she was a diamond brought for the family's happiness and peace but she didn't wish for her to be separated from her children while she wasn't forced to stay with Mnotho. While she could choose long distance marriage just to keep her children. But she wasn't going to force anything down on her. It was her choice... "Can we pray shortly?" She requested and they began praying together. They poured out their hearts to the Lord...

Happiness: "Please, don't worry. I trust my husband and we do have a plan." She said to Thembelihle who was just staring at her after their prayer.

Thembelihle: "Okay, I will trust that. Now, let's go prepare lunch because Nkosazana and MaNkosi will be coming here. We need to talk about Christmas." She informed her and she stood up from the chair.



Happiness: "Alright, I will go call Candice."

Thembelihle: "No, let her have her time with her book. She needs it." She encouraged and Happiness listened to that... They headed to the kitchen...

"...I don't know what are your thoughts but your father in-law said we can decide together."

Thembelihle told her daughters' in-law about what Dalisu said to her, that they were going to have to decide about what was going to happen on a Christmas day... She was seated down with them having their lunch and Dalisu was in the lounge with Banele, Mnotho and Mlamuli.

Candice: "I really don't know what's the right thing to do about Christmas."

Happiness: "Don't you think we could use some good Christmas spirit with the people around the family?" she looked at them as she suggested.

Danielle: "No, it wouldn't be right."

Happiness: "Why not?"

Danielle: "We must just have a family Christmas lunch."

Nkosazana: "I get your point Happiness and it's a good point but there's death in the family and a hard time for us and the kingdom knows that all events stops if the royal family is grieving or going through a dark cloud."

Happiness: "I understand."

Danielle: "And taking from your point Happiness. We can just plan a big Christmas service, call upon women to pray and have a feast after that."

Thembelihle: "I like that idea MaNkosi. We could use that."

Nkosazana: "Yes, and we can invite both Nandipha's mothers."

Happiness: “And her, don’t leave her out along with the kids and Ngcebo.”

Nkosazana: “Yes.”

Thembelihle: “Okay, we have little time to plan this. Let’s get on it. Candice go and take a pen and paper for us. We will need to plan.”

Candice: “Yes.” She neglected the fork and got up to do what she’d been asked... Thembelihle and her daughters’ in-law began planning...

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“You should never give a woman freedom!”

Dalingcebo exclaimed loudly and he groaned pressing hard on the joystick that was on his hands, his feet were stamped on the knee of the single couch and his eyes concentrated on the TV screen while his mouth was speaking to his brother as they were playing FIFA inside the guesthouse they were renting by the beach in Cape Town.

Ngcebo laughed, his body was laid back on the double seat couch while pressing harder on the joystick. It'd been few days since they've been in Cape Town and it'd been relaxing for him and his wife, she was floating in ecstasy.

Ngcebo: "We're playing over here and all you're thinking about is a woman!"

Dalingcebo: "Ey, this woman doesn't live near me and I should make every moment I spend with her count. But now, she's out there partying maybe."

Ngcebo: "That's ridiculous which party can they attend? My wife is pregnant for goodness sake and you, motherfucker! You pretended like you understand when they wanted to go out and have fun."

Dalingcebo: "Yes, I understood because I thought they were going to come back sooner since Nandipha is pregnant. How does she do it,

vele? It's 11pm now and she's out there, somewhere and you're not bothered."

Ngcebo: "She's having fun, let her be! You're just horny, I am pretty sure."

Dalingcebo: "Voetsek, mgodoyi!"

Ngcebo laughed and paused the game as his wife's phone rang from the coffee table. She didn't take her phone with her, she told him straight to his face that 'she was leaving the phone because of him' "You see, I am answering her calls now. Who's calling her this late?" He asked taking the phone.

Ngcebo: "Wife's phone, hello?"

Happiness: "Eh, Ngcebo? How are you?"

Ngcebo: "Good and how are you?"

Happiness: "I am fine. I am sorry for calling this late but I have been busy. Is Nandipha sleeping? I would like to speak to her."

Ngcebo: "She's unavailable. You can leave a message."

Happiness: "No, I just wanted us to talk woman to woman, as sisters-"

Ngcebo: "What is it that you want to talk to her about? I have never heard you called her to talk before. What's happening?"

Happiness: "Hawu!"

Ngcebo: "I can't trust anyone these days and it's a good thing I answered the phone. What's there to talk about?"

