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Wena
Ungowami.

Wena Ungowami

Prologue

I'm standing here with all these different woman, I don't know any of them since I'm new here.

Lady: Hey are you okay?

Me: I'm fine.

Lady: Are you new here?

Me: Yes I'm new.

Lady: I'm Sindi by the way.

Me: Okay I'm Thandolwethu.

Sindi: You look very young Thando why are you here?

Me: It's a long story.

Sindi: Okay how old are you?

Me: You ask too many questions, I'm 18.

Sindi: I'm just trying to be friendly, how did Mam

Lorraine find you?

Me: She found me in town living on the streets.

Sindi: Okay.

Me: Why are you here?

Sindi: It's a long story nana.

Me: At least Mam Lorraine is helping us.

Sindi: You know it's not about us but her right.

Me: What do you mean?

Sindi: You will understand as time goes on but it's not a good Idea for you to be here.

Me: I don't have anywhere else to go.

Sindi: Are you still a virgin?

Me: No I was raped.

Sindi: I'm sorry.

Me: Don't be.

Sindi: It gets tough in here you know it's not easy.

Me: I don't think it's that hard.

Sindi: Sometimes we don't get any clients and it's hard when you are new.

Me: If I don't get them it's no problem I will go sleep.

Sindi: If you don't bring money Mam Lorraine gets really mad and that ends up bad.

Me: When did you start working for her?

Sindi: Ten years ago.

Me: Why are you still here?

Sindi: When you work for someone you become their puppet, they own you.

Me: When I get enough money I know I will go study.

Sindi: It's not as easy as you think love.

Me: We will see about that.

Sindi: When my client comes I can go with you so you can see how this job works.

Me: No it's fine I will wait for my client.

Sindi: If you say so, my client is here see you in the morning.

Me: Okay bye.

She climbed into the car and left, I stood there waiting for any clients to come but they didn't. The girls kept on leaving till I was left alone, after an hour I decided to go back to the house where we all stayed.

I got into the house and went straight to my room, I have my own room I don't know maybe it's because I'm still new because everyone else is sharing. I don't know when I fell asleep but I felt someone shaking me.

Lady: Wake up there's a meeting in the living room.

Me: I'm still sleeping.

Lady: I see you are new but let me give you advice, when Mam Lorraine summons us you don't say that otherwise you will be in big trouble.

Me: Okay fine I'm coming.

I woke up and dragged myself to the living room everyone was there including Sindi.

Mam Lorraine: You can all give me what's mine.

They started giving her money which I didn't have.

Mam Lorraine: Thando where is the money?

Me: I didn't get any client yesterday.

I said not even looking at her because I didn't care but I felt a hot slap across my face.

Mam Lorraine: No one says that here uyangizwa (do you hear me), everyday you go out and come back with my money.

I nodded.

Mam Lorraine: Do you hear me?

Me: Yes.

Mam Lorraine: You will be moving in with Sindi she will teach you a thing or two and you owe me.

She said that and left.

Sindi: I will help you with your things.

Me: Thank you.

We took my things to her room and settled in.

My name is Thandolwethu Mdletshe and this is my journey, stay tuned for more drama, revenge, pain and love.

Insert one

I didn't eat supper because I didn't bring any money, I wasn't even allowed to the kitchen but Sindi hid some food for me and brought it in our room.

Sindi: You should eat something.

Me: I'm not hungry.

Sindi: I hardly ate because I was saving for you and now you say you not hungry.

I didn't reply I just took the food and ate.

Me: Thank you sis Sindi I don't even know why you are helping me but I'm grateful.

Sindi: You welcome, I had a little sister and she died because I failed to protect her.

Me: What happened to her.

Sindi: She killed herself because our step father used to rape her, I should have protected her because I knew he was going to do it to her too.

Me: You mean he did it to you too?

Sindi: Yes too many times to the point where I wanted him to do it to me everyday.

Me: I'm so sorry sis Sindi for everything.

Sindi: It's okay, the reason why I say you don't have to be here it's because I know you will want to live like this for the rest of your life.

Me: One day I will tell you my story and you will understand why I say I don't have anywhere else to go.

Sindi: We just have to make sure that what happened today does not happen again because Mam Lorraine can punish you in so many ways.

Me: Did she ever hit you?

Sindi: I don't mean to scare you but she has done worse than hit me.

I swallowed hard I didn't even know what to say

because it seems like it's going to get hard each day.

Me: How long did it take for you to get your regular clients?

Sindi: A few months once you get one client and you satisfy your client he will tell others so on and so on.

Me: I don't know much about this business but I'm willing to learn.

Sindi: You will be fine relax.

Me: Shouldn't we be getting ready for tonight?

Sindi: We don't work on Wednesdays.

Me: On Wednesdays only.

Sindi: Yes only.

This is harder than I thought, I don't even think I'm ready for any of this but life is never really about what you want. If it was the way I want it to be I wouldn't be here today and everything would perfect.

Sindi: I should teach you a thing or two as Mam Lorraine said.

Me: Okay I'm all ears.

Sindi: If you get a client, you do everything the client wants even if you are not comfortable with it some are considerably and do what you want but mostly they are not. You don't steal anything from your client, you make sure the money the client gives you is the money you agreed on. Ask the client if you satisfied them or not because they know Mam Lorraine so they complain if you don't do what they want.

Me: This is not going to be easy so if the client hit me what should I do?

Sindi: Nothing you pretend like it didn't happen.

I know I'm broken on the inside but when sis Sindi speaks you can hear the pain behind her voice even if you don't know what pain is. I was hoping to forget about everything that happened to me but it seems like I'm going to add more pain by being here.

Me: It's not as easy as I thought but believe me it's better than where I come from.

Sindi: Was it that bad?

Me: Sis Sindi you don't want to know.

Sindi: Tomorrow I will tell my client to bring one of his friends so you can start working.

Me: Thank you, so what do you think Mam Lorraine will do to me since she said I owe her?

Sindi: I don't know Thando all I know is that once she gives you one of her punishments your life will never be the same again.

She said that and disappeared to smoke in the bathroom. I lay down on my bed and think about my life.

Years back

Mama: Thando I want you to run away from this house and go far away.

Me: No mama I will never leave you.

Mama: This is for your own good, since your father died it's not the same in this house.

Me: But you are the who brought this man into our

lives.

Mama: Thando I'm still your mother you will not talk to me like that.

Me: But it's true and I live to see you being hit everyday by the man you claim to love.

Mama: Things will never change or be the same again that's why I want you to leave this place.

Me: Okay where should I go?

Mama: You will go to your aunt in Joburg.

We planned my departure with my mother and we didn't tell my stepfather because he was not going to agree. Later that day I heard my mother screaming and I went to their room, my stepfather was hitting her as usual but today he had a gun in his hands.

I pleaded with him to forgive my mother but he didn't listen instead he raped me Infront of my mother, mind you I was still a virgin after that he shot himself and my mother Infront of me they both died on the scene. I called my aunt and told her

everything I was happy that she believed me because some people were going to think that I was the one who killed them.

After the funeral I went to Joburg with my aunt and her husband. I did my matric and passed I guess my aunt got tired of me that's when they started to rape me with her husband everytime they had sex they wanted me to join them, my aunt would use her fingers and toys on me but her husband would penetrate me. I threatened them about going to the police that's when my aunt started saying I want to kill them like I killed my mother and stepfather so she chased me out that's when I lived on the streets until Mam Lorraine found me.

Present day

Sindi: Thando I have been calling you for a couple of minutes, you are even crying what's wrong?

Me: I guess I'm just thinking about my past but it's nothing you should worry about.

Sindi: Okay you should get some sleep and stop overthinking you will die young.

Me: I died a long time ago.

I said walking to the bathroom to smoke, yes I smoke weed it's something that keeps my days going otherwise I would have lost my mind a long time ago.

