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UBIZO



Walter Photography

**THE
CALLING**

**FROM SLAY QUEEN!!
TO SEER!!**

T.P THABETHE

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Team.

Ubizo - The Calling

PROLOGUE

No matter how much I kept saying “I am not ready, it shouldn’t go down” it still went all the way down till I couldn’t see it. My cries and pleading fell on deaf ears. My pain was never considered; who I am left with was never anyone’s concern. No one cared about what will happen to me after she was buried six feet under, no one cared about who will take care of me after she was gone. The most painful part is I saw her death before it happened, I was shown her dying before her actual death; while she was too sick to eat or drink soft porridge I just watched her knowing very well she is already gone, knowing very well she is fighting a losing battle all is left is an empty shell of a body with no soul nor life. How does one heal from losing a parent? Someone who is supposed to be there for you all step of the

way, how can I be okay after she left me to look after myself. They say it gets better with time and I say "Bullshit! Bullshit!" the pain I felt when I saw her coffin being lowered down slowly will never go away, knowing I will never see her again, I will never hear her voice or touch her even seeing her smile. She is gone.

Does after life exist? I wonder ...

Dear God!

Give me one chance, just one chance to check if she's okay. A chance to tell her about all that I have accomplished, I may not be proud of most of the things I have done to get money but God you know me. You have seen me struggling, you have seen me going to bed with no food and you have always been there watching me raising myself. Now all I am asking for is to see her just once, I want to hug her tell her I have come a long way but I am happy, not at peace but I am happy. I have a lot to seek advice on, a lot I would like her to give me insight on; I feel so lost like I don't even know who I am, I can't find

myself I am busy walking a journey with no direction, I wake up every morning with no purpose in life. I work, I drink, I dance, I entertain but not even once have I got a chance to sit still and search my soul, find myself. Not even once have I known who I was, what do I want, what is my journey. Let talk woman to man God what is my purpose, I don't even have a dream, a profession that I would like to occupy one day. I feel so empty, nothing fulfils me, no matter how I drink dance and laugh I still feel empty. There's this huge void within me that just won't be filled. All I want to know is how to find myself?

December, 15 the day she decided to close her eyes forever, the day she stopped fighting and let nature took it cause, the day I lost my soul, the day my heart was broken beyond repair. Today it her death anniversary, six years a whole fucking six years since she was gone but still it feels so fresh like it happened yesterday, the memory of her lost it still stored right In my head and heart so fresh I could still feel the pain from deep down. My heart is still

bleeding; will I ever get over the pain though? Does one get over the pain though?

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Ubizo - The Calling

ONE

NOMASWAZI

I was sleeping so peaceful when my phone started ringing disturbing my sleep and whoever is calling I am hoping she or he is aware that I hate mornings. It stops ringing only to ring again, I groan as I try to get it from a bed stand.

Me: What?

“Bitch come to the front gate right now”

My friend Lisa screamed through the phone speaker.

Me: For what

Lisa: Just come, hurry up Swazi

Me: No man I am tired.

Lisa: Swazi wake the fuck up! It a matter of death.
And I just knew shit was going down, whenever something is serious we use that phrase, I tossed the blanket aside as I grab my gown, wore my sleepers that I found first not even checking them then ran out.

Me: On my way.

I say on the phone as I grab the keys, opened the door then closed and locked it and ran towards an elevator that was closing.

Me: Hold the lift please.

I said hurrying in and a guy who lives here in the building held the elevator for me, he's new so I don't even know his name. He looked at me up and down. I am breathing heavy, I am half dressed as the gown is those silk short gowns and underneath I am only wearing a very short pyjama with a vest then two different sleepers one pink and one blue.

Me: It a swag

He laughed.

“I see, so you are the girl with loud music”

I laughed; the guy look like those office type of guys in a suit dressed well and formal. I am always playing loud music even the landlord got tired of telling me to lower my volume.

Me: Y'all should learn to live a little.

He chuckled.

“I once thought of coming to your room and crash the speakers with a hummer”

I laughed out loud.

Me: You are such a party pooper.

The doors opened on the ground floor, I spring out running towards the exit.

“Why are you running?”

He asked following behind me.

Me: It a matter of death.

I left him confused and ran out.

By the gate was an uber, Lisa poking her big head from the window.

Lisa: Hurry up

I ran past the security guy with just a wave, she opened the door from inside for me. I tried normalising my breathing as I settle down.

Lisa: Drive

She said to the driver.

Me: What going on?

I said as I have composed my breathing.

Lisa: Zoe's husband is cheating again

Me: Holly shit I knew it.

She took out her phone and made a call.

Lisa: Come out

She said through the phone then dropped it.

Lisa: He is fucking cheating on Zoe again, that ass has no dankie shame

Me: I told her, I told her but she didn't believe me.

The car stopped next to her house, she hurried and got in the passenger seat.

Zoe: Swazi don't say it

Me: Okay I won't say I told you so

She had a sjambok with her

Lisa: What you gonna do?

She asked the question that I was about to ask.

Zoe: I am going to whip his ass

She said angrily.

Me: Yes girl, he fucked you again and this time he should know you are not a playground.

Zoe: Exactly

You would swear we were all being cheated on the way we were so angry, the uber dropped us in front of Hilton hotel, we rushed inside and from the look of things people might think I am the one who is being cheated on as I am half-dressed showing I just woke up, these two are dressed in leggings and sneakers. We walked up to the receptionist but no one was there, Lisa being the brains of the group

slid behind the counter and took keys to room 25 where the P.A said he would be.

Lisa: I got the keys.

We all hurried to the elevator, a woman in the hotel uniform came out looking at us weird. We got in as she got out then pressed the elevator to floor four. Zoe was so mad she kept tapping her foot on the floor.

The moment we got there we didn't knock Lisa just unlocked the doors and we busted in going straight to the bedroom, indeed the son of a bitch was there and we arrived in time as they were having a morning glory. Zoe wasted no time as she hit him. They both jump up, the lady held a blanket around her as she moved to the corner of the bed.

Zoe: What the fuck is this Mandla

Mandla: Zoe! Zoe wait!

Me: Fuseg you man hoe, whip his ass friend.

Zoe tried hitting him again but he held the sjambok and pushed her aside. Standing tall and naked his

dick there on display. The moment Zoe fell on the ground Lisa and I were already on him, hitting him with anything we could find that include the night lamp as it breaks on his back. He yanks my hair so hard in a painful way buy Zoe was already up whipping his back with a sjambok.

Lisa: You son of a bitch!

Me: You fucking man hoe

Zoe: I fucking hate you! Is this you working late? Is she the office!

She said still hitting him, we also haven't stopped as we got on top of him slapping and giving him fist. He pushed me, I fell hitting my head on the wall I felt dizzy for a moment then from there I stood up with a heel I found beside the bed and started hitting him with it. He finally stopped fighting us as he could see we weren't letting go. He lay on the bed covering his face.

Mandla: Babe please stop! Please I am sorry. Babe wait, let me explain

Me: Explain my foot

An angry Zoe kept on whipping him. Security came running as they got us off him, we still fought them cussing and wanting to finish what we started. The bitch he was fucking was standing on the far corner of the room. We were not going to touch her; the person who cheated is Mandla. The security guard took us out, people have gathered around watching as we are escorted outside the building still swearing and calling him names.

We got in our uber as it was still waiting for us then went straight to Zoe's house. While we walked inside, Zoe was left paying the uber guy. My gown was torn and I had few bruises showing I was in a fight, the moment we get inside we laughed our ass off.

Me: That was fucking crazy

Lisa: Dude tell me about it

Zoe walked in, still looking mad.

Me: We need wine.

I walked to her kitchen and got some wine and glasses.

Zoe: I am done with Mandla

Zoe and Mandla are high school sweetheart, they have been married for only two years yet Mandla has cheated over and over. I kind of feel sorry for her, just a little. I told her to not get married as yet since there was no hurry but no girl wanted family, girl loves Mandla and she was so sure they would grow old together. Unlike me and Lisa, Zoe comes from a very rich family while we had to do unbelievable things for money she never worries about any of that. Since from high school till now we still friends and we still look out for each other, while Lisa and I works in a night club as hostess Zoe works at her father's company as a receptionist. As for my own family, it a story for another day right now let drink and dance like there is no tomorrow.

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TWO

NOMASWAZI

We were dancing and drinking Zoe's sorrows away well and my sorrows too but this is about Zoe not me, and we were fucking celebrating being single ladies. I never had luck with man so I was as single as they come, Lisa was just like me when it came to men; bad luck. We had taken a shower earlier on and we are dressed in Zoe's clothes as we are playing dress up, I have a pink wig on my head, with yellow silk pyjama pants, matching long sleeve top and four inch high heels with a scarf around my neck. Lisa is wearing short with a sport bra and cowboy boot with a blue wig. Zoe is wearing her white wedding dress. Music is busting and we are drinking straight from the bottle as we dance and sing along the music then would laugh at how much we suck. We were busy modelling and tweaking then laughing when the music suddenly stopped.