Happiness: "I can't really discuss this with you but I hope you'll be here tomorrow with her and the children for Christmas service."

Ngcebo: "I told the queen we won't be coming."

Happiness: "Oh! Eh, now, that I am on the phone with you. I think it's better I inform you that I think the dream you've seen of me, is about

Nonjabulo's aunt wanting custody of Nonjabulo."

Ngcebo: "How's that related to blood and running away?"

Happiness: "I think it's just reflects the pain she's bringing in my life now as she wants to take my child from me and she wants me to leave Mnotho."

Ngcebo: "Do you think you made a wise decision by going back to Mnotho and concerning all the secrets you two have? Will this case do you good?"

Happiness: "Hawu, what kind of question is that? Where will I get my happiness because my life is destined with his? And every couple have their own secrets that everyone else doesn't have to know."

Ngcebo: "Oh. It was an honest question. Good luck with the custody I suppose." He said laying

back on the couch with the phone still on his ear.

Happiness: "Thank you but I haven't been served."

Ngcebo: "Oh!"

Happiness: "Goodnight."

Ngcebo: "Goodnight and don't call Nandipha. I honestly don't trust you."

Happiness: "Hawu, that didn't sit well."

Ngcebo: "I don't have to lie."

Happiness: "Okay. I won't."

Ngcebo: "Sho!" he removed the phone from his ear and he placed it on his stomach. "You know I think they've overstayed their welcome wherever they are." He commented to his brother and they proceeded with the game.

Dalingcebo chuckled. "It's you who is saying that now?" He surprised.

Ngcebo: “Ey, bra, call your woman. She has her phone-”

Dalingcebo: “That’s definitely your engine.” He commented hearing the car pulling over and he was certain it was them...

Ngcebo: “It better be... Who can laugh so loud beside the one I made my wife?” he shook his head hearing Nandipha’s loud laughter and his brother laughed along. “Are you pausing the game now?” he asked looking at him.

Dalingcebo: “I don’t know want her to think I waited up for her.”

Ngcebo laughed. “That’s bitchy and boyish at the same time!” He said loudly and laughed hilariously as his brother was running away. He shook his head and comfortably played alone...

“Ah! Rasta stayed up for his wife.” Nandipha said with a smirk and she moved over to Ngcebo’s couch. She rested her bums on his

thighs.

Ngcebo: "I didn't stay up for you but my brother stayed up for his girlfriend."

Palesa: "That's a joke right, where's he now? You're out here alone."

Ngcebo: "Look at that couch." He pointed it and looked up at her shortly, he saw a smile creeping from her face.

Palesa: "Goodnight guys."

Nandipha: "I am following you-"

Ngcebo: "No, I didn't say you can leave."

Nandipha: "Ah! You didn't stay up for me and so, I am leaving you."

"Ey, I was just joking. You think I can stay up staring at another man?" He said letting go of the joystick and he pulled her face to him.

Nandipha laughed. "You're such a liar! You do that and you're playing FIFA here, isn't?" She

said pushing her away for him not to kiss her.

Ngcebo chuckled. “I wanted time to pass by but now I don’t mind we can go to bed and play just the three – I mean four of us. Give me my deserving benefits of being your husband now come on.” He said rubbing her ears and that got him a kiss that he was trying to score...

THEIR LIVES BEFORE THE THRONE

S6 == EPISODE 50

“They’re already talking about us coming back home to them but I really think that we’ve been away from them for too long.” Nandipha said to Ngcebo tying her locks up in a clean bun. She was standing naked before the mirror of the guesthouse. And Ngcebo was standing by the wardrobe dressing up for their Christmas lunch that they’ve woken up in the morning to prepare.

All four of them... They were expecting guests...

Ngcebo: “No, we haven’t gone from them for too long and you heard your mother supporting that it’s not wrong for us to be here.”

Nandipha: “Yes, I didn’t say that it’s wrong but I miss our daughters.”

Ngcebo: “Really? Let’s not forget that you and Palesa went out yesterday and came back at night when we were sleepy.”

Nandipha laughed. “You gave us a go ahead to have all the fun that we wanted but now, you’re complaining. I am pretty sure that your brother didn’t complain. And we played on that bed last night. Why are you complaining?” She asked and turned to the olive silky shirt with long baggy sleeves and a full neck. She turned to the mirror and she slipped the shirt onto her body.