When I get out of the bathroom I find Mam Lorraine in our room.

Mam Lorraine: I'm here for you wear this.

She said giving me a dress.

Mam Lorraine: I'm giving you five minutes to get ready we are going somewhere.

Me: I thought we are not working today.

She just looked at me.

Mam Lorraine: Sindi you need to tell this girl about me.

She said that and walked out.

Sindi: Your mouth is going to get you into trouble please learn to respect Mam Lorraine for your own good because you won't like what she will do to you.

Me: Okay fine.

Sindi: Be quick I don't know how you will shut up if you are this high.

I laughed I was really high but I was scared because I know Mam Lorraine wants to teach me a lesson.

Sindi: Just keep quiet and do everything Mam Lorraine tells you to do okay.

Me: Yes mam.

I don't know what I would do without her.

Insert two

When I got to Mam Lorraine she was with a couple of man and woman drinking wine, it's really good being her she just sits around and enjoy money that the girls made. I don't think I'm going to enjoy staying here because I don't like Mam Lorraine but I don't have a choice so I think it's best I just tolerate

her.

Mam Lorraine: Go to the bedroom you were using when you first came here and wait there.

Me: Wait for what exactly?

I regretted asking that question.

Me: I'm sorry I'm going to go now.

I said leaving them there, I think I really need to mind my mouth but the fact that I'm high does not help.

I stayed in the room for almost thirty minutes without anyone coming in, as I was still deep in my thoughts a group of old man came to the room.

When I say group of man I mean old man, they were already in their under garments I think they wanted me to know that it's going to go down.

I closed my eyes and stripped naked.

Man: Not so fast young lady we are still waiting for other people.

I wanted to talk but I decided to shut up because this is clear I'm being punished for my big mouth.

The door sprung open and the old ladies that were sitting with Mam Lorraine entered followed by Mam Lorraine.

Mam Lorraine: Let the party begin.

This brought back all the events that happened in my past, I didn't want to experience this not any time after all that happened.

There were drinks in the room so I thought I should just take shots so that I won't be sober for any of this.

Mam Lorraine: No drinks for you I want you to experience all this while you are sober so that you will never mess with me ever again.

At least I'm a bit high but that's not going to help me in any way. They started touching me and doing everything they wanted, there were five man and three woman including Mam Lorraine.

I cried till my tears became dry and I surrendered, I allowed them to do everything they wanted to do to me.

They did all that all night long till it was the morning, I couldn't even walk properly the pain was unbearable. I went to our room and got into a shower, I wanted to wash away all the events of yesterday but who was I kidding I can never scrub away the pain that has build a home inside my heart.

Sindi: Get out of the shower now you are hurting yourself.

She picked me up and put me on my bed after drying my body.

Me: I just want to sleep I will lotion when I wake up.

She nods and leaves me to drown in my sorrows.

I'm sleeping and I hear them giggling coming to my room I know what's about to happen, I quickly wake up and try to lock my door but they are already inside the room.

Them: You think you can control us in our own house, Thando that's not going to happen and you better get used to it you stay here you pay.

Me: Please I don't like what you are doing to me I

can do anything besides this.

Them: You don't get to tell us what to do, so come.

I try running away but my feet are stuck on the floor

Sindi: Thando please wake up its just a dream.

I wake up sweating with my heart pounding, I hate Mam Lorraine she brought back all the nightmares that were buried at the back of my mind. It's been long since I had them but what they did to me yesterday is what made them come back.

Sindi: What did Mam Lorraine do to you sweetheart.

Me: She took me back into a place of darkness, into a place I thought I escaped.

Sindi: You know that I don't understand right?

Me: I hate her sis Sindi.

Sindi: I'm so sorry.

Me: The things they did to me even Mam Lorraine was there.

Sindi: What do you mean Mam Lorraine was there? Did she hurt you?

Me: Yes she did, there were three and five man.

Sindi: You mean Mam Lorraine also you know?

Me: Yes she did.

I was now crying because I never thought I would go through that again.

Sindi: I'm so sorry Thando.

Me: My aunt and her husband used to do that to me but I had convinced my mind that I had forgotten about it, I took all those thoughts and shoved them at the back of my mind but yesterday they resurfaced in high speed. I went back to that darkness and now I will never bury these thoughts.

Sindi: I don't even know what to say because there's nothing that I can say to make you feel better but I'm here for you.

I felt safe in her arms maybe it's because I miss my mother.

Sindi: Go to the kitchen and make some food Mam Lorraine is not here, I'm going to go to the mall and I will bring you some ointment to apply down there

okay.

Me: Okay thank you.

Sindi: Don't say anything to anyone or do something strange, the other girls report everything to Mam Lorraine.

I nodded, I have found a big sister in her I just hope she never change because you can never know, people change and they change to hurt the people close to them.

I woke up and wore my gown then headed to the kitchen, some girls were watching television and some were sniffing on some cocaine I wonder if Mam Lorraine is the one supplying them with drugs.

I got to the kitchen and the fridge and all the cupboards were locked.

Lady: Hey you looking for food?

Me: Yes I didn't eat breakfast.

Lady: This is the first time this happens, I don't know why Mam Lorraine locked these things because she never locks them.

Me: Aii it's fine I will eat later.

Lady: Im Susan by the way.

Me: Thando.

I left her there because she seemed like the talkative type, she will just annoy me because I'm hungry and very angry because I know Mam Lorraine locked all those things for me since she saw that I didn't eat breakfast, this is starting to be personal I don't think she has ever been this harsh on the other girls.

I got into our room and tried sleeping but I kept on turning and tossing, and the fact that I was hungry wasn't helping either.

Sindi: Baby I'm back.

Me: I'm hungry sis Sindi I feel like I'm going to die.

Sindi: Don't worry Susan called me and told me that Mam Lorraine locked everything.

She said giving me fried chips, steak shops and bread.

Sindi: Slow down you are going to choke and die.

Me: Did Mam Lorraine ever lock the cupboards?

Sindi: No she has never done that we are all just shocked.

Me: I guess it's part of my punishment.

Sindi: She's being extreme now but eat okay you going to be fine, when you are done I will apply this ointment on your vagina.

The thought of her touching me down there sent chills down my spine, I don't want any woman to touch me there ever again.

Sindi: Hey I will never hurt you, if you are not comfortable with me applying it you can use a mirror and do it yourself.

I guess she saw that I kind of zoned out when she told me she will do it herself.

I ate while she went to smoke.

I wonder how long will I stay here? Will I be here for years like sis Sindi.

Sindi: We need to get you a phone.

Me: With what money?

Sindi: In this business you save for yourself, when you have clients you don't give Mam Lorraine all the money so that you will have some pocket money.

Me: Won't the client tell Mam Lorraine?

Sindi: The clients we find on the streets are ours unless Mam Lorraine organised them herself.

Me: How will I know she organised them herself?

Sindi: You ask your client they always tell the truth.

As we were speaking there was a knock at the door.

Sindi: Come in.

I was surprised to see Susan in our room.

Sindi: Thando Susan is my best friend in this house, she is the only one I trust so I need you to trust her too.

Me: Okay.

Susan: We need to get Thando out of here.

Sindi: We can't talk about that here, you know these walls have ears.

Me: Do you plan on getting me out of here?

I was a bit excited I can't wait.

Susan: Yes but not anytime soon because people are going to be suspicious.

Sindi: You don't talk to Susan like you know her Infront of the girls and you don't talk to me like you know me Infront of the girls.

I nodded at least I will get out of here even if it's not now but someday.

Susan: I have to go now before they start talking, see you guys later.

Sindi: Okay bye friend.

Me: Do you trust her?

Sindi: With my life we have been through so much together, we came here at the same time and we have been friends since then but no one knows we are this close not even Mam Lorraine.