Me: TF!

Lisa: What?

Zoe's house keeper has switched off the music as two police men are standing by the door just looking at the drunk us.

Me: Ooh look I love man in uniform

Zoe: My type

Then we giggled

Lisa was so wasted she lay on the couch.

Me: Are you here to arrest us?

I asked then laughed, Zoe joined me.

Zoe: Please arrest me officer I have been a very bad girl

We drunk walk up to them.

Officer: Lisakhanya, Nomaswazi and Zoleka you are under arrest for the assault of Mr Mandla Shange and Miss Zikhona Mabuza.

We looked at each other and died of laughter. He went on and said.

Officer: Everything you say would be used against you in the court of law; you will be given a chance

to call your lawyer if you don't have one the state will provide you with one.

The other one started cuffing Zoe.

Zoe: What umm you naughty man. Yes cuff me I have been so bad.

Me: Officer if I say fuck me hard will you use it against me in the court.

I asked, Zoe and I laughed. The other guy started hand cuffing me while the other one walked up to Lisa.

Lisa: Let me go, I want to sleep

She couldn't even stand proper in high cowboy boot. They escorted us out side as we were busy singing to cardi B.

Us: Wet ass-pussy!

Yeah yeah you fucking with some wet ass-pussy

Beat it up nigga catch a charge

I don't cook; I don't clean but let me tell you I got his ring

We then laughed.

Zoe: I cook I clean but he still cheated

She said then we laughed, they had tossed us in a car.

Me: Where are you taking us?

Lisa: I don't want to go to jail

Zoe and I laughed at her.

Me: We are not going to jail bitch! We taking a ride

I said out so loud while giggling

Me: Ride slow

Yeah Yeah

I'm pulling up at 3; this car is just not the same without you here

Ride slow (ayy)

Ride slow, like a ghost.

I rapped so loud with Zoe rapping some inaudible shit.

Me: Woahoo we taking a ride with them officers.

Zoe: Oh yes! Woahoo

We were so wasted considering the fact that we just started drinking on an early morning without eating anything, Lisa started crying.

Lisa: I don't want a ride! I want to sleep

Me: Shut up, We taking a ride!

When we arrived at the police station they took us out of the car, we kept tripping on the shoes we were wearing; they had to lift Zoe's dress up since it a very big beautiful wedding dress. As for me I was walking with one shoe the other one was on my cuffed hand.

Lisa: Wait! ...wa-

She started throwing up and we laughed our ass off, the officers were so pissed in a way that they started shouting at us.

Officer 1: Move look at the fucking mess you have made

Officer 2: These bitches are drunk

Officer: Put them in a cell that where they should wake up.

Another one came towards us laughing; they took us inside the police station while we waited for the police to open the holding cell Zoe started singing.

Zoe: Phoyisa! Phoyisa

Samba nama Phoyisa! Eeeeh Samba nama phoyisa!

Me: Vula! Phoyisa! Phoyisa! Samba nama phoyisa.

They took the cuffs off our wrists. Then they threw us in, I almost fell face flat but I managed to balance myself, they locked us in and walked away. Zoe started crying.

Zoe: I am so stupid! I am so stupid he cheated again I am such a fool.

She stood up from the floor where she was sitting balanced herself on the burgles then cried loud shouting.

Zoe: He cheated on me! On Me! God I loved him, I loved him so much, uMandla yinja, phoyisa!
Phoyisa! uMandla yinja, yinja uMandla.

Lisa was just lying there on the floor and I was sitting down feeling my head dizzy.

Zoe: Swazi! Swazi! Wiyinja uMandla but you told me friend and I thought you were just jealous. Mina I love Mandla, I love him so much. Phoyisa uMandla yinja! Uyinja! Sengaze angishithele pho! Kaningi kangaka! Ngenzeni? What did I do? What must happen now? Phoyisa what must happen?
Ngiyamzonda ... koda ngiyamthanda

Lisa: You making noise, shut up.

Me: He cheated on you, again. I knew this was going to happen

I said laughing.

Me: Phoyisa! Phoyisa! Can I have just one glass of Russian Bear?

I said laughing

Zoe: Phoyisa I want a whole bottle!

Me: Nasi I stock! Jonh vuli gate

Zoe: Phoyisa!

Me: Nasi I stock!

I lean on the wall and close my eyes, I saw her face and it all came back rushing. I always try to keep my thought and pain inside me so I won't bother my friends, so they won't be worried about me.

Me: Zoe you know what today's date is?

She ignored me as she kept on singing and crying over Mandla making me emotional too.

Me: December the 15

I answered not even caring if she is listening to me. Tears started making their way out as I feel the pain deep within me.

Me: The day she left me as an orphan!

I said crying holding my chest as the pain was too much.

Me: The pain always hit different when I am alone, it hurt so much.

I crawl down and started wailing loudly, my screams echoed through the jail halls. Zoe came and hugged me as she also cries for Mandla.

Zoe: I really do love him Swazi, my heart is so broken I don't know where to from now on.

I hold on to her as I also release my own pain.

Me: December the 15 is a curse in my life, I hate this day with passion. I miss her so much it hurt.

Zoe: He used to be so good to me, what changed? Where did we go wrong?

Me: How can I be okay knowing I would never see her again

Zoe: He would never hold me into his arms, how can I be okay?

Me: I am in so much pain

I cried out.

Zoe: It feels like my heart is torn apart.

We cried holding on to each other.

THREE

NOMASWAZI

I slowly opened my eyes, only to feel a mother of headache. The room is a little bit too dark and creepy; I am sleeping on a cement kinda thing. I held my head as it pound even more, I woke up looking around, Zoe was sleeping on the floor on her white dress and Lisa was sleeping not so far from her. I didn't even know where we are, I couldn't even remember a thing from yesterday.

Me: Oh shit my head.

I said walking towards the burgle guard, I tried opening it but it was locked and not so far was a police.

Me: Sorry where are we?

The guy just stare at me then walked away, I turned to Zoe and kicked her butt.

Zoe: Uh Uh go away

Me: Wake up

I moved to Lisa and kicked her too

Me: Wake up

Lisa: Noo

Me: Wake up

I kicked them both again before they slowly opened their eyes waking up.

Lisa: Aah my head hurt

Zoe: Fuck my head

Me: We in jail

They both jump up, Zoe fall back because of the dress.

Zoe: I am wearing my wedding dress.

Lisa: What did we do?

Zoe: Oh God we didn't kill anyone did we?

Me: Could you just stop, we need to think.

They sat back down.

Lisa: Okay we came back from the hotel

Me: We started drinking at Zoe's house

Zoe: Then I wore my dress, my wedding dress
I looked at myself up and down.

Me: And I wore your pyjamas, Lisa wore short

Lisa: We got so wasted as we were drinking and
dancing

Me: Yea then what?

Lisa: I don't remember much I was so wasted.

Me: Maybe we were then arrested.

Lisa: For what?

Me: I don't remember everything is just blur I only
remember us playing dress up.

Zoe: Why are we here, my father is going to kill me.
We all went quiet for a while.

Zoe: Mandla did cheat, I wasn't dreaming. He
cheated!

She said as tears stream down her eyes.

A police officer showed up. We all rushed towards him.

Officer: Oh good you are up and sober

Me: Did we kill someone?

He chuckled.

Officer: You don't remember why you here?

Lisa: No, did we drunk drive?

Officer: Umm they use to cook like their mothers now they drink like their fathers.

We all literally rolled our eyes.

Me: Will you tell us why we here, because as far as I am concern you can't keep us here unless you are charging us.

Lisa: Yes it against our right to keep us here without any reason or charging us

Officer: You are under arrest for the assault of Mandla, her husband and Zikhona his side chick

Us: What?

Zoe: We did not assault a Zikhona

Me: Who the fuck is that?

Lisa: We only assaulted Mandla

The officer laughed.

Officer: Zikhona has a broken arm because you assaulted her; your husband has bruises because you assaulted her. You better get your statement straight before submitting it.

He said and walked away leaving us confused; we did not touch the bitch why would she have a broken arm.

Zoe: Did anyone touch her?

Me: No we know the rule; we hit the man always not the girl

Lisa: Exactly why would we hit her she is not the one married to you?

Me: Exactly She didn't do shit to you

Zoe: Now I am confused

Me: Me too

Lisa: Me three

We just sat there staring into space, lost in our own thought.

Zoe: Swazi you need to call someone to get us out of here, I can't call dad he will literally kill me.

Me: Who to call?

We all went quiet again. Zoe's father is one of those super strict father, it doesn't matter if Zoe is married he would still throw a tantrum

Me: Oh I know.