Ngcebo chuckled and he went down to fasten the laces of his black shoes. “If only you knew

how much he complained and I am pretty sure that he did that to your friend last night.” He informed her and he rose up from the bed.

Nandipha: “Please help me with the buttons of my shirt.” She told requested bending her head down to give him clear access of the back buttons of the shirt. Ngcebo was already standing behind her.

Ngcebo: “And tonight, it must be you and I who’ll hide by beach at night.”

Nandipha laughed. “Thank you, my Rasta man but don’t move because I will still need help with the zip of the skirt.” She told him taking the muddy brown straight cut high waist skirt and she eyed Ngcebo who was looking at the skirt with a frown. “Why are you looking at my skirt like that?” she asked.

Ngcebo: “Will that skirt fit you?”

“NGCEBO! NGCEBO!” She screamed while she

repeatedly slammed the skirt on Ngcebo's body and he was just laughing while trying to stop her.

Ngcebo: "Don't get this a wrong way because I was just asking, babe."

Nandipha: "No! I get what you're trying to say and what you're trying to say to me is just pure evil! It's evil!"

Ngcebo chuckled and held her full waist. "Babe, I am just worried that the skirt might be too tight and that can hinder our babies from breathing freely."

Nandipha: "Liar! That's not what you say when I am on that tight orange dress but you lust over me, you, silly man! Get away from me." she pushed him lightly and she sulked as Ngcebo was laughing.

Ngcebo: "It's not the same and won't you need my help?"

Nandipha: “How can you even ask? Who can help me if you don’t?”

Ngcebo: “Nobody, babe.” He replied and he looked at her as she slipped her lower body into the skirt and he breathed seeing that it was a little stretchy. “Should I zip the skirt, now?” he asked screening her behind.

Nandipha: “I am still tucking the shirt inside. I want to look smart even though I am pregnant because it’s Christmas and that couple looks smarter.” She said tucking the shirt properly as the skirt reached the lower part of her belly. She didn’t hear a response from Ngcebo. “Am I speaking alone now?” she asked.

Ngcebo: “I am here, sthandwa.” He replied and held the zip of the skirt, he zipped the skirt and pulled Nandipha closer to him with his hands caressing her voluptuous curves. “No part of your skin is showing on this shirt.”

Nandipha: “Yes, and that will help you get your hands off me.”

Ngcebo: “I can help you get dressed if I remove the clothes.”

Nandipha: “No, Ngcebo!”

Ngcebo: “We can just remove the skirt only and you can hold the dressing table and I promise you that we will have a superb Christmas lunch.”

Nandipha: “It’s still a NO! Hold yourself please. I need my shoes.” She removed her body from Ngcebo’s lustful hold and she cat walked to her shoes. She smiled proudly hearing a whistle from Ngcebo. “You’re such a dirty man! Jesus was born on this day, he wasn’t made.” She said.

Ngcebo chuckled. “It’s not like the bible says he was made the way I want to give our sons some nutrients now.” He commented moving closer to her.

Nandipha laughed wearing the light brown fringed platform heels. “You need to stop this Ngcebo because you’ll bother me on that table. Let’s go now but tell me how do I look?” She smiled and check herself out.

Ngcebo: “Make a turn for Rasta.” He requested and he smiled as the giggle of his wife was followed by the turn that he’d requested. “I love you, okay?”

Nandipha: “I love you too, my horny man. Let me kiss you.” she held him by the collar of his white shirt and they shared a teasing kiss...

“Why did you wear such a tight skirt? You were supposed to wear something that light and something that would have freed your thighs.” Ngcebo whispered into his wife’s ear with his hand on her thighs as she was seated next to him on the dinner table of the balcony of the house, the sea breeze was bracing them.

Nandipha: "Can you look at these three guys on the table and you brother included? Look at them and see all their hands they were given by God are on the table but yours, only one hand is on the table." Ngcebo laughed hilariously and he removed his hand from Nandipha's thighs. "Please, don't mind him guys just have your food." Nandipha said to the faces that were disturbed by Ngcebo's laughter, they were having their lunch with a neutral conversation floating on the table packed of mouth-watering cuisines.

"He's stuttering us because he's surely not laughing at the conversation at hand." The coloured blonde seated next to her boyfriend commented and the rest of the table supported her statement.