Me: Thank you for always looking out for me.

Sindi: It's okay I will take a nap now because late it's work time.

She said that sleeping, I watched her sleep and felt thankful to have someone like her.

I wonder if I will work tonight since I'm in pains maybe I will just sleep. I applied the cream and I couldn't help myself but cry when I saw how bruised my vagina was, it looked scary and it was swollen. After I finished my food I rolled my joint I needed a smoke in order to forget a little about yesterday.

I thought about the cocaine that I saw earlier maybe it does take your troubles and pain away, I fought the thoughts of craving for it but they kept on coming back. I'm not going to be a drug addict I said to myself but maybe it's the only thing that will make me do this job without worry.

I smoked my joint and it took me out of my misery for a while.

Sindi: You should stop smoking weed.

Me: When did you wake up?

Sindi: Just now.

Me: Did you ever use cocaine.

Sindi: Don't even think about it Thando.

Me: I'm just asking.

Sindi: No I have never used it, you see many girls here have died because of that cocaine and Mam Lorraine just dump their bodies in dump sites.

I wonder why is Mam Lorraine this cruel but I'm still thinking about that cocaine.

Me: Okay I promise I'm not going to take the cocaine.

Sindi: You better not, you will not be doing it for me but for yourself Thando.

Me: Yes I hear you sis Sindi.

A message came through her phone.

Sindi: Mam Lorraine is back and she needs us.

Me: Can she please die.

We both chuckled and went to the meeting, I know

she is going to say I should go to work even though I'm this bruised. I need to find a coping mechanisms which can be the cocaine I don't know.

Insert three

At the Khoza household in the surbuban area of Durban.

Khoza: I'm so proud of you, you have really done well for yourself.

Me: Thank you Baba.

Khoza: Your parents are so proud.

Me: I know Baba but I wish they were still alive.

Khoza: Me too but they are looking down on you.

Isipho: It's not fair that our parents died but that woman is still alive.

Khoza: No revenge Isi remember every...

Isipho: Every dog has its day I know you have been

saying that ever since they died and you are starting to sound like a broken record.

Me: Isipho apologize now.

She just got up and ran to her room.

Khoza: Leave her you know she is still upset she will cool down.

Me: You are too easy on Isi Baba I'm not going to let her disrespect you like this.

Khoza: Just leave her for now.

Me: If you say so but she is not off the hook.

Khoza: I know you are both stubborn just like my brother, Sbane no revenge and I mean it.

Me: I know Baba.

Khoza: When are you leaving?

Me: Friday night.

Khoza: Okay you have done very well for yourself Sbane please don't jeopardize all that.

Me: I won't Bhovungane.

Khoza: Okay I'm going out maybe I will sleep in the hotel I don't know.

Me: Are you going to catch some fish.

Khoza: Phuma kimi Sbani (Leave me alone).

We laughed and he went to the garage to get his car then left.

I got up and went to Isipho's room.

Me: Knock knock.

Isipho: Come in.

Me: Why did you talk to Baba like that?

Isipho: I'm sorry bhuti I was just angry.

Me: Did Baba kill our parents?

Isipho: Ofcos not.

Me: I know you are hurting but we all are even Baba but that doesn't give you a right to disrespect elders.

Isipho: I'm sorry bhuti I will apologize to Baba.

Me: Okay Angel I'm going on Friday what have you decided to do?

Isipho: I will stay here not at Res I can't leave the old man alone.

Me: Okay that's good.

Isipho: I heard you talking to bhuti Siphesihle the other day are you going to kill her?

Me: You eavesdrop my conversations now?

Isipho: No it's not like that bhuti I was just passing by then I heard you guys talking.

Me: I will do what I have to do Angel, please don't say anything to Baba about any of this.

Isipho: Okay promise me you won't die you will come back to us.

Me: I promise Isipho.

Isipho: Can I please sleep at a friends house today?

Me: When you say friends house you mean your boyfriend?

Isipho: Uhmm..

Me: Why are you shocked I know you have a boyfriend.

Isipho: Bhuti I'm sorry.

Me: Don't apologize Angel I know you are growing up.

Isipho: So you don't have a problem that I have a boyfriend.

Me: I do but it's fine, tell him to fetch you here I want to meet him.

Isipho: But bhuti...

Me: No buts.

Isipho: I hate you sometimes.

Me: We both know that's not true Angel.

I left her and went to my room called my friends to come over to the house, I have to leave with a perfect plan to avenge my parents death I can't risk getting caught or getting killed and I can't leave my little sister and Khoza. After a few minutes my friends arrived with some beers.

TJ: Hey man.

Me: Sho sho gents.

Sphe: Are you alone?

Me: Isi is not here I saw the way you have been looking at her, you know I will kill you right?

Sphe: I don't know what you are taking about.

Sims: Yeah right.

Me: Okay let's drop it for now so did you find him.

Sphe: Yes we did everything is in place.

TJ: Are you sure about this man.

Me: You know I am, there's no backing back now.

Sims: Good then.

Sphe: Uphi uKhoza?(Where is Khoza).

TJ: Busy with some lady I'm sure.

Me: You know him, he will never change.

We continued talking while drinking some beer.

Sphe: We need to go to the club man you are leaving soon so let's make the best of it.

TJ: True man let's go.

Me: Can we please wait a bit Isiphos boyfriend is picking her up so I want us to meet him and talk to him.

Sphe: I'm not going to meet that jerk he's probably going to break her heart.

Sims: Why are getting worked up about this.

Sphe: Just leave me alone, I'm leaving you will all meet me at the club.

Me: If you don't like Isipho you will stay and prove us wrong.

Sphe: Mxm.

He said sitting down, I have been noticing the way they look at each other but no friend of mine will date my sister.

We have been sitting here for a while now, Isipho comes downstairs with her overnight bag.

Isipho: Hey guys.

Them: Hey Angel.

Me: Is your boyfriend here.

Isipho: Yes bhuti he is outside.

Me: Tell him to get in.

Isipho: But bhuti...

Me: No buts Isi we talked about this.

She went out stomping her feet on the ground, she's acting childish but she has a boyfriend.

She came back with a white guy that looked a bit old.

Isipho: Brother's meet my boyfriend Nick, Baby these are my brother's TJ, Sims, Sphe and Sbani.

Nick: Nice to finally meet you guys.

TJ: Ave ngithukile (I'm so shocked).

Nick: Sorry what?

Me: Nothing nice to meet you man, you can wait for Isi outside.

We all fist bumped him and he got out.

Sims: Ngempela Angel (Really).

Isipho: What I love him.

Sphe: Please tell us when you have found a real

boyfriend not that white man.

Me: Go Isi will see you in the morning.

She left us all shocked.

TJ: Well I didn't see that coming.

Me: Neither did I.

Sphe: I don't trust him.

We looked at him and laughed.

Sims: Even if he was black you were not going to trust him.

Me: All I know is that no friend of mine will date my sister.

Sphe: Yeah yeah let's go.

We got into Sims car and left.

I'm Nkosinathi Sbanisamakhoza Khoza born and raised in Durban, I have a little sister Isipho who I love with my whole life and then I have Khoza who is my father's older brother and the only parent that we

are left with. My parents were killed three years back by a woman who wanted to marry my father by force, I still remember that day like it happened now even though she did not pull the trigger but she was there sitting on the couch, drinking my mother's wine while her men were raping my mother Infront of my father after that they shot them while me and Isi were watching. It took some time for Isi to be okay and for me to be okay, all I know is that I will find her and those man then kill them all.

My friends Siphesihle, TJ, Sims have been helping me out with a lot of information so I'm ready to go on my mission now.

Insert four

We got in the room a little bit later everyone had settled down waiting for us.

Mam Lorraine: What took you guys so long?