I stood up and walked towards the exit as I call for the police officer who was busy guarding us.

Me: Sorry sir!

I said, and he walked towards me.

Officer: yes

Me: Can I make a call

Officer: Wait I will be back

It not like I was gonna go anywhere, he looked at me up and down before he walks away. I waited for about a whole thirty minutes before he returned.

He opened for me; I slid in my shoes and walked out with him behind me. He led me to the phone then waited not so far. I dialled a number of the only person I knew could help us, he picked up when I was about to drop the phone.

Me: Boss

Boss: Swazi, where the fuck is you and Lisa? Do you have any idea how difficult last night, why didn't you say you weren't coming?

Our boss is cool but you just never wanna mess with him, he can end your life with a snap of a finger.

Me: Boss I am in jail

Boss: In jail?

Me: Yes we were arrested yesterday afternoon

Boss: For what?

Me: We assaulted someone, we need your help please get us out.

Boos: You know you will owe me right

Me: Yea I know just get us out, this place is creepy

Boss: okay then don't say a word to anyone, I will be there.

Officer: Yey time is up

I gave him a nasty look.

Me: okay hurry up

Boss: You owe me

Me: I know, just get here will you

I dropped the call as I return to the cell.

Me: The boss is coming to help us.

Lisa: You called him; oh shit you gave him control over us.

Me: it not like I had a choice.

We stayed there quiet; I knew our boss is not a fair man. He may laugh or joke around all the damn time but he has never been fair and he's not a good man or a type of man you would like to owe.

FOUR

NOMASWAZI

We were about to be taken to the interrogation room when the Boss arrived, stopping the police like the fucking boss that he is and I wanted to shout “Phoyisa that my fucking boss”

Boss: Why handcuff them like they killed someone. He said to a police officer who didn't even know what to say. A detective showed up.

Detective: Mabura, here to confess?

Boss: Not anytime soon detective, I am just here to get my girls

The detective looked from us then to the boss

Detective: On what grounds? We still need to take their statement?

Boss: Well you kept them all night here on what grounds? My lawyer will be in contact. Thank you detective, bye detective; let bounce ladies.

He said walking away leaving the detective mad as hell, I walk past him first in my fucking pyjamas and the damn heels, my head held high and I walked like a fucking bitch who don't give a shit.

Boss: What the fuck are you wearing?

He asked laughing.

Boss: I don't even wanna know, you are just full of drama.

Zoe: Please take me home, I just want to freshen up and sleep

Me: You and I both

Lisa: I am so hungry

We all got in the Boss's car; Zoe with her dress has to be helped in order to get in. The boss dropped Zoe first at her house, I took my keys and phone, Lisa was also dropped at her place then it was me. My flat is just opposite the club, the moment I got off his car I took off my shoes.

Boss: Don't forget you owe me Swazi

He shouts after me.

Me: Make the case disappear

I said turning to him.

Boss: I fucking knew you will play me like that

I laughed.

Me: You know me better boss, cio cio

I waved and left him there. One thing I love about my boss he may be a hard-core criminal known around but he is the damn coolest criminal I have ever met. Not kind but not too cruel either all I can say about him is he look out for those who look out for him. Lisa and I usually did as we pleased at the club; we pick our own sections to work at, and we choose how we going to entertain the guest but that will change as we now owe him. He will fucking make sure he use this to his advantage make us do shit he knows pretty well we wouldn't do given a chance. In all that I am hoping he is fair.

“Hey are you okay?”

The guy from yesterday asked as I step out of the elevator on our floor.

Me: I am fine

I was exhausted, looking ridiculous in pyjamas and heels in my hands as I walk or rather drag my feet.

“Yesterday you said something about death?”

I walked past him slowly, with my head pounding like shit.

Me: All sorted

“Do you think maybe you can tell me what happened over dinner?”

Me: You are not my type; I would rather go out with your father.

I said and opened my door then closed it on his face as I dropped everything on the floor, dragging myself to take a bath. I swear I am never drinking again; I will never ever touch alcohol again.

I finished my well-deserved bath then pre heated a pie I found in my fridge it probably really old, I don't

usually cook since I hate cooking. I tried eating the pie once it was ready but I just couldn't stomach anything, I had no appetite at all so I settled with going to sleep. After taking three painkillers I lie on my bed and zoomed out. Only to be woken up by an alarm alerting me it was time to get ready for work, honestly I didn't feel like going in today but since I missed yesterday I guess I had no choice, I drag myself as I got ready for work. The club is just across the street so I don't even need to take a taxi there. It super dark but thanks to street light it wasn't that bad, I crossed the road, passed few buildings then came in contact with the club. Most people were already standing in a line waiting to enter; this club is always full and have vibe. Wasting no time I went to change into my gold glittering dress, our uniform as hostess, it way shorter than anything I own on my wardrobe and I own short dresses, this one is tight, hanging my body pretty well, showing all the curves and my butt locks were showing, I wore high gold heels complementing the dress then I sat at my station and applied make up,

other girls were her too applying their makeup and making too much noise as they spoke on their loudest voices. Lisa showed up a little later when the club was about to open, she looked like shit and I laughed my ass off because damn I was so glad I am not the only one. I had a weave on my head, the planted one and it cost me 3k; for your information I bought it myself, I do my own fucking hair even though I wouldn't mind a man doing it for me. I had put on a simple make up with a touch of gold and purple lipstick, as far as I am concern I am smoking hot.

Lisa: Swazi please do my makeup

She said defeated as she couldn't get the look she wanted, the boss should really consider hiring someone who will do our makeup.

Me: I am taking r100 from your payment

Lisa: Yoo sis forget I asked, Pinky please do my makeup

Me: Suit yourself

I left them at the changing rooms and went to the main club, the DJ has set up his shit and waiters and waitresses were ready as usual.

“Eh Swazi what popping dude it been a minutes”

I rolled my eyes before responding to the fuck man hoe DJ who happens to be Mandla’s friend so with no doubt I knew Mandla would be here since his friend is playing today.

Me: Sup Wiz been good

Wiz: Heard you got cuffed

He said smirking showing his Kaizer teeth.

Me: Sort of, it was no biggie

Wiz: Yoo man that dope that dope shit

Wiz is your skrr skrr type of guy.

Me: Is Mandla gonna pop by

Wiz: Yoo what up? You want to fist him again, you chicks got no chill my man got bruises man.

Me: Is he coming or not

Wiz: Yoo just don't cause trouble man he is coming with his bitch.

You say what, that bitch got the nerves to show up here after she lied saying we beat her, we should teach her a lesson.

Me: No trouble at all.

I said and kissed his lips gentle.

Me: See you Wiz

Wiz: Yoo wait babe, are we gonna hook up? You should stop giving me red flag man it ain't cool.

Wiz is cute and all just not my cup of tea. I brushed my hand on his smooth cheek then lean over and whispered on his ear.

Me: On a scale of one to ten how good is your D game?

“Yey! Swazi on your station man the doors are opening”

The boss shouts somewhere. I bit Wiz's earlobe gentle before walking away in a most seductive way leaving him stunned there.

I took Lisa by her arm the moment she walked in a club dressed exactly like me.

Me: Mandla and the cocksucker are coming

Lisa: Bitch! Is Wiz playing?

I nod my head.

Lisa: Okay what the plan

Me: I was hoping you will come with one

She smirks while biting on her lower lip.

Me: Oh! Oh

Lisa: I will call Zoe to come by, will let you know on the plan all in due time

We looked at each other smiling.

Me: You so bad

Lisa: And you love me

Me: So much

I leaned over and we shared a brief kiss before walking back to the club to start working.

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FIVE

NOMASWAZI

The night was going by very well, Lisa and I were working at the VIP section as always, the music was bursting out loud, and people were having fun of their lives as they dance to the music. Stripers were doing their own thing on the poles. I danced my way towards a group of rich men who were sitting alone no bitches and shit, I had our most expensive bottle of Champaign and brandy, deepen in a bowl of ice. Placing the bowl in the centre I turn to them. There were four of them, rich from the looks and those types that come in a club for their illegal business meeting, the type that would hardly take a woman home unless she is really lucky. They all had

expensive watches on their wrist, watches that cost a fortune and they smelled like million bucks.

Me: Will there be anything gents

“No we will let you know”

Me: Okay enjoy

I sing-said as I walked away to another guys

Me: What up gents, needing more drinks?

These were just those snob rich guys from rich families; I am saying that because these type of guys love showing off, they are wearing expensive clothes, girls are busy throwing themselves at them.

“How about you join us babe”

One of them asked, if I were to join them they will tip really good but I wasn't in a mood to deal with bunch of immature boys so politely flashing my beautiful smile while rubbing his chest gentle and bending over just a little I say.

Me: Oh sweetie I would love too but I got more tables to serve

“Just one round of drinks and dance”

Me: When I am done I will sure come to you.