Ngcebo: "I am sorry, forgive the guy." He pleaded and he sent his right hand to the glass of grape juice that was before him and **** the

darkness filled his eyes, his body felt the sudden excruciating cold and his spiritual eyes travelled back to Nongoma, the main road nearby Nkosazana's palace is dark, the heavy rain is pouring and his brother and wife are arguing inside the Range Rover, both voices high pitched as each of them fought to be heard. Ngcebo wasn't made to dwell on the quarrel but the carelessness of the King and Queen who were arguing without paying attention to the dark wet road. Mlamuli's hands are on the steering but his focus is fully on his angry wife as if he wasn't angry enough. They go on until terrible pothole on the road disturbs Mlamuli's driving and he loses the control of the car...

PHAM! Down the trees... ***

"Ngcebo!" Nandipha tries to bring Ngcebo's still but shivering body back to the table with her, back with them but he's speaking in complicated riddles. Everyone on the table is

shocked at the sudden change of events.
“Dalingcebo!” She cried to Dalingcebo with tears flowing off her eyes and Dalingcebo quickly jumped off his chair. He rushed to his brother and pulled him up from his seat. Nandipha stood up after him as panicking as she was, she followed Dalingcebo who was taking Ngcebo back inside the guesthouse. Ngcebo wasn’t walking but his brother was literally dragging him...

“I will be with him here you can go back to the guests.” Nandipha said to Dalingcebo sitting on the bed where Dalingcebo had just laid her husband.

Dalingcebo: “Are you sure? He has done this before?”

Nandipha: “No, but I will be here until he’s back to his normal state.”

Dalingcebo: “You don’t look good yourself. Is

leaving you with him wise?”

Nandipha: “I have been with him through the worst Dalingcebo, when he was half dead. I have got this, maybe he’s visiting somewhere.”

Dalingcebo sighed and nodded, he left Nandipha with Ngcebo even though he wasn’t sure if that was the wisest choice to make... Nandipha held Ngcebo’s shaking right hand tightly and she kept wiping his face with her other hand.

“NGCEBO!” She exclaimed as his body rested normally and his eyes relaxed not as widened as they were before and the shivering stopped.

Ngcebo: “Babe?” he called her softly realising the room he was in.

Nandipha: “You frightened me. What was happening? Wait, let me go tell your brother and the others that you’re fine unless if you want to go back to the table now.” she stopped herself

and looked at him.

Ngcebo: “No, but go tell them and come back.”

Nandipha nodded softly and she moved out of the room feeling that she was instantly feeling the totality of relief as Ngcebo was back on track... She smiled a little as everyone was no longer seated outside the table but they were all gathered inside the lounge seated in still quietness. “Sorry about that guys, my husband is kind of a spiritual person but he’s fine now. You don’t have to worry about anything, please, go and proceed with the lunch. We will join you when he’s ready to come to the table.”

Nandipha informed the guests all along with Dalingcebo and Palesa who were with them seated on each other... The worried faces relaxed and they were followed by sighs of relief.

“I was scared for a moment.” The Minister’s daughter commented and looked at her

husband holding his hand tightly... They met the two couples on an event they've attended on their second day in Cape Town. They shared the table with them and they were surprisingly, neighbours as the two couples were renting the house closer to them for the holidays. They've hooked up on most of the fun and entertainment... until now...

Dalingcebo: "That's good then, go back to him now. Please." He pleaded and the others supported Dalingcebo. Nandipha nodded and she turned to leave...

"You're changing your clothes won't you be going back to the table?" Nandipha asked Ngcebo who was changing into a casual wear.

Ngcebo: "We'll be changing clothes soon for the beach and so, it's better I do it now because my shirt was wet. Change yours too."

Nandipha: "My clothes are not wet and I am still

going to eat my food.” She informed him and sat on the bed while she stared at him change.

Ngcebo: “I know you’re not wet but change because I am changing.”

Nandipha chuckled. “No, I feel way sexy on this outfit and please, come and tell me about what just happened to you now.” She encouraged taking off her heels and she moved up to the end of the bed.

“I just saw our king and his wife on a very fatal car accident by the main road of their village. They were arguing on a heavy rain and boom, my brother lost control of the car that sent them down to a car explosion.” Ngcebo narrated to Nandipha seated next to her on the bed now. He looked at Nandipha and she was just quiet with a white face staring blankly at him. “I don’t know if I should call them and tell them about this or I should call Langalibalele.”