Sindi: Sorry Mam Lorraine.

She said looking at me I guess I was suppose to say

sorry too.

Me: Yes we are sorry Mam Lorraine.

I said it like I meant it but I didn't.

Mam Lorraine: Okay fine so today a few of you are going on the streets and some will remain here because I'm hosting some man.

She said pointing at those who were going to stay behind but I wasn't one of them. I was angry because sis Sindi was staying behind, I know Mam Lorraine did it intentionally I wonder what's her problem with me.

We left the lounge to get ready for the night.

Sindi: I'm sorry you are going on the streets tonight.

Me: It's fine sis Sindi it's my job.

Sindi: Are you sure you don't have any personal vendetta with Mam Lorraine?

Me: No I don't even know her.

Sindi: She seems to really hate you.

Me: I have noticed.

Sindi: Be careful on the streets tonight please.

Me: I will be careful.

We continued getting ready and I left for the streets.

I hoped that I get a client today because I will not stand Mam Lorraine's punishments they are torture to me. I waited and waited until I had lost all hope, I was about to go home when a car stopped Infront of me.

The driver: Hey gorgeous get in.

I didn't ask anything I just got inside the car, he also did not say anything he just drove to a nearby hotel.

The driver: Can I get you a drink or food?

Me: Can we get this over and done with please.

He told me he only has few hours so I should make them count, I did everything he wanted until it was time to leave.

The driver: That was amazing thank you, I'm Muzi by the way.

Me: Thando.

He gave me money and told me he will drop me off at the house.

Muzi: I hope you don't mind?

Me: No I don't we can go.

We left the hotel and he left me at the gate, I got in and went to sleep Sindi was already sleeping.

Sbani

I don't even know how I got home last night I was so wasted, I wake up and all the guys are sleeping next to me.

Me: Guys wake up.

TJ: How did we get here guys?

Me: I was also asking myself that majitha.

Sims: I remember requesting an Uber yesterday, we left the car at the parking lot.

Siphe: Im hungry guys.

Me: Go make food in the kitchen.

TJ: Let's all go make food because I won't be making food for anyone.

We all got out of bed and went to the kitchen we will bath later. There was a smell of food coming from the kitchen, trust Khoza with food he is so good.

Khoza: Boys you are awake?

Me: Yebo baba, when did you get home?

Khoza: Yesterday.

Siphe: It smells nice in here.

Khoza: You boys can sit down I will serve you because I know you are all tired.

We looked at each other the last time he talked like we ended being beaten up by him.

Sims: Is everything okay tayma?

Khoza: Everything is okay boy.

He said that whistling, something is wrong he can't beat us up because we were drunk we are old man now.

He dished up but we were afraid to eat because you

will know with this old man, but when he ate we all ate.

Khoza: Clear the dishes and come let's talk.

We washed the dishes and went to join him in the sitting room.

Khoza: So when were you going to tell that Isi has a boyfriend?

Me: You were not here when he came here yesterday.

Sims: And he seems harmless.

Siphe: He is white so I'm sure he will take care of her.

Khoza: First of all Isiphos boyfriend is not white and he seems a bit old.

TJ: But we met him yesterday, his name is Nick.

He took his tablet and showed us some pictures, I couldn't believe my eyes so Isi lied to me.

The photos showed her kissing her black boyfriend and some photos showed the four of them, her and her boyfriend and her friend and Nick. So Nick is just a friend I can't believe she fooled us like this.

Sims: We are sorry we really didn't know we will fix this.

Khoza: Fix it I don't want Isipho near that guy he is ugly and old.

He said that standing up and leaving.

Me: I can't believe this!

I'm so angry right now.

Siphe: Calm down.

I looked at him and just closed my mouth, we went to freshen up. When we were done there was a knock on my door.

Isipho: Bhuti I'm back.

Me: Okay.

Isipho: Aren't you happy to see me?

Sims: Let's go sit down Angel we need to talk.

We all went to sit down.

TJ: Who is your boyfriend?

She looked down.

Isipho: You met him yesterday.

Me: Isipho Khoza don't fuck with me.

She startled.

Siphe: When did you start lying.

She started crying.

Me: Isipho sula lezonyembezi(wipe those tears).

Isipho: I'm sorry bhuti.

Me: Don't be sorry tell me why did you lie.

Isipho: I knew you were not going to approve our relationship.

Sims: Why? Because he is old?

She looked down and kept quiet.

Me: Guys please give us some space.

They went outside.

Isipho: I'm sorry bhuti.

Me: Come sit next to me.

She came.

Me: You know I love you right?

She nodded.

Me: I will never hurt you or judge you but Isipho I'm not going to entertain these games of yours.

Isipho: I just didn't think you will like him.

Me: How old is he?

Isipho:32.

Me: Isipho I'm 28 years old.

She started crying again.

Me: Stop crying you are pissing me off.

TJ: Calm down man.

I don't even know when they got here.

Me: Tell them how old is your boyfriend.

Isipho: 32.

Siphe: What?

Sims: Go to your room Angel we will talk to you later.

Isipho: Please don't hurt him.

Me: Just go Isi I'm so disappointed in you.

She left.

Siphe: We need to get this guy we can't let him take advantage of Isipho.

Us: Mmmmm.

Siphe: Mxm.

I don't even know what to say and the fact that I'm leaving doesn't sit well with me, if Isipho is misbehaving now how will it be when I'm gone because I know Baba is always busy with every lady in this town.

Insert five

3 months later

I would be lying if I say these past few months have been great because they have been the worst days of my life. I have been working really hard and trying my best to save money, Sindi and Susan still have a

plan to get me out of here but it's not coming together.

Muzi has been paying Mam Lorraine big money to have me anytime he wants, I think they go way back with her because they are pretty close. He told Mam Lorraine he doesn't want to share me with anyone but she didn't agree because I still work on the streets. Today Muzi is hosting his friends at his place and I'm suppose to be going there with a few girls.

Sindi: Are you okay? you seem deeply in thoughts.

Me: I'm just tired sis Sindi.

Sindi: You know you don't have to do this if you are not feeling well.

Me: No I will be fine.

Sindi: If you are sure then it's fine, you should talk to Muzi about our plan he seems like he cares about you maybe he will help.

Me: I don't trust him have you seen how close he is with Mam Lorraine.

Sindi: We will never know maybe he can help.

Me: No sis Sindi I don't think so let's just leave it like this.

Sindi: You don't look okay Thando.

Me: I said I'm fine sis Sindi.

I said that walking away, sis Sindi means well I know that and I'm grateful but I don't want her to be in trouble because of me, she is so desperate in saving me and I know it's because she feels responsible for her little sister's death she wanted to save her but she failed.

Now she feels like she is failing me too, I have found a sister and a mother in her I don't want to lose her I would rather work here than let her risk her life.

Sindi: Thando open the door.

Me: I'm coming out now.

I got out of the bathroom.

Sindi: I'm sorry okay.

Me: You don't have to apologize it's fine, I have to

get ready it's getting late.

Sindi: Okay I will make you some food.

Yes we now cook for ourselves Mam Lorraine stopped providing food for us, she gives us two hundred Rand a month to buy food I don't even know what can you buy with a two hundred Rand what helps us is that we also save for ourselves.

Muzi delivered a dress for me in the morning that's what he does everyday when he wants my services, I wore the dress I was a bit uncomfortable because it only covered my buttocks I know I have been here for a long time now but I'm still uncomfortable with a lot of things.

Sindi: Thando you look stunning even though the dress is very short.

Me: Thank you sis Sindi I feel very beautiful but I'm a bit uncomfortable.

Sindi: Just relax so that you won't feel uncomfortable.

She said giving me my food, I sat down and ate.

Sindi: You have five minutes the other girls are waiting for you.

Me: I just wish you were coming too.