I said before walking away to another group of girls only, is it weird that I love it when girls come together and buy their own drinks then drink them like there's no tomorrow.

Me: Hey girls

“Hey”

They all said singing and dancing. I wasted no time as I joined them, we dance and laughed together. As much as I didn't know them I still had fun with them as we got on top of the table dancing and laughing. This reminded me of how Lisa and I got here. Lisa never met either of her parents, her mom died giving birth to her and her father was just never in the picture just like my father so she was raised by her grandmother. So after matric we left PMB coming here in Durban, we had nothing we would sometimes sleep on empty stomach but our girl Zoe always got our backs, she rented a place for us nothing fancy just a one room. We spent almost

the whole year in search of jobs with no luck. As much as Zoe got our backs we had to understand she was just a student with rich parents and we were not her responsibility so asking her to buy us food sometimes was just difficult we had to hustle on our own. One day she was celebrating passing her first year so she said she was taking us to a club. We always talked about going to a club, getting drunk and dancing the night out. We were excited that night we came right here on this club, Zoe was paying for drinks she even went as far as borrowing us her dresses and that night we were smoking hot. The alcohol was getting in our system not to mention we have always loved dancing so Lisa and I started dancing like crazy, we got on top of the tables and dance like no body's business. More people started gathering around hyping for us and enjoying the free show that we were giving. They even forgot about the strippers dancing half naked on poles. Zoe can't dance like we can, my friend just suck at dancing so she kept cheering for us, people started throwing the money and we knew we just

hit jack pot. The Boss offered us a job with a really good pay after that dance our lives changed forever, now here I am dancing with strangers and earning for it. I love my job, I am very happy with my job, it gives me life, and it let me live because at the end of the day we shouldn't forget that you live only once so why not make the most of it.

I was still enjoying myself when out of the suddenly Lisa took my arm dragging me away from the crowd.

Me: You such a party pooper, remember how we got here

I said moving my ass to her dancing.

Zoe: Oh Swazi will you stop

She said sparking my ass.

Me: Zoe Zoe you here babe

I hugged her

Lisa: Okay Zoe did you bring them?

Me: Bring what?

I asked sitting on the chair as we were at the changing rooms.

Lisa: Pills for bile

Me: Euw who got the bile

Lisa: No one, we are sparkling Mandla's bitch

Me: Woah you say what?

Zoe: You for real Lisa

Lisa: That chick messed with us, lying to the police about us breaking her arm yet she is here today so we going to put the pill in her drink and she will party in the toilet.

We laughed as we jump up in excitement

Me: She messed with wrong bitches.

We did our ass bumping dance.

Lisa: Swazi you will need to talk with Tom because he is the only one who can help us.

Tom is the bartender.

Me: Where are they sitting?

Zoe: Ground floor on the bar counters.

I took the pills from Zoe.

Me: I got this

We all walked out and stood on the top floor watching everyone dancing and drinking.

Zoe: There they are by the centre of the dance floor dancing, bitch can't even dance.

Me: Good let me approach Tom; keep your eyes on them if they move you signal for me I will keep looking back.

Lisa: Okay be quick

I rushed down the staircase as fast as I could before approaching Tom I looked back at my girls and they raised a thumb up for me to go on. I walked behind the bar. The bar had four different bartenders but I was gonna ask only one and I knew he wouldn't say no to me.

Me: Psss Tom

He turned to me.

Tom: What up Swazi need a drink personalised to you

Me: I need more than a drink, I need a huge favour

Tom: If it money you want, I am broke

I rolled my eyes at him and he laughed.

“Sure two beers please”

Someone shouted and Tom left me to attend the customer then he came back

Tom: Okay it busy today, what did you need Swazi

Tom is white and super cool him and I have a situationship, we have fucked once or twice just not sure how many exactly. It was a no strings attached type of shit so we so cool with each other.

Me: I need you to spark someone’s drink for me

Tom: Woah what, who?

Because of the music I tried to lower my voice as much as I could, checking the crowd I saw her and Mandla making their way towards the bar.

Me: You see the girl with Mandla; they are coming towards the bar right now I need you to put four pills on her drink, please Tom.

I said as fast as I could then lowered down, hiding behind the bar counter so they wouldn't see me, Tom was a little stunned and luckily Mandla approached him for drinks. Since Mandla was or is married to Zoe he kind of knew about me and Tom because Tom once accompanied me to Zoe and Mandla's anniversary last year so that make it easy for him to approach Tom for drinks instead of the other bar tenders.

Mandla: Yoo Tom please gets us drinks man!

He shouts through the music. I slide the pills in Tom's pocket he slap my hand off him but the pills were already there.

Mandla: Yoo Tom bro hurry before my woman faint.

Tom chuckled.

Tom: A beer for you and what should I get for the lady.

“Cocktail please”

More like cocksucker bitch. Tom looked down on me shaking his head as he get the glass to mix the cocktail, I pleaded with my eyes. He sighs before secretly taking the pills out and just poured all of them in a glass mind you there were like six or more of them. I smirk to myself. He mixed everything nicely even put the umbrella on the drink then handed them their drinks.

Mandla: Thanks Tom bro

He said, I couldn't see them so I couldn't risk coming out. Tom left me hiding there and attended his other customers.

Tom: You can come out they are gone.

I slowly rose up again.

Tom: I hope I don't regret this and I did it because Mandla is a cow for leaving Zoe like that.

Me: Thank you Tom, you the best.

I kissed his cheek before running off back to the top floor where my friends were impatiently waiting

SIX

NOMASWAZI

As those great English and smart people would say; happiness doesn't come in a silver plate delivered on your door step, you create your own happiness. Our happiness comes from letting our heart to be free and happy. Drink if it makes you happy, dance if it makes you happy, read if it makes you happy all I am saying is; be happy while you still have a chance. Zoe was hurt, she loves Mandla so much and we all knew that. But now here is Mandla with his bitch playing happy couples right in front of her eyes, I could see it right through her that she was heartbroken but I pretended not to see as she drinks her sorrows away. I really wished I could make her heart better or better yet I could understand the feeling she is going through. I have never been in love so I don't know how heart break feels. She sat on the small couch that overlooks the ground floor; her eyes were fixed on her husband

and his mistress. She would take a long sip of the wine straight from the bottle; I think she kind of got fed up with having to pour the wine in the glass all the damn time so she settled to drinking from the bottle. Taking a deep sighs I raised my eyes and they met with Lisa's eyes who was just across me serving her customers. I know she was feeling like shit for not knowing how we could help Zoe. I shake my head sideways with sadness written over my face then took a deep breath and proceed to serving the customers.

Me: Hello! More drinks for you?

I asked the group of four who seems to be couples, the girls smiled sweetly at me.

“No we going home now, here is your bill”

She said handing me the already paid bill, opening it I realised they tip me real good and my smile widen. I love money, I love money so much. I live for money.

Me: Come back next time, we were so happy to have you.

“More like you were happy to have our money”

A guy with small eyes and a bead said and they all laughed me included.

Me: You got me there, come back and spend more.

The laughed standing up, the girls were wasted and the guys were just gentlemen as they helped them out.

“There is no way we coming back, look how my wife is wasted”

He said hooking his hand around her waist then scooped her up. I love couples who party together, no complications and drama.

Me: At least she got herself a very good bodyguard who even carry her.

The wife laughed and waved at me.

“Bye hope to see you soon”

I waved too as the husband say.

“Never”

The other couple followed behind them laughing, still smiling at their sweet love I found a waitress to clean the table with my eyes then walked to the till to give the money and proceeds with my work. The night was still young; people were not planning on going anywhere anytime soon unless you are a wife that came with her husband. I kept moving from table to table, dancing and delivering drinks. I would sometime chill with some of the customers entertaining and dancing with them, they loved that so much some would even offer me drinks but since I am on duty I can't get drunk. I was dancing with a group of guys and girls when Zoe took my hand dragging me away. I almost rolled my eyes or I did roll my eyes.

Zoe: It has kicked in

She said shouting through the music pointing at the ground floor as Mandla's bitch was busy rushing towards the toilet. I let out a loud laughter and high fived her.

Me: Let her party in a toilet.

We laughed and her eyes went to Mandla who was dancing with some friends we use to know but just not close with.

Zoe: Maybe I should go to him now that she is not around.

Me: No for what?

Zoe: Maybe he will apologise, he has never apologised not even once and look at him, he looks so happy.

Me: More reason you shouldn't go to him.

She sat there looking depressed then out of the suddenly tears streamed down her pretty face.

Zoe: I miss him Swazi

I hugged her as I sit on the arm of the couch beside her.

Zoe: I miss him so much

Me: It okay to miss him

I just didn't know what to say to her, so I kept brushing her back while trying to shush her; from a

small table beside her she took the bottle and took a long sip then placed it back.