Nandipha: “You can’t just call them to scare them off Ngcebo but you must call them with a solution or suggestion provided.”

Ngcebo: “Solution? What solution?”

Nandipha: “Remember you dreamt my brother being involved in an accident and it happened exactly like you saw it but luckily he wasn’t harmed. If you told us about it, we would have told him not to get on that taxi.”

Ngcebo: “And what can possibly be the solution for them, they drive on that road daily, Nandipha. What can we suggest?” he asked staring into her eyes and she sighed, scratching her head. They sat in silence...

Nandipha: “They can open a lane from where you’ve seen the accident, ways and means can be made for them not to use the main road but, I don’t know! But whatever should be done to keep them safe. I don’t know!” she shouted in

unreasonable frustration and Ngcebo held her hands.

He looked at her with a confused eye as he couldn't get where the frustration was coming from because this wasn't about her. "What's wrong now? Why are you shouting because this doesn't affect you or the babies?" he asked. Nandipha sighed and looked at him, she kissed him instead of answering him, still confused, Ngcebo accepted her kiss and he hooked his leg on hers. "And what was that for now?" He asked once again.

Nandipha: "I wanted to calm down. Can you call them now?" she pleaded and Ngcebo jumped off the bed to get to his phone.

Ngcebo: "I don't know if he'll answer because they have a service, right?"

Nandipha: "Maybe he'll answer if you insist on calling." She guessed and Ngcebo called, called,

called, and called until he answered.

Mlamuli: "I am praying you know."

Ngcebo chuckled. "I know but I can't delay telling you this because I will be busy and forget to make the call right away."

Mlamuli: "Okay, what is it?"

"Bhuti, I just saw..." Ngcebo narrated to Mlamuli the vision that he'd just seen on the broad daylight and he didn't leave any detail out, with the narration he attached the suggestion that his wife had raised. And when he was done, there was total silence from his brother.

"Bhuti?" he called him out and looked at his wife who was looking at him with worried eyes and he frowned at her worry.

Ngcebo: "Don't panic but ensure that you avoid the main road." He said to his brother who was still quiet and he relaxed when he heard him sigh...

Mlamuli: "Where will I even begin?"

Ngcebo: "You're a man you'll know and your wife will know. You don't have to panic about this but talk to the family too and it will be alright."

Mlamuli: "Alright, Ndabezitha, I will do that. Thank you."

Ngcebo: "I did nothing. Go back and pray." He said and they shared laughter before hanging up the phone call. Ngcebo looked at his wife. "He'll talk to the family, you don't have to worry about anything." He said pulling her neck.

Nandipha: "Okay, what are you actually doing now?"

Ngcebo: "I want some healing I was paralysed just a few minutes ago."

Nandipha laughed. "Dalingcebo and Palesa can't handle the guests alone. We should join them back on the table." She said moving her

face back.

Ngcebo: “You should heal me and they are eating, please, babe.” He said invading his hand beneath the skirt sending chills on her and it didn’t even take not even long for Nandipha to have her clothes discarded from her body...

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“We are driving home, Bongani! I shouldn’t run after you!” Nkosazana shouted at her son who was running away from her because he didn’t want to leave his grandmother’s palace. It was late at night of the Christmas day.

Bongani: “ANGIHAMBI MINA!”

Nkosazana: “Alright, let’s see if you’ll tell your father the same thing!” she exclaimed and walked away without looking back and she smiled realising that Bongani was running after her now not from her...

“What were you doing, Bongani? You kept us

waiting.” Mlamuli asked his son who’d gotten at the backseat of his car where his brother was sleeping.

Bongani: “Baba, I was saying goodbye to grandma.”

Nkosazana: “Really?” She looked back and Bongani laughed hiding his face on his hands as his mother didn’t remove her gaze on him.

Mlamuli: “How’s that possible because your grandmother was here.”

Bongani: “Yes, I was looking for her.”

Nkosazana: “Who taught you to lie like this Bongani?”

Bongani: “Mama!”

Nkosazana: “Don’t call me I am here closer to you.” Bongani didn’t answer his mother but he kept his face hidden on his hands.

Mlamuli: “We have to talk when we get home.

Ngcebo called.”

Nkosazana: “What is it, did Nandipha made some progress?”

Mlamuli: “No, it’s not about that but it’s about us. We will talk when we get home. I am tired and I just want to rest.”