Sindi: You have to learn to go with other girls because I won't be always here.

She loves saying that, everyday she tells me she won't be always here it's like she's dying or something.

Me: I have to go now, see you in the morning.

Sindi: Be careful and don't do anything you don't want.

Me: Got you.

I said kissing her cheeks.

I went to the other girls and told them our driver is outside.

Muzi has a lot of money he says he is a business man but I don't trust him, he also said that he is not married because what he does is dangerous so he doesn't want trouble for his family.

I believe there is more to him than being a business man, the girls respect me now because the mighty Muzi likes me. When I asked them what's so special about him they just laughed and thought I was joking but I wasn't because I don't know anything about the guy.

Me: Girls we are here let's go inside.

They got out of the car excitedly I wish I could be them they seem to really enjoy this.

Joburg guys are handsome they are really hot but the problem is that they are cruel, I wonder what it's like to fall in love I don't think I will ever have that because I hate man and woman.

Muzi: You seem to be far away you have been standing there for a while now.

Me: I was waiting for you to come get me but you were still busy I suppose.

Muzi: You know I'm always busy come inside the party is not outside.

We both got inside, there were few people inside the

house very hot gentlemen but they all look shady.

Muzi: Can you tell your girls to entertain my friends and stop drinking my alcohol because that's not why they are here.

He said in a deep scary tone I always knew he was not as sweet as he portrays himself and I knew that a day will come where he will show his true colours.

I told the girls to do what they came here for and they did.

Things were going well and Muzi was happy because his business partners were also happy.

Muzi: I want us to try something new tonight because you are starting to bore me.

My jaw dropped I didn't expect him to say that.

Me: Anything you want you are paying after all.

Muzi: Have you had sex with other girls?

I swallowed hard.

Me: Uhm... I..

Muzi: A simple yes or no would do.

Me: No.

Muzi: I guess this will be your first time.

Me: The problem is that I'm not really comfortable with that.

Muzi: Do I look like I care.

Okay whatever Muzi smoked today it's messing with his mind, we discussed this a long time ago.

Me: We agreed that I will never sleep with any girls.

Muzi: I make the rules here have you forgotten.

Me: Okay fine can we get down to it.

Muzi: Go to my room we will find you there.

I walked to his room and waited as much as I hate this but I prefer sleeping with every men than sleeping with girls.

He walked in with a lady I didn't know which means she is not working for Mam Lorraine.

Muzi: I'm going to sit down and watch while you

guys do your thing.

I didn't say anything I just stripped naked.

Lady: She looks fresh I think I'm going to enjoy this.

Muzi: I told you to trust me.

When she touched me I let my tears flow.

Lady: She doesn't like this Muzi I can't do it.

Muzi: She doesn't have to like it just do anything you want to her.

Lady: No I'm not traumatising the poor girl I'm done here.

She got off the bed while she was getting dressed
Muzi slapped her so hard that she fell.

Me: Muzi you are hurting her please.

Muzi: Shut the fuck up Thando I'm still coming to you.

He dragged her outside and locked the door.

Muzi: Lie down.

I did as instructed and I have never been hurt like

that Muzi was realising all his stress and anger on me.

Muzi: Don't you ever disrespect me like that you hear me.

Me: Yes I'm sorry.

Muzi: Now get up and leave I want to sleep.

Me: And the money.

Muzi: Money for what don't fuck with me Thando, get out.

He roared, I always thought Mam Lorraine was cruel but Muzi seems just like her that's why they get along so well.

I went to freshen up in the bathroom and wore my dress, Muzi was already sleeping I thought about stealing his money because he didn't pay me but I decided against it I don't want to be in trouble.

Guy: Hey

Me: You scared me man what the heck.

Guy: Hey calm down.

Me: Don't touch me.

Guy: Are you okay?

Me: Yes I'm fine.

Guy: But you are crying.

I touched my eyes I didn't even notice that I was crying.

Guy: Boss told me to drop you off.

Me: Okay we can go.

We went outside and got into the car.

Guy: So what's your name?

Me: Thandolwethu.

Guy: The lady that the boss kicked out told me what happened there.

Me: It doesn't matter.

Guy: It does, he doesn't have to abuse you like that.

Me: It's my job.

Guy: Your job is to do something you don't want?

Me: Just shut the fuck up you don't know anything about me or about my job either.

He shrugged his shoulders.

Guy: Fine.

I know this guy is new because Muzi had another right hand man but now it's this one.

His very hot, dark skinned with a great body and big brown eyes.

Guy: You can look at me directly I don't bite you know.

Me: Mxm, can you please drive a little bit faster.

Guy: I don't want to die im still young.

I remembered that Muzi did not give me any money.

Me: Uhmhhh.

Guy: What?

Me: I need money since your boss didn't pay me.

Guy: How much?

Me:R2000.

Guy: Okay.

Me: Just like that.

Guy: Yes not everyone is cruel.

Me: Uhmhhh thank you.

Guy: We are here.

Me: Thank you for dropping me off, I didn't get your name.

Guy: Some other time bye.

I got off the car and watched him drive, I counted the money and there was a note written " Wena Ungowam" and then " I also hate him".

Okay maybe he gave it to me by mistake because it was in between the money, I will have to give it back to him when I see him again.

I got inside the house and sis Sindi was still awake.

Sindi: You home early?

Me: Yes the party was over early.

Sindi: Are you okay?

Me: Yes I'm fine.

Sindi: Okay let's sleep then.

Me: Goodnight.

I read the note again and slept.

Insert six

Sindi

I know you all can think I'm crazy or what but I really want to help Thando, I have been here long enough to know that this job can damage you while you act like everything is okay. Thando is still young to be here I want her to do better than me, she can still heal and go on with her life.

I woke up got ready and wrote Thando a note then left, yesterday night I stole Muzi's number from Thando's phone I want to talk to him about helping Thando escape this hole hell.

I sent him a message and he agreed that we meet at

a close by cafe but I opted for his house because the cafe was close to where we stay, Mam Lorraine may see me or one of the girls may see me.

I took an Uber to his house and it dropped me off outside, he is got a really beautiful big house.

Muzi: You must be Sindi let's go inside.

Me: Thank you.

There was another guy inside the house a very handsome guy.

Muzi: I will be back this guy will keep you company.

Me: Okay.

The other guy got up and went to the kitchen.

Guy: Here is something to drink.

Me: Thank you.

After drinking the drink I felt a bit funny.

Me: What did you do to me?

Guy: You are messing up everything.

He then lifted me up then lights out.

Sbani

I'm the guy who works for Muzi he doesn't know who I am but I know everything about him and he trusts me with everything. When I first came here he had another right hand who betrayed him, he told me to kill him but I did not I told him to skip the country for a while.

He started trusting me after believing that I killed that guy.

I still remember his face, Muzi is the one who shot my parents he was busy laughing and enjoying every moment of it. I'm here to get my revenge, then there's Thando my love at first sight yesterday was not the first I was seeing her I have been to their house before. That woman doesn't remember me at all, the reason why I just drugged Sindi is because she trusted a wrong guy.

Muzi: Where is Sindi?

Me: She rushed out saying she had to attend to something important.

Muzi: Okay maybe she will come back some other time, I'm leaving now will see you when I come back.

Me: Should man.

I escorted him till he was outside then got back to the house, I went to my room then woke Sindi up.

Sindi: You bastard what did you do to me.

Me: Hayi kahle idrama Sindi(Stop being dramatic).

Sindi: I need to talk to Muzi it's important.

Me: Are you sure you want to discuss your business with Muzi.

Sindi: Yes I trust him and this is not about me but about Thando.

Me: Does Thando support your idea of being here?

She looked down.

Me: She doesn't know you are here?

Sindi: Look she doesn't know but I'm doing all this

for her.