Zoe: I am going

She said standing up, she was drunk she wiped the tears of and I just thought to myself let her go maybe after confronting him she will find peace so I followed after her as she take the elevator down. Her eyes focused on him as the elevator went down; it was transparent so we could see everything.

Zoe: You think I am a fool, don't you?

I didn't respond because she knows how I feel about running after a man.

Zoe: One day Swazi, one day you will be in love and you would know how it likes loving someone with all your heart.

As much as I got a lot to say when it came to love I kept my mouth shut, I am not the type to fall in love because I hate heartbreaks and I don't want my heart to be broken over a fucking dick when I can

get any dick I want. The moment the door opened she walked through the crowd towards Mandla with me following behind her, I stood a little bit far from them as she tap his shoulder he turned with a smile but when he realised it Zoe his face changed to piss or disgust I am not sure. They started talking I couldn't hear exactly what they were saying to each other, but they were arguing the bitch came back and stood behind Mandla with her hand on his shoulder. I would be damned if I stay here so I walked up to them in time to hear Mandla say.

Mandla: Just go Zoe I don't want you, you disgust me. What we had is over.

You got to be fucking kidding me, this man not so long ago he was declaring his undying love for Zoe now he don't want her; men are trash.

Zoe: Mandla you are doing this to me, to me Mandla?

She said with a trembling voice, I get her arm and hooked it on mine.

Me: Let go friend he is not worth it.

Mandla: Take your hoe friend and leave me the fuck alone Zoleka.

I wasn't gonna say anything to him but for him to call me a hoe as if I have fucked him, no man he's taking me for shit.

Me: You listen here Mandla, life will humble you. One day you will come crawling asking for this hoe's help and I will kick the horse while it down.

He chuckled.

Mandla: What could you possible help me with?
One round of sex

He laughed.

Mandla: My woman satisfies me just fine and as for you Zoe my lawyer will be in contact regarding divorce papers.

Me: I have a feeling you putting yourself in deeper shit then you thought.

My eyes shifted to his skinny bitch; there was something about her something so heavy and just so dark. I could feel it right on my shoulder and

when I looked deep in her eyes I saw nothing but evil. She gave me bad vibes, she smile at me a devilish smile and I felt my hair at the back raising. I turned my attention to Mandla.

Me: She is your downfall.

I took Zoe's hand and walked away from them still having bad vibes about her. She took off running outside the club and I followed after her, found her sitting on the pavement.

Me: Zoe! Zoe!

Zoe: It hurt Swazi, it hurt so much.

Me: I am sorry babe

Zoe: I don't know what to do; I don't know where to from now on seeing him happy with someone else hurt so much.

She said crying; I took off my shoes and settled next to her.

Me: It okay to be hurt, being hurt is proof that you loved him being hurt is good because then you can deal with it, just don't bottle the hurt you are

feeling be hurt all you want let yourself feel the pain and then pick yourself up one step at a time I believe it will get better.

She laid her head on my shoulder.

Zoe: I wish I never got married.

Me: Just be glad you did, you had your happy times and just because they are over it doesn't mean there were not there and Zoe you are so damn pretty I mean girl have you seen yourself you smoking hot you can have any guy you want.

Zoe: My parents are going to be so disappointed

Me: You have to stop living for them, live for Zoe from now on. The Zoe who wanted to be on our screen acting and doing wonders the Zoe who loves reciting poems, the Zoe who has a most beautiful voice. It time you tell everyone to fuck off, it time you go for your dreams because babes you my darling have been living for other people for so long. What happened to the Zoe who wanted to take the world by storm?

She sighs.

Zoe: My parents will never allow that.

Me: Exactly my point, fuck your parents you are a 24 years old woman and you are capable of making your own decisions if they are not happy with those decisions then fuck them. Lisa and I got your back 24/7 whatever you decide we gonna support you.

She took another long sighs.

Me: I have to go back to work; I will get an uber to take you home.

Zoe: I will sit here till the uber arrives I don't feel like going inside.

Me: You sure

She nods her head and I wasn't comfortable with leaving her here all by herself so I stood up and walked to the bouncer.

Me: Yoo Bra g I need to get my friend home can you help.

Bra g: Ah Swazi you are always asking for favours.

Me: Come on please, I need to get back to work.

He walked away from the door and shortly he came back with the other bouncer.

Bra g: Zulu will drive her

I smile at them; my colleagues are all cool they look out for you as long as you look out for them.

Zulu: I will charge you Swazi you are always asking for favours

I laughed.

Me: Yoo you love money just come

Zulu: As if you don't.

Me: I am better, you are extra.

I walked up to Zoe and helped her up then wore my shoes.

Me: Babes Zulu will take you home is that okay with you?

She just nodded, I turned to Zulu.

Me: No funny business.

He laughed out loud.

Zulu: I am a man of principles, how do you take me.

I knew he wouldn't do anything stupid because I trusted him and he is a trustworthy man. I waved my goodbye as Zulu take her hand towards the parking. I took a deep sigh before walking back inside.

Me: Thanks Bra g

We fist bump then I walked in, back to life, back to work.

SEVEN

NOMASWAZI

I always come back from work dog tired, I only knock off in the early mornings then walked back to my flat and sleep. The moment I unlocked my door I threw myself on top of the couch and passed out

right there and then only to be woken up by a knock on the door, some people just know how to piss me off. How the fuck can you knock on my door so early.

Me: Get lost!

I shout with my sleepy voice but the motherfucker wouldn't stop. I drag myself up and went to open.

Me: Lisa you such a fucking pain in the ass.

She walked in and threw herself on my couch, she's all dressed and looking fresh. I yawn stretching myself.

Me: Dude shouldn't you be sleeping.'

Lisa: I am attending and my class start in twenty minute I passed by to tell you to check your Facebook.

Lisa is studying towards her diploma in hospitality management.

Me: Seriously Lisa, you came to tell me that shit! Do you know how tired I am?

She rolled her eyes and snatch my bag from the coffee table then took out my phone, I collapsed beside her and just closed my eyes trying to go back to sleep.

Lisa: Check who is trending.

Me: Who?

I asked in my sleepy voice.

Lisa: Just fucking check

I slowly opened my eyes and watch the video on the phone as she held it up for me to watch. Mandla's bitch was on full display, in the ladies toilet at the club, shit was dripping down her legs. Toilet clubs are always full so if you want to use them you gotta stand in line and wait for your turn but it seems like she couldn't stand long. The video display her hitting a toilet door, shouting for whoever was inside to come out while she was busy pressing her legs together and other ladies were just laughing as she couldn't hold the shit anymore so it dripped down messing her dress and she ended up being

covered in shit. I couldn't help but laugh my ass off as we watch the video over and over.

Lisa: The bitch is trending everywhere, people have even created memes.

Me: There is no chill in mzansi

I said laughing so hard.

Lisa: I doubt she would be showing her face on the public anytime soon.

Me: Serves her right for messing with us.

Lisa: Fuck I got bounce or else I will be late.

She grabs her staff.

Lisa: Bye babes see you later

Me: bye.

The moment she closed the door I went back to sleep.

I woke during the day then went to take a cold shower before preparing myself something to eat; I made noodles and ordered some pizza. I hate cooking; I hate it so much so I hardly cook. While

eating my noodles and sipping on my glass of wine I watched the video and read the comments. I was laughing my ass off as Mzansi people were having no mercy on her. They roasted her so hard and I was enjoying every moment of it. My pizza got delivered so while chowing on it I called Zoe to check how she is doing.

Zoe: Babes

Me: Did you see the video?

Zoe: More than once

She laughed.

Zoe: It the only thing that have been keeping insane here. My Dad is a fucking twart!

Me: You still at work?

Zoe: Yes I was waiting for this man to return, I am quitting.

Me: Woah you say what?

Zoe: Dad is so unbelievable; when I told him Mandla cheated and he's divorcing me. He my so called

father embarrassed me in front of the whole staff saying he knew I am unfit for marriage and it good that Mandla is leaving me because as long as I am still hanging out with 'Hood rats' I am not good enough for anything.

Me: Whoa and we are the hood rats.

Zoe: Imagine the level of disrespect, I am walking towards his office to tell him I quit. Dad doesn't respect me as a human, an old enough person to make her own damn decision. It time I stand up for myself because he's pissing me off so much.

Me: Your father is toxic.

Zoe: And I don't need that in my life, will talk later I am outside his door.

Me: Tell me how it goes, good luck

Zoe: later bitch

Me: Later babes.

I dropped the call feeling super proud of her for quitting her job; maybe just maybe she can put her focus on things that she loves. Maybe now she can

live for herself instead of leaving for her parents; she deserves to be happy.