Nkosazana: “You are not tired as I am and I am sure that I will be rewarded with a very much deserving massage.” She tested the waters and gave her hand to Mlamuli. He took her hand as he chuckled at her statement.

Mlamuli: “We will see when we get home and I would appreciate a backrub.”

Nkosazana: “Anything for the king.” She promised with a smile for him...

He smiled and wiped her tears, he was smiling for her not because he wanted to smile. “Don’t worry because we will avoid this and it would be better if everyone just changes the route when

coming to our palace because remember how Mnotho's wedding was a disaster but it appeared as Ngcebo's wedding?" he asked holding her hand and he got up from the couch... They got home and when they finished with their bathing, they had Langalibalele who had been seated on the lounge waiting for them to finish. Langalibalele came bearing the same news as Ngcebo had but it was revealed to him differently, he only saw there was danger on the main road for the king and queen. He didn't specifically see the car accident... When Langalibalele left them, Mlamuli then filled Nkosazana in about Ngcebo's phone call. She'd been crying for the last few minutes as she was scared and her husband was comforting her telling her not to panic...

Nkosazana: "Yes, I remember, Ndabezitha."

"I will give you this massage and we will talk to the family tomorrow." He promised lifting her



off the floor and Nkosazana laughed loudly. He looked at her beauty proudly as he carried her into his arms walking straight to their bedroom... He laid her on the bed and sat next to her looking down at her.

Nkosazana: "I am the wife you know, yazi."

He chuckled. "Why are you saying that?" He asked unbuttoning her shirt that she wore because they had to attend to Langalibalele.

Nkosazana: "You're looking at me like I am different."

Mlamuli: "There's this song of my brother, he says 'when I look at you, I always see your beauty differently'" he quoted and Nkosazana laughed.

Nkosazana: "Does he even know you listen to his music?"

Mlamuli laughed and he didn't answer but he got up and went to get the bio oil. He toddled

back to bed where she was lying flat on her tummy covered on the black lace panties with her right leg crossed on the other loosely. She'd removed her clothes completely because she wanted a full massage...

He straightened her legs as he reached the bed. "Should I sit on you?" He asked pouring the oil on his palm.

Nkosana: "You know that you're heavy sthandwa sami. I can't have you sitting on my back." She replied and closed her eyes as he began on her shoulders.

"Don't moan, we're not having sex." He stopped her and Nkosazana laughed without supplying a comment. He stopped the shoulder massage and he got on the bed kneeled his knees on her either sides.

Nkosazana: "Why have you stop-" she didn't fully ask the question but she smiled as his

tongue worked on the knobs of her backbone. She moaned softly as the massage of his tongue tickled her and made her completely weak. She held on tightly to the bed sheets as the thudding grew larger. She bit her lower lip now as her husband rubbed his fingers on her wet entrance without stopping with the tongue massage that was making her head spin...

Mlamuli: "Do you want me to stop?" he asked softly and he crept his body up. He grabbed the pillow while planting kisses on her neck...

Nkosazana: "No, why would... you just leave... me hanging?"

He packed the pillow on her belly and he removed his pants and shirt. He laid back down on her to look at her face and Nkosazana showed it to him as it was laid down on the pillow. They shared an uncomfortable kiss as Mlamuli massaged his hard manhood on her forcing her to moan between the uncomfortably

lips that were locked together.

She cried out. "Ah!" as her husband invaded her privacy and she smiled looking at his face that was still closer to hers.

Mlamuli: "What if I don't move?"

Nkosazana giggled. "I will move from here." She replied.

Mlamuli: "You're lying on your tummy. How can you possibly move to satisfy yourself from this position?" he asked thrusting slowly and his wife didn't answer him but she closed her eyes. He stopped. "Answer me, love."

Nkosazana: "A woman makes a way, my king."

Mlamuli smiled proudly and he proceeded with thrusting on her a tight stronger. He loved how she had no control to the response of the pleasure. Mlamuli held on tight on her waist and moved faster with the need of getting her this way not the other way. And it was highly

pleasing. They raced to the climax, groaning and moaning the pleasure... He collapsed on her, and he kissed her cheek. He saw a pleased smile.

“I love you and I will do anything and everything to protect you.” Mlamuli said to his wife turning her body, he held her into his arms.

Nkosazana: “I love you too my love.” She said and closed her eyes, it didn’t take her long to fall asleep. She was satisfied...