Me: Whatever you are doing don't involve Muzi, he is working with woman.

Sindi: Why should I trust you?

Me: Angishongo ukuthi ngethembe mina (I didn't say trust me).

Sindi: Okay what should I do now.

Me: Tell me why you were here.

Sindi: What if you the who is working for that woman.

Me: Then it's fine you can wait for Muzi he will be back later.

I said attempting to get up.

Sindi: Okay please sit down, I'm trying to help Thando get out of that place and quit that job. She has been here for a short time than I have but she has been through things that I haven't experienced since I came here. Muzi seemed to really care for her, she told me she doesn't trust him but I wanted to help her so much that I ignored all that she said. I really want to save her she is still young to be doing

this.

Me: I hear you I will try my best to help you, I'm also here on my own terms.

Sindi: Thank you so much.

Me: You have to go now and please be careful, I know you mean well but don't trust easily.

She called an Uber and went back to the house I just hope Muzi will not ask that woman about Sindi because they will hurt her I know.

I miss home so much, uKhoza still doesn't know why I'm here he thinks I'm working I know he will find out eventually but till then I'm not saying anything.

Sindi

I don't even know the name of the guy who helped me, I almost sabotaged everything by talking to Muzi. So this Muzi guy is working with Mam Lorraine I wonder what they do together, I get into the house and the girls are watching television and some are

sniffing on some cocaine it's what they do everyday.

I don't see Thando anywhere, when I open my door she jumps on me.

Me: Hey I'm back now.

Thando: I thought something happened to you, why did you talk to Muzi?

Me: I didn't some guy there helped me he told me not to talk to Muzi because he is working with Mam Lorraine.

Thando: I'm glad I was so worried I thought you were with Susan since she is dead I thought you also died.

My mind stopped working for a while.

Me: Woaw Thando slow down what do you mean Susan is dead?

Thando: Mam Lorraine must have found out about our plan I don't know sis Sindi but she is dead, someone pushed her down the stairs.

Me: We are fucked if that woman knows about our plan then we are fucked.

Thando: The other girls say that Mam Lorraine tried sleeping with her but Susan didn't want to so they fought until she shoved her down the stairs.

Me: Do you believe any of that?

Thando: No I don't.

Me: Let's just calm down I'm sure she doesn't know anything.

Thando: I hope so sis Sindi.

Me: Where is Susan's body?

Thando: Some man took her I don't know where.

Me: I hate it here.

Thando: Will we be safe sis Sindi?

Me: We will baby.

I was saying it to make her feel better but I know this is a beginning of trouble, you may never know what Mam Lorraine knows or don't know.

I can't believe Susan is dead, I don't even know how to feel this is just sad very sad. Susan had no one except for me now her body is going to be dumped

somewhere.

As I was still deep in my thoughts a message came through from Mam Lorraine it said she needs to see me soon.

My heart skipped a bit.

Thando: Are you okay sis Sindi?

Me: Mam Lorraine wants to see me.

Thando: God she knows I swear.

Me: Don't worry I will be okay.

Insert seven

Isipho

Me: Baby I'm sorry okay but I didn't do it.

Sthe: Don't fuck with me Isipho.

Sthe is my boyfriend he is very manipulative and abusive, when he started hitting me I wanted to tell my brother but I didn't. The fact that I lied and

introduced Nick as my boyfriend is hard because if I didn't maybe they would have seen that he is abusive.

I have been tolerating his behaviour for long I'm tired now.

Me: I'm not your punching bag Sthe.

Sthe: What are you going to do? Hit me?

Me: No but I'm ending this relationship.

I have been ending it everyday but I go back to him Khoza is away on some business, he would have seen that I'm not okay by now because I have lost weight.

Sthe: You have been saying that everyday but I'm your addiction.

Me: I mean it Sthe it's over.

I half shouted, he slapped me.

Sthe: You don't get to shout at me, uyangizwa (do you hear me).

Me: I don't want to be in this relationship anymore.

He looked at me and took off his belt, he beat me up so bad he was even kicking me after he forced himself on me and left leaving me to die.

I crawled to my phone and dialled bhuti Sims number.

Sims: Angel.

Me: Bhuti help me.

Sims: What's going on and where are you?

I dropped the phone and sent him my location after that lights out for me.

I woke up and I'm in hospital I can feel someone pacing up and down.

Sims: Sphe can you sit down.

Sphe: How can he hurt her like that?

I cleared my throat and they jumped looking my way.

TJ: How are you feeling?

Me: In pain but I will live.

Sphe: When did he start hitting you Isipho?

Me: It was the first time today.

I lied because I know they will be pissed.

Sphe: Isipho.

He has that strong and demanding voice.

I kept quiet.

TJ: Talk before we make you talk.

Still I kept quiet and cried.

Sims: The doctor told us that it was not the first because you have so many bruises in your body, Isipho why didn't you tell us?

Me: I thought maybe I was the one who was wrong and that maybe he was going to change.

TJ: Do you know that woman die in the hands of a man who they thought will change, do you know that they tolerate abuse because their man manipulate them into thinking that they hit them because it's their fault. Do you want to fall under that statistic?

I nodded my head no.

Sims: We are your brother's we love you and it's our

job to protect you Angel, Sbani left you in our care. When did you start lying first you didn't want us to meet him now you keep quiet about his abuse.

Me: I'm sorry please don't tell Sbani.

Sphe: Okay we won't tell him but you need to tell where to find your boyfriend?

Me: I don't know maybe he is at Nick's house.

TJ: Do you know that he raped you? Was it the first time?

Me: No it was not.

Sims: I thought you were still a virgin Isipho did he break your virginity in your own will?

Me: No he forced himself on me.

Sphe: Wathula Isipho (and you kept quiet)are you out of your mind.

He was so angry veins were popping in his forehead.

I just cried I didn't even know what to say my brother is going to be do disappointed.

Sphe: I'm sorry I shouted but you should have told us

earlier you know Khoza is going to punish us for all this and we have to tell Sbani.

Sims: We will come check you later.

They left after few minutes my brother called.

Me: Bhuti.

Sbani: Are you okay Angel.

Me: I'm fine just a few bruises.

Sbani: Why didn't you tell me?

Me: I didn't want to worry you.

Sbani: Have I complained before?

I don't like the way he is calm.

Me: No Bhuti I'm sorry.

Sbani: Okay speed recovery I love you okay.

Me: I love you too Bhuti.

I don't know how to feel after this phone call because I know my brother can come back because of this.

Sbani

Isipho is kind but not stupid I don't know what this boyfriend of hers did to her but for her to hide this kind of thing from me says a lot about her. All I know is that this boyfriend of hers is going to pay, I can't leave because I'm still busy this side but I know my friends will do something about this.

My phone rings and it's TJ.

Me: Found anything yet?

TJ: We found a lot of information about him but the problem is we can't find him.

Me: What do you mean you can't find him?

TJ: It's like he has disappeared and there are lot of cases about his abuse and rape.

Me: Keep looking bafo you need to find him before he does this to someone else.

TJ: Yeah will do, how are things that side?

Me: There are complications but it's fine.

TJ: Be safe bro we still have to deal with Khoza you know it's going to be bad.

Me: I'm sorry bros.

TJ: Talk later man.

Me: Sho bafo.

I wonder what business trip did Khoza go to I don't trust him maybe he knows why I'm here.

I'm worried about Thando I know Muzi doesn't care about her he is just using her, I hope I get to save her some day.

Muzi: Hey man.

Me: Sho.

Muzi: Ogrend?

Me: Just a headache but I will be fine.

Muzi: I need to go that woman needs to know why Sindi was here.

Me: Why do you always do everything she says, you are practically her puppet.

Muzi: Do you think so.

Me: I know so why don't you just sit down and relax.