Later that day I prepared for work as usual, I wasn't feeling okay though I was so down and I didn't know why but I pushed myself got dressed on my sweat pants then walked to work. Lisa was already there I just sat on my station and prepared myself for the night. The boss walked in just when I was doing touch ups on my makeup.

Boss: Lisa, Swazi you are on private rooms today.

Lisa: No fuck way, private rooms are boring and draining not to mention they're usual occupied by those rude men with so much money and they treat us like trash.

Me: Exactly they treat us like hookers, no way we going there. Remember what happened last time.

Boss: Yea! Yea they almost rapped you bla! Bla! I don't care, you owe me, remember? So private rooms it is.

He said and walked away leaving us fuming with anger.

Lisa: I hate private rooms.

Me: Argh I hate owing him.

We got dressed in black back revealing dresses that were right under our ass with matching black three inch heels. Whenever you work at the private rooms you wear black then the club it gold. Lisa and I hugged each other before walking to separate rooms, it might happen we would work in one room depending on how busy the rooms we will occupy.

Lisa: Good luck

Me: I love you.

I walked into my own room, it was occupied by three men sitting on the blue couch by the middle of the room and enjoying a show presented by the stripper as she does her thing on the pole butt naked. By the door are two board guards. I took a deep sigh as I walked past the board guards, the room has a dark theme, and slow music is playing

on the back ground. I shake my ass nicely and planted a huge smile on my face as I approach them.

Me: Gentlemen, can I get you something to drink?

These men are old, probably old enough to be my father. Their eyes roamed up and down my body and I had to maintain a good posture and pretend to be unbothered by their thirsty eyes.

“Brandy on rock”

“No rock”

“Make it two brandies on rock”

Me: As you wish

I bow a little and walked away. I got their drinks and went back to serve them, but heart skipped fast then started beating fast. I was only a metre away from them when my head became so dizzy and the whole room started spinning.

“Yey what wrong with you bitch”

I could hear their voices but they sounded so far; I had stop walking since everything was spinning and my heart is beating out of my chest. The tray with their drinks fell as I try to hold my spinning head with my hands. Their voices were fading away slowly but surely then I fainted. I tried opening my eyes but all I could see is darkness and trees then creepy birds making creepy sound.

Me: Where the fuck am i?

I was lying on the glass, trees were surrounding me and it was dark and scary. I quickly jump up standing on my two feet while looking around. I am wearing a red skirt with a brown rag wrapped around my boobs, both my wrist have red and white beads and I am barefooted. My heart is pounding out of my chest with fear. As I look around still freaked out I spotted a woman with a black rag covering her head, she was walking away while pushing a topless man.

Me: Hello! Hey help me! Sorry help

They kept moving as my call out for help fell on deaf ears, I followed after them but accidental stepped on a wood that cut my foot underneath shooting so much pain that went through right on my pounding heart.

Me: Oh shit

I screamed in pain and blood started gushing out. When I raised my head I realised the woman and the man were walking away so I limp following after them. They approached an old torn tent, there is fire outside the tent and another woman was sitting by the fire with a knife on her hand, the woman with the knife was old, so old that she had wrinkles. I hid by a tree as they talk, I couldn't hear what they were saying but the old woman didn't look pleased. I still couldn't see the face of the other woman as she has a cloth covering her and I couldn't see the man since he has his back on me. The woman pushed the man towards the old woman the man fall, his hands is tied together when he raise up I was so shocked to realised it was Mandla, fear was

written all over his face, his lips were even trembling and his eyes were roaming around, his mouth ganged with a cloth.

Me: Mandla! psssh

I called out in a whisper; another man that was topless with so many scars on his body came out of the tent with a big bowl. They talk among each other. The woman finally removed the cloth covering her head then walked inside the tent, when she came out she was only wearing a very short rag wrapped on her lower body and her boobs were on display, when she fully came out I cussed.

Me: Holly shit

It her; Mandla's bitch and she had a very huge butcher knife on her hand. I was freaking out so much my heart was literally beating out of my chest. My eyes flicked back to Mandla who looked so scared, the old woman kept smiling at him in a most creepy way, my whole body shaking because of fear.

EIGHT

NOMASWAZI

My eyes shoot open; I jump up as I try to normalise my breathing. My heart is still beating so fast, I gasped for air as I try to breathe. I heard a beeping machine before I heard Lisa.

Lisa: Swazi calm down! Just breathe slowly.

Checking my surrounding I am in a very bright room, Zoe and Lisa are right beside me and I have tubes connected on me, the irritating beeping sounds didn't stop. When it finally sinks in that I am in hospital I calmed down.

Zoe: Are you okay?

I lay back on the bed and closed my eyes.

Zoe: Do you need anything?

She ask again as I don't respond.

Zoe: Water?

I slowly open my eyes, my friends were staring down at me with concern written all over their face.

Me: I am okay guys

I say slowly trying to assure them but the truth is; that was a biggest lie.

Lisa: Are you feeling any pain?

I shake my head no. not pain but fear.

Me: I want to leave this place

I say getting up.

Zoe: No Swazi you need to rest.

Me: I just wanna leave; why the fuck did you bring me here?

Zoe: Swazi you fainted what were we supposed to do?

Me: Pour me with water or something.

They gave each other looks before deciding not to argue with me.

Lisa: Let me get the doctor first.

As she walked away I got off the bed.

Zoe: Take it easy Swazi you over work yourself.

I took off the tubes connected on me then I stepped on the floor but a massive pain shot through my foot.

Me: Aaah! Oh shit! Shit!

I could feel tears burning my eyes.

Zoe: Swazi! Take it easy you hurt yourself under your feet

Me: How?

Zoe: I am not sure i think you stepped on the broken piece of glasses

Now it all becoming a reality in my head, I wasn't dreaming. It wasn't a nightmare. Lisa walked back in with a doctor following behind her.

Doctor: Nomaswazi

Me: Can I go home doctor?

He took a deep sigh.

Zoe: What wrong with her? Will she be okay? Is it safe to go home?

Doctor: We still running some more test but she fainted because of enervation. I will suggest you take it easy and don't over work yourself. If possible ask your boss to give you few days off work and be on rest bed.

Me: Okay can I go now?

Zoe: Doctor is there anything we could do to help her.

Doctor: Just make sure she gets enough rest, I have prescribe some sleeping pills, make sure you don't take them constantly as any drug can be addictive.

Lisa: Thank you doctor, will make sure she get some rest.

The doctor nods and walks away, Lisa helped me get dressed then we left the hospital. I was limping as we leave the hospital and all I could think about is what the heck happened to me.

It was a morning meaning I have been in hospital for the whole night when we got to my flat I sat on the couch watching TV while my friends were in my kitchen preparing food.

Zoe: Seriously Swazi no grocer, what do you eat?

I ignored her, my focus was on the TV but my mind wasn't there. It looked like I am watching the TV when the TV is actually the one watching me. My mind kept drifting back to the dream I had or rather where I went when I fainted. I could still see the old woman's wicked smile and Mandla's fear.

Me: Zoe where is Mandla?

I had to ask because I wasn't really sure what was happening with what I witness.

Zoe: His Instagram says they are leaving for vacation tomorrow and I am praying the plane crush.

She walked past me.

Zoe: I will be back in ten.

Vacation my foot! Could there be any truth in my dream? Argh I am being paranoid who on their right

mind could live in such a creepy forest? It was just a stupid dream. I kept telling myself that but deep down it felt more than like a stupid dream. Maybe the doctor is right, I work too hard I need some rest.

Lisa: Swazi! Swazi! Dude

She taps my shoulder making me jump up.

Me: Jeez what the fuck Lisa

Lisa: I have been calling you?

I looked back to the tv.

Me: I am watching the TV

Lisa: Umm ...

She sits beside me on the couch.

Lisa: What going on Swazi?

Me: Nothing

Lisa: Swazi!

Me: I am fine okay, just exhausted I need to get some sleep.

I stood up and limped to my bedroom where I threw myself on top of the bed and just lay there thinking about Mandla; why the fuck am I thinking about that asshole. He could die I still wouldn't fucking care. Later my friends announce they were leaving, after walking them out I changed into my oversized pink t-shirt and went back to sleep.

All I could hear are screams the forest is so dark the more I tip toe towards; the screams kept getting louder. I tip toe walking slowly with my pounding heart. There it is the old torn tent. My heart is literally beating out of my chest; I couldn't see anyone all I could hear were screams.

“Help! Anyone help me please!”

I grab some wood from the ground and tip toed forward, my hands were sweating, and I kept taking deep breath as fear kept creeping in on me. I was so close to the tent when I suddenly heard voices, they were right behind me and I don't know where they came from. I had no way to hide I was so scared so I started running away yet it seems like

they didn't even care I was there or wait I think I am invincible. I walked back towards them still holding the wood tight they just walked past me. It the old woman and other two half-dressed men with so many cut scars on their body, the old woman is wearing black rags, she even look like she hasn't bath in years. I followed after them as they walk past me, the screams were still there and they were coming from behind the tent. I followed after them all the way to where the screams were coming from. A young man I have never seen in my whole entire life was tied on the tree, besides him was fire with high flames, Mandla's bitch with other two ladies were sitting beside the fire.