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“I am leaving tomorrow and you won’t keep me here any longer.” Simthande told Mntwana as they were driving in his car straight to Thembelihle’s palace on the 27th of December... Mntwana was quiet thinking about the progress he’d made with the PI that was searching for Simthande’s father. It wasn’t much but he had hope that he might find her father. He hadn’t

told her about this because Simthande didn't want to look for her father but Mntwana knew that was the big part of her life that she needed in her life... Simthande was busy on her phone and she'd just finished up and rose the talk...

Mntwana: "I thought we agreed that you'll leave when my brother comes back with his family for the burial of the child."

Simthande: "No, I should go and see it through that my sister has left."

Mntwana: "That's an excuse and you know it."

"Who's Princess Nelly?" She asked taking Mntwana's phone that was ringing but Mntwana didn't allow her to answer the phone. He took it...

Mntwana: "It's a Princess of a chieftaincy in Empangeni. We are friends, she wasn't present on the Christmas service I am sure she's calling about that. We're already home. I will call her

later.”

Simthande: “Okay.” She said believing what Mntwana was telling her and she sighed as Mntwana parked his car inside the premises of the palace. “I am quite nervous now, meeting your mother is not a small thing.”

Mntwana: “There’s no going back now because she’s expecting you.” he told her and stepped out of the car... Simthande stepped out after her...

Thembelihle was seated on her chair watching TV with Dalisu who was reading the newspaper. They were both waiting for the arrival of Mntwana’s girlfriend.

Thembelihle: “Ndabezitha, I think they’re here.” She looked at him and Dalisu nodded his head. Thembelihle held her husband’s hand. “I don’t know for how long I have to ask for forgiveness.”

Daliso: "I have heard you and it would be best if you stop pestering me." He said abruptly and he sent his head to the door.

"Sanibona!" Mntwana and Simthande greeted the parents... The parents who had their jaws dropped to their suddenly cold feet... Simthande looked at Mntwana as she felt awkward that the parents weren't saying a word but they were looking at her as if they were seeing the ghost of their past.

Mntwana: "Mama no baba."

Thembelihle: "You must be out of your mind if you think this girl is a girl that you can plan a future with. You're introducing her to us for that, right?" she shouted at her son without even greeting them. She couldn't! She couldn't possibly open her door for this woman of her past. It was her! Just her! She didn't even have to guess that, this, this was Precious's daughter... She felt her heart racing as anger

consumed her and beads of sweat formed on her palms. She was taken back and she wondered why her son would do this!

Mntwana: "Mama, what do you mean?"

Dalisu: "Where did you meet this girl Mntwana and where's her mother?"

Thembelihle: "Do you even have to ask Ndabezitha? I am pretty sure that her mother sent her here to destroy my house since she failed the first time. I don't even want to ask you questions little girl get up and leave!"

Mntwana held Simthande's hand stopping her from leaving, he could see that Simthande was confused and frightened. "Mama, you can't just throw her out without telling us why. And Simthande's mother is long dead. Do you know her mother maybe?" He asked.

Thembelihle: "Hhaybo!"

Dalisu: "How can you date someone without

knowing who their mother is? Huh?" he shouted looking at him and he didn't get the response. "Take your girlfriend Mntwana and come back alone."

Mntwana: "No, if there's a problem say it to her, to both of us."

Thembelihle: "I have nothing to explain to this girl she must leave my house. MNTWANA!" She shouted standing on her feet and Dalisu stood up quickly to hold her as she was extremely angry and he didn't want her to lose a grip on her health. A lot has been happening and she has been stressed...

Dalису: "You need to calm down. Mntwana!" he looked at him tightening his eyes on his son and Mntwana got up with Simthande... He left the house...

Thembelihle: "How can he do this?" she looked at Dalису and he pulled her into a warm hug.

Thembelihle closed her eyes and tried to rest her lungs.

Dalису: “It’s clear that he didn’t know about this and we will have to tell her about the mother of this girl.”

Thembelihle: “Did you see her? She’s just her mother and how can I even accept her as a daughter in-law? I will see Precious every time I look at her.”

Dalису: “I am sure when he can learn the background that we have with the girl’s mother. He will want absolutely nothing to do with her.” he comforted his wife and he closed his eyes hoping this wouldn’t be another trouble with a daughter in-law. They’ve had enough of that... They’ve had enough...

END OF SEASON 6!