Muzi: She is my boss but you are right.

Me: So when did you start working for her?

Muzi: It's been years we have done scary things together.

I fake chuckled.

Me: What kind of things man I love scary things.

Muzi: I'm telling you because it's you we once went to Durban and killed people there, there were children and we killed their parents right in front of them.

I felt my palms sweating.

Me: Don't you feel sorry for those children?

Muzi: No I never feel sorry as long as I get paid.

Me: Yeah that's what a man do.

I lied I wanted to shoot him right away but I have to thread carefully.

Me: Excuse me I will be back.

He nodded I went to the toilet and cried, I was trying to calm myself down or I will explode from anger. I can't believe he feels no remorse for killing our parents, I know I'm not a bad person but I feel like killing his family too.

After I was calm I got back to the lounge.

Muzi: Sure you okay man.

Me: Shocase bafo.

My phone beeped a message from Khoza.

"Get here tomorrow or I'm fetching you myself."

Insert eight

As sis Sindi closes the door I'm left pacing up and down, I'm so worried about her what if this woman knows everything. I'm more scared because Susan is already dead we may never know why she died exactly, sis Sindi may also be in danger and she can be killed just like that. Mam Lorraine didn't even tell us that Susan is dead she kept quiet and expected

us to continue working like nothing happened given a chance I will kill her with my bare hands.

I hear the door handle which means someone is coming in, I see sis Sindi and run to hug her.

Sindi: Woaw you going to break my bones.

Me: I'm sorry I'm just happy to see you.

Sindi: It's been five minutes since I left.

Me: I was just worried that's all so what did she say.

Sindi: Nothing because Muzi didn't come.

Me: That's a good thing right?

Sindi:I don't know baby maybe he will come by later.

Me: I just hope he doesn't come.

Sindi: Me too but we need to act fast.

Me: No sis Sindi we should drop this before any of us die, Susan is dead already and we don't know why maybe Mam Lorraine knows everything.

Sindi: We will be careful.

Me: No I know you mean well and I'm grateful trust

me I am but this is not good, you have become so obsessed with saving me that you have forgotten that Mam Lorraine is dangerous. I know you feel responsible for your sister's death but...

Sindi: Leave my sister out of this.

Me: It's true sis Sindi it was not your fault that she died and it's definitely not your fault that I am here, stop risking your life for me if I will die then so be it.

Sindi: You are so ungrateful and it's your fault that Susan died.

Me: Yes you are right it's my fault and I'm sorry that your friend died because of me.

Sindi: Thando that came out wrong I didn't mean it.

Me: It's fine I know that's exactly how you feel.

Sindi: Uhm... Thando...

Me: I need some air.

Sindi: Thando.

I left her there and walked outside I didn't even know where I was going. When I was outside I ran, I didn't

know where I was running to but I kept on running hoping to escape all my troubles.

I heard a loud sound like a car hooting.

Guy: Are you crazy? Are you trying to kill yourself.

Me: I'm sorry I didn't notice I was in the middle of the road.

Guy: Ofcos you didn't.

Me: I'm sorry.

Guy: Thando.

I looked at him and it was him the guy that works for Muzi.

Guy: Were you really trying to kill yourself?

Me: No but I would be glad if I did.

Guy: Get in let me take you somewhere I see you have been crying.

I kept quiet and got inside the car, I didn't even ask where we are going I just needed to be away from everything.

Soft music was playing inside his car, I know I have said this before but this guy is handsome God really took his time with him.

Guy: You know staring at a person is rude especially if you have big eyes Thandolwami.

Me: It's Thandolwethu and my eyes are not as big as yours.

Guy: You wish, how old are you?

Me: I'm 22.

Guy: Oh.

Seems like he knows that I'm lying because I'm not really 22.

Guy: And we are here.

He says after parking in front of a hotel.

Me: I'm not on duty why didn't you tell me that you need my services.

Guy: Mxm are you coming or not.

Me: Ummm Ofcos.

I got out of the car and we went inside, these hotels are fancy and always clean.

Guy: You can go in and wait for me inside I will be back.

Me: Why?

Guy: Just trust me.

He left and I sat on the bed and waited, I wonder how it's like to be in a relationship with someone who loves you dearly and cares for you.

Guy: I'm back.

He was carrying food and drinks.

Me: You never told me your name.

Guy: Just call me hubby.

Me: I'm sure that's not your name.

Guy: It is to you only Thandolwami.

I rolled my eyes and he laughed.

Guy: Let's sit down and eat so that you can tell me why you were running.

We ate while laughing and talking, I ended up crying.

Guy: Why are you crying.

Me: I'm just not used to being this happy you know, I just feel free and safe.

Guy: I'm glad I make you feel that way now stop crying and enjoy the moment.

He wiped my tears with his thumb, his hands are soft I know what you all think.

We continued talking more and more.

Me: You know I had dreams big dreams I wanted to be something great, help people who were raped like I was.

I continued telling him everything about my life from the past till now.

Guy: I'm so sorry Thandolwami, come here.

I layed on his chest and he comforted me, we were disturbed by his phone ringing.

Me: Your phone is ringing.

Guy: I know I'm ignoring it, it's my father he wants

me to go home.

Me: Just go maybe he needs you, I also wish I had a home I wouldn't be here.

Guy: Come with me, I know it's crazy but come with me. I will leave you home then come back here to finish my mission.

Me: What mission?

Guy: It's something that has to do with your boss lady and Muzi but I can't go into details right now... I have to go so are you coming with me.

Me: No I can't leave sis Sindi there but thank you for carrying.

Guy: Are you sure?

Me: Yes I am let's go.

We took the snacks and left, he dropped me off and left.

Sbani

I dropped Thando off and left I had already booked my flight home, I don't feel good about leaving Thando here I don't know why but I have a bad feeling about something. I love her and I'm going to get her out of there, I can't believe my future wife is a hooker.

My flight departed and after a few hours I'm in Durban, I told my friends to come get me.

Me: Gents.

Sphe: Are you okay?

Me: I'm fine.

Sims: Why are you back?

Me: Don't tell me you also don't know why I'm here.

TJ: No we don't.

Me: I wonder why.

We got into the car and then left.

Khoza: Boys you are here.

Me: Yes baba.

Khoza: Good how's work Sbani?

Me: Great Baba.

Khoza: Okay that's good, I told you to come back so you can also help us in finding your sisters boyfriend.

Me: I still can't believe Isi didn't tell us that she was being abused.

Khoza: All woman stay hoping and praying for their man to change everyday but they end up dead, I feel responsible you know, you trusted me to take care of your sister and I failed.

Sims: It's not your fault taima, don't worry we will find him.

Me: Yes somthola Baba(we will find him).

Sphe: We have been searching for him but he just disappeared this is frustrating.

Khoza: Especially for you since you like Isi.

We all looked at him.

Khoza: What?

TJ: Nothing baba.

We all laughed.

Khoza: It's the hospital.

He said answering a phone call.

Khoza: They are saying Isipho is missing, she was kidnapped.

Me: What? Let's go.

We all took our keys and left.

Insert nine

When I arrived at the house I went straight to our room and sis Sindi was not there, I felt my heart beating fast I don't know why. I went to the bathroom and rolled up a joint then smoked when it was half way through I heard a knock at the door.

Me: Come in.

Lady: Someone is here to fetch you.

Me: Fetch me to where?

Lady: Hayi Thando I don't know just come.

She gave me some attitude then left, I brushed my teeth then followed her.

There was a man waiting for me by the gate.

The man: Are you Thando?

Me: Yes I am.

The man: Get in the car we need to go.

Me: We need to go where I can't just leave with someone I don't know.

The man: You are a hooker you leave with different man everyday.

Me: Mxm I'm going back inside.

He told me to wait while he took out his phone and made a phone call.

The man: Here take.