"Is he ready?"

The old woman asked with her husky creepy voice.

"He's ready"

Mandla's bitch say then turned to the two ladies.

"Go get Mandla" then she turned to the two men as the old woman settles next to the fire. She signal something to them, they quickly went to get it and

gave it to her right when the ladies came back with Mandla, the guy on the tree still tied there crying. I walked a little bit closer to the fire, still scared but hopeful they can't see me, they forced a cuffed Mandla to go on his knee next to the guy tied on the tree. They all started chanting something in tongues so I couldn't make out.

“Oh chichih raba! Raba! Chichih! Bara! Bara yeses!”

They said chanting.

“Lucifer our lord! I call upon your name; I have the greatest treasury with me. Allow me to use him for my own pressure first”

She took a plastic and from that plastic she took out our pictures. Me, Zoe and Lisa, still too shocked by that she prayed to her lord in tongues then burned our pictures on the flames of fire.

“One by one may he get them all, they will pay for what they did to me”

I wasn't ready for what happened next; one of the men took a hammer and smashed the guy tied on

the tree's head. Blood split around and I screamed my lungs out as the rest of these creatures started laughing. I screamed so loud closing my eyes not even interested to see how it will turn out. When I opened my eyes I was in my room still screaming, sweat is dripping down my face and my heart is beating out of it rib cage, my whole body is shaking with so much fear. I jump of the bed and rushed to the bathroom where I washed my face on the sink, after I felt calm I looked up on my reflection on the mirror and I looked like hell but that not what freaked me out as it catch my attention. My t-shirt has blood spot all over it I screamed taking it off, tears gushing out and my heart consumed with fear.

NINE

NOMASWAZI

After the whole nightmare thing I couldn't sleep, my head was all over the place. I was so scared it actually felt like someone was in my room. The only

thing that is on my mind is wonder; I am busy trying to crack my skull so I would figure out what is happening. One thing I know for a fact these are not just nightmares there is more to it, for instance how do you explain the blood spot on my t-shirt if it was just a dream, not forgetting the wound under my foot. Something is happening; people are getting killed on my sleep. I had to find Mandla and his bitch to get to the bottom of this. Growing up I used to see people die in my dreams then few days down the line I would hear they have died, even with my mother I was shown her death before her actual death. I never really put much into it, I always thought it was just a coincident; but right now I am convince something is going to happen to Mandla and I am not sure if I want to witness whatever shit that is going to happen.

knock

The knock on the door freaked me out so much making my heart pound, the person knock again.

After taking some few deep breathe I walked towards the door and open.

Me: Yes

It the guy from the other day; the one living on my floor

“Hi could you please assist me with just three spoon of sugar. It seems like I ran out and I need coffee”

He said smiling from ear to ear.

Me: You can always buy coffee on your way to wherever you work.

I wasn't in the mood for bullshit; there are other three tenants on this floor he should've asked them.

“I could but the thing is I don't function well without coffee, please I would make sure to return your sugar first thing when I come back”

I sigh and rolled my eyes before opening the door wide for him to enter.

Me: Next time make sure you store your grocer

I say taking his mug and walked to the kitchen leaving him standing by the door, I poured exactly the three spoons he asked for then returned to him. The look on his face was priceless after I gave him the mug as he realised I had put a small amount of sugar, exactly what he asked for. He smiled not so genuine smile.

“Well thank you neighbour for your kindness and generous heart”

I held the door open for him to leave, he walked out but before I could close the door he turned to me.

“Pray about it, pray for him and yourself not forgetting your beloved friends”

Confusion sinks in; I looked at him completely shocked.

Me: uh ...

“You need to pray hard”

Then he walked away leaving me still stunned, my mouth half open. Who is he? What does he mean by pray hard? What the fuck is he on about? Could

it be possible he knows about my dreams or maybe he heard me scream last night. Who is him? Could it be Mandla? I had so many questions and the only person who could answer them is right opposite me, I rushed through the whole way towards his room and knock only once the door opened.

“I figured it might be you”

He stepped out with his briefcase on his hand.

Me: What were you talking about? What do you mean I need to pray hard?

He locked his door and started walking towards the elevator.

Me: Hey I am talking to you.

I say following after him, after he had pressed the button for the elevator.

“You know exactly what I am talking about; she’s coming for all of you. Pray Nomaswazi”

The doors open and he entered and turned to me, our eyes locking I was still too stunned to say anything.

Me: who are you?

“Your guardian Angel”

He said and winks at me as the doors close. Creepy!

Staying indoors was driving me crazy, I had nothing better to do with my time so I decided tonight I would be going back to work I would rather work than stay here depressed. I am lucky to have friends like Zoe and Lisa, they sure are the best thing that ever happened in my life, in actual fact they're more than just friends they are more like family. My soul sisters; Lisa had to attend her classes so she couldn't come but Zoe did come to check up on me and she brought home cooked meal with her. I must say she is a great destruction at least when I am with her I don't think about the shit that has been happening in my life lately. We were sitting on my couch devouring ice cream from it container.

Zoe: So yea they disowned me.

Me: Oh my God Zoe just like that, are you okay though?

Zoe: What hurt the most is how I just realised these people never loved me, oh and Mandla came by my house to deliver divorce papers and to pack his staff.

Me: Mandla was at your house?

Zoe: Yea and his bitch was waiting in the car, imagine the level of disrespect nx.

All I could think about is Mandla was at Zoe's house.

Zoe: My life is a fucking mess; my husband is divorcing me, my parents just disowned me and I don't have a job.

I feel for her really, some parents can be so toxic.

Zoe: Sooner or later I will have no place to stay as the house is under Mandla's name.

Me: Didn't you marry in community of property?

Zoe: Nop so it only a matter of time before he kick me out but I am not worried about that, I got some money under my name it enough to get me an small affordable place of my own then from there I don't know.

Me: It going to be alright you will see, and you got us we will do anything for you.

Zoe: I know and I feel so lucky to have you guys if it wasn't for you I doubt I would've copy with all the shit that has been happening.

Me: We need a night out! Just us having fun and drinking and dancing and just forget about all the shit that has been happening.

Zoe: Oh yes I could use some drinking

I hugged her.

Me: We going to be fine.

Zoe: I was also thinking, we should do something nice for Lisa her graduation is coming up soon.

Me: What you have in mind?

Zoe: I don't know, I am not sure as yet but I know she would love for her Gran to come down here and she has been complaining about not having money.

Me: Yea her school fee cost a leg and an arm. I can get Granny to come here

Zoe: That great and we could organise a quiet nice dinner after the graduation with Gran and us.

Me: Done deal

Zoe: Umm ... Swazi don't get mad, okay?

Me: Oh! Oh I am already mad.

She took a deep sigh and turned to look at me instead of the tv.

Zoe: You can't dance in a club and serves drinks your whole entire life. Look I know you said we shouldn't pressure you but come on Swazi time is ticking you need something stable.

Me: I will figure something out

I said not even interested in the topic, I don't know what I want with my life so dwelling on it just stresses me.

Zoe: You always say that, Lisa would soon be done with her studies after that it would be job hunting.

I rolled my eyes.

Me: I know

Zoe: Look I am ... I just want you to not depend on working on that club all your life; there's more to you than serving drinks.

Me: I said I will think of something jeez Zoe, you have a messed up life yourself fix it and stop trying to fix mine.

Zoe: I know I got a fucked up life right now but girl it far way better than the life you living, you need to get your life together. Serving drinks at that stinking place and having men touch your ass as they please is not a life, walking around half naked is not life.

Me: Okay this is it, get the fuck out of my house Zoe

Zoe: I am not going anyway.

Me: Zoe gets the fuck out before I say something I would regret.

Zoe: Do not fuck with me Swazi, you have been working at the club for three years now don't you fucking think it enough, you can't work there for the rest of your life. Just yesterday you were telling me

to go for my dreams, to go for what I want now I am asking you to do the same shit.

Me: I don't know what I want to do.

Zoe: That because you got too comfortable serving drinks to people who don't even respect you.

I stood up from the couch and walked away.

Zoe: Walk away all you like bitch but you know I am telling the truth.

I walk back to the couch and snatched the ice cream from her then walked away again.

Zoe: You have five days that one week to find a course you desire before I do it for you!

She shout as I disappear to my room.

Me: Fuck you!

I shout back

Zoe: If you fail to do so I am going to find it for you and next year you going to school Swazi. Fuck your bull shit! And fuck the damn club!

Me: and fuck you Zoe the perfectionist!

Zoe: Whatever bitch!

I slammed the bedroom door close behind me. Deep I know she is right, I can't work at the club for the rest of my life. I already know that but then I am not interested in anything, my life is just stuck I don't know what is happening.

TEN

NOMASWAZI

As I walked inside the club that night everyone was staring at me, I bet it because I "fainted". I want just one person to start with me today, just one. They will know me too well. I will take out my frustrations on them I swear. I walked to changing rooms; Lisa was sitting by her station applying makeup.

Lisa: The fuck you doing here, you supposed to be on bed rest.

Me: I am fine

Lisa: You need to rest!

Me: I have rested, I am fine.

Lisa: I dare you to faint again I will fucking slap you I swear.

I just rolled my eyes and ignored her as I sit on my station and apply makeup, after I was done I got dressed on my work gold dress. Before we could walk to the club Lisa grabbed my hand.

Lisa: You sure you fine?

Me: I am fine no need to worry

Lisa: Heard you and Zoe were at it

Me: I don't wanna talk about that bitch

Lisa: She's right though

I groan.

Me: Not now Lisa.

I kissed her cheek and walked away, putting on my best smile. The club was already buzzing with people, as usual I serve the drinks with my best smile while dancing and entertaining the customers. The night was going by so well. I had forgotten

about my problems. I am sitting with a group of guys who are celebrating their friend, whose song just went viral, we busy dancing and singing along to music. I am busy dancing on some guy's lap when I suddenly felt too hot and my head felt so dizzy, I just knew shit was happening, the whole room started spinning, I tried walking away from the group of guys, balancing myself with tables, my heart beating so fast. Music, noise and disco lights making everything worse; Lisa must have been keeping an eye on me because she was quick to come to my rescue. All I remember is her hooking her arm around me and then the world just stop. We stepped in the changing rooms and I sat down on the couch, still feeling dizzy.

Lisa: Are you alright?

I did some breathing technique and lay back on the couch.

Lisa: Let me get you water.

She ran off to get me some water; slowly I closed my eyes still aware of every sound around me then

it became a mixture of birds making creepy sounds, slowly the music faded only birds' sound I could hear.

Me: I don't want to be here! I don't want to be here!

I kept repeating that with my eyes closed, I had pretty much idea of where I was and I honestly don't want to be here.

Me: I want to go back!

I kept pleading with my eyes closed but it pointless. Eventually I opened my eyes to a now familiar forest, seeing the now familiar torn tent and hearing screams then voices that sounded so scary and super creepy. I tip toed to where the noise is coming from, Mandla is tied on a tree, there are men surrounding the fire, Mandla's bitch and the old woman are standing in front of Mandla. It took me a while to realise that the woman is cutting him with a razor all over his body then the bitch would lick Mandla's blood while Mandla is busy screaming.

Me: No! No! Stop!

“Swazi! Swazi! Wake up, Swazi!”

Someone was busy shaking me violently.

“Swazi!”

I shoot open my eyes only to find Lisa starring down at me.

Lisa: Are you okay? You were screaming.

Me: I’m fine

Lisa: Here drink some water you are even sweating.

With my shaking hand I took the glass of water and took a sip, then lay back.

Me: Something weird is happening to me Lisa and I don’t know what to do.

Lisa: You should not have come to work

Me: And there’s this creepy guy living on my floor he knows something; I just need to talk to him. He knows something.

Lisa: I will request an uber to take you home, you need to rest.

Me: No, I am going back to work. I just need a moment.

Lisa: Nomaswazi you being stupid, you going back to sleep

Me: I said no, I am fine Lisa I just need a moment. Go back to work.

Lisa: Swaz-

Me: Lisa go before you got in trouble with the Boss. She sighs furiously.

Lisa: Fine, I will come check on you in a minute.

She hugged me before walking out; I sat there taking well deserved breath before getting on my feet and going back to work like nothing ever happened. My night was going so well, I did drink two or more glasses of alcohol just to get myself back on track. The alcohol pumping on my blood and music with these lovely people who came here to party and forget about their problems made me forget about my problems.

The next morning I had set an alarm to wake me up early since I wanted to confront the guy next door, I switched the alarm off, put on a gown and sleepers then went straight to his room, again opening the door he is all dressed and ready to bounce with his brief case, he open the door and stepped out.

“Nomaswazi”

Me: I need to know what going on; I know you know something so you better tell me.

“Hi to you too, I am fine thanks for asking”

I rolled my eyes, he locked his door and I stood on his way.

Me: You better tell me what going on, I keep dreaming about creepy things, people dying and shit.

“You are standing on my way and I need to get to work”

He said with a straight face.

Me: Dude I am suffering here, I dream even when I am not sleeping.

“I am not your dude now can I please pass”

I took a deep breath realising that I gotta be nice for this guy to cooperate.

Me: Is your offer for dinner still stand, I would love to have dinner with you.

“You not my type I’d rather go out with your mother, now out of my way please.”

I was left stunned with my mouth half open, he gentle pushed me out of the way and walked past me.

Me: Asshole!

I said and furiously walked back to my room slamming the door at the process then played some music on maximum. I decided to take a cold shower, Lisa is taking us out after I was done bathing I got dressed in my black short dress with sneakers. Zoe called saying they’re outside picking me up. I decided to leave my music playing and rushed towards the gate where I greet the security guard.

“Gegelegege ntombi zizala abantu ziye ebantwini,
nongena bhaskidi uyangena estolo”

She whistle.

“Eh awusemhle Nkosazana ulibangisephi”

I laughed at him.

Me: Haa Baba Dube akusashelwa engathi
usemfuleni manje.

He laughed.

“Ohye kids of today how I wish you could go back to
your root, have a guy ask you out like back in the
days it was so much fun back then, even the level of
teenage pregnancy was very low”

Me: I am sure you had fun back in your days but
things changed old man, you better let us live our
lives side ubusha bethu.

He laughed.

“What more can we do sizanibuke nje”

I smile politely at him as Zoe kept hooting outside
the gate.

Me: Bye Baba Dube I will bring you something nice on my way back

“Uhambe kahle nkosazana”

He said waving at me while smiling, I love this old man he is so kind-hearted and funny.

Zoe: Jeez is baba Dube on duty?

She asked the moment I stepped in the car.

Lisa: I bet he is

Me: Well you know Baba Dube he never stop talking.

Zoe: You crushing on the old man.

She said as she start the car driving off and I laughed

Me: I doubt he can get it up anymore so crushing on him would be useless.

They laughed.

Lisa: Jeez Swazi he is old enough to be your fucking father don't talk like that about him.

Me: Exactly my point, he's too. I just like him he is a sweetheart.

Lisa: You like everyone Swazi

She said rolling her eyes.

Me: Umm not really

Zoe: You do

Me: Well I hate the guy living on my floor

Zoe: What did he do?

Me: He is an asshole that what he did

Lisa: Maybe you like him so much so you confusing it with hate.

Me: Mxm I wouldn't love him even if he was the last man on earth.

I increased the volume and started singing along to the music, my friends joined me we sang till we got to the mall even after we got off the car walking inside the mall we were still singing and laughing at how much we love singing yet we sucks at it so much.

Me: Shit I need to pee

Lisa: Okay babes you will find us at the boutiques apposite the shoe shop.

I kissed their cheek before walking towards the restrooms.

After I was done peeing I walked out towards the boutique, someone tap my shoulder.

“Sorry sis”

Thinking it those guys who just ask for your numbers I turned ready to tell him where to fuck off but my mouth dropped.

Me: You

It the guy I saw in my dreams, the one they smashed his head.

“You dropped your wallet”

He is dressed in cleaner uniform, his Colgate smile planted on his face.

Me: I ... hi

He handed me the wallet still smiling, he has a very beautiful warm smile.

Me: Please be careful

Before I could held myself I said it out loud.

“Sorry”

I take my wallet from him, and took a deep breath.

Me: Nothing ...thank you

“You welcome”

He said and walked away pushing a moping bucket with a mop inside.

Me: Wait ...

He turned to me, I went through the wallet and came out with R20 note then handed it to him.

Me: Thank you so much for finding me my wallet

“No sis you don’t have too, enjoy your shopping”

Me: No come on I insist buy yourself a cold drink.

He just laughed at me.

“No man I am buying you ice cream with it”

He said sweetly, making me laugh.

Me: You buying me ice cream with my own money.

He laughed.

“I guess I am; I don’t want you paying me for finding what is yours”

My heart just warmed up to this total strange with a very beautiful heart and smile. Guilty eating me up though, I have to save his life if what I dreamt of will eventual happen.

Me: Can you promise me one thing though.

With his eyebrows brought together and curiosity all over his face he stares at me.

Me: Please be careful; just promise me you will be careful

“You are very weird Sis but I promise to be careful”

He said smiling then turned to walk away leaving me still standing there watching him disappear through the crowd.

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