Me: Hello.

Mam Lorraine: I sent that man to fetch you I don't have enough time.

Me: okay.

I got in the car then he drove till we got into an abandoned area.

The man: We are here.

Me: Why are we in a place like this?

The man: Hey I don't know I just follow orders now come let's go.

We walked to the building which looked old and dirty, when we got inside Mam Lorraine was sitting on a couch that was situated at the centre of a room sipping on her favourite wine.

Mam Lorraine: So Thando you think you are clever?

Me: I don't follow.

Mam Lorraine: Oh you will dear, come this side.

We went to another room and I couldn't believe my eyes.

Me: Sis Sindi no no.

Mam Lorraine: Hold her.

She said to her man, sis Sindi was tied up in chains and she was beaten up.

Sindi: I'm sorry Thando.

Mam Lorraine: So you and Susan tried to make plans for her to leave, you out of all people know Sindi that once I take you in you leave in a body bag.

Sindi: She doesn't belong here, she is still young.

Mam Lorraine: Well you are going to die for betraying me.

Me: No please I can do anything you want don't kill her please I beg you.

Sindi: Thando I'm sorry for what I said earlier I didn't mean it, you are a great person I'm happy and glad that I met you. I love you so much not because you remind me of my little sister but because you have become my sister, take care of yourself and don't ever stop trying to free yourself from this hell hole.

Mam Lorraine laughed out loud even Muzi was here behaving like a big boss.

Me: I forgive you and I love you too.

Mam Lorraine: Kill Sindi and Muzi take her to the other room we will keep her there until I find people

to traffic her.

Me: No please don't kill her you can kill me instead please.

Mam Lorraine nodded her head then another guy sliced sis Sindi's neck while I watched, her head flew across the room. I don't think I will ever be sane after seeing this, I screamed while Muzi dragged me outside.

Me: How could you let her do that I thought you cared for me.

Muzi: Care? I don't care about anyone else beside myself just stay here you will be fine.

There was a little bed I threw myself on it and cried my lungs out, I regretted not leaving with hubby.

Sbani

We got to the hospital running everyone was quite.

Me: Nurse nurse.

Nurse: You are miss Khoza's family?

Sims: Yes we are.

Nurse: Come this side.

We all walked to a ward I guess it was Isipho's ward there was a doctor and some securities there.

Khoza: Doctor what's going on.

Doctor: We don't know but we found this note.

I took the note and read it.

"She belongs to me and I will do whatever I want with her".

Sphe: What does it say man?

I gave it to him and then it kept on circulating around the room.

TJ: What the heck is this?

Khoza: Thanks doctor we will take care of this.

Doctor: We will also help we have contacted the police they are searching for her.

Me: Okay doc thanks.

Khoza: Let's go boys.

We all left and went back to the house.

Me: What are we going to do?

Sims: We need to calm down so that we can focus.

We all settled down and drank some beers.

Khoza: We need to find that white guy he may know where to find this Psycho.

TJ: I need a laptop.

Me: I will get it.

I went to my room and got the laptop then went back to the others.

Khoza: I need to contact my old friends.

Sims: This is not war tayma.

Khoza was in the military so he is skilled and got some resources.

Sphe: This is war.

He shouted.

Khoza: Are you crying?

We all laughed Sphe was so frustrated, while we were laughing my phone rang and it was Muzi.

Me: Hey man.

Muzi: Are you okay?

Me: Yeah I'm fine how are things there?

Muzi: Hectic man Sindi is dead and that girl Thando is locked up somewhere waiting to be shipped.

Me: Listen man I will call you later I need to go.

Muzi: Sho man.

I sighed out loud, how can this happen the people I care about are both in trouble.

Khoza: Sbani are you okay.

Me: No I'm not.

I sat down and burried my head in my hands and actually cried, for the first time in years I cried.

Insert ten

Sbani

Khoza: Son talk whats going on?

Everyone looked worried maybe they thought I had bad news about Isipho.

Sphe: Is it about Isipho?

Me: Yes... No eish.

TJ: Yini inkinga (what's the problem).

Me: I can't get into deep details right now but in Joburg I met this girl, I like her a lot the problem is that she is a prostitute and now she's in deep trouble.

Khoza: Haibo Sbanisamakhoza were there no other girls in Joburg.

Me: You don't understand it's not her choice to live the life she is living.

Sims: So what's the problem exactly maybe we can help.

I looked at Khoza because if I explain about how I met her then he will know why I'm in Joburg.

Khoza: I know everything don't look at me like that

because angiyi ndawo (I'm not going anywhere).

Me: Tayma I can explain.

Khoza: There's no time for that so what happened to this girl of yours.

I told them everything that has happened since I went to Joburg.

Khoza: So now you want to risk your life because you like some girl.

Me: Yes baba I do but I can't do that with Isipho missing we first need to find her.

Sphe: Okay let's go talk to Nick.

Khoza: You boys go I need to go somewhere.

We all left the house and went to that white guy's house, when we got there they were in the sitting room with Isipho's friend. She is busy enjoying her life while her friend is missing.

Sims: Nick can we have a word.

Nick: How did you guys get here.

TJ: That's not important right now we need to know

where to find your friend.

Nick: Am I his keeper?

I punched him and his girlfriend jumped.

Me: You! you are busy licking your boyfriend while your friend is out there missing.

Isipho's friend: Isipho is missing oh my God.

She looked shocked for real maybe she was acting you can never trust these girls.

Sims: So Nick are you telling us where your friend is or we have to force you.

Umlungu had turned red from being nervous bloody coward.

Nick: You can all sit down so we can talk.

We sat down and explained what happened.

Nick: Look guys I didn't know he was sick like that we are not really best friends but we hang out together there and there only because our girlfriends are friends.

Me: Do you perhaps know where we can find him.

Nick: Not really.

Sphe: Are you sure man please think carefully.

Nick: I really don't know but maybe if we can go to his house we will find something.

Isipho's friend: Yes we are willing to help Bhuti Sbani.

TJ: Okay let's go.

We all left and went to his house which was not far from Nick's house.

When we got there we searched everything and found nothing when we were about to give up Sims told us to come and see.

There was a door which led to a basement.

Me: Isipho are you there?

I shouted while entering the room but she was not there.

Sphe: Guys check this out.

There were photos of different girls on the wall some looked tortured and some looked dead.

TJ: How sick is this guy.

Nick: I think I found something.

Me: What is it?

Nick: All these girls in these photos look like they were tortured in the same place look at these walls and the furniture inside.

Sims: Yes and this is not the place.

Me: I think if we find out where this place is then we will find where he is keeping Isipho.

Isipho's friend: This guy is sick look at this.

There was a photo of Isipho and her friend, her friend was the next target after he is done with Isipho.

TJ: Look at that bird in the window.

He was pointing at a photo.

Nick: Those are rare.

TJ: Yes if we can find where they are found then we can find the place.

We took the photo then left, when we arrived home Khoza was still not back TJ took his laptop and did his thing.

Me: What's taking so long bafo.

TJ: Guys book flights we are going to Mpumalanga.

Me: Can't we drive?

Khoza: No you can't Sbani you are in Durban and Mpumalanga is far.

Me: When did you get here.

Khoza: Just now I will organise a private jet so we can leave, ufunani umlungu lana (What is this white man doing here).

Nick: Ngizosiza nam(I'm here to help).

We all looked at him.

Khoza: Oh so you speak Zulu.

Nick: Yebo Baba.

Khoza: I will make a few calls in the meantime get ready.

I can't wait to see my little Angel I hope we find her.

Isipho

I don't even know what I saw in this guy why did I even decide to have a boyfriend, I don't know why bad things happen to us.

This lunatic came to the hospital and kidnapped me I haven't ate since he says he is not punishing me because he likes but because his mother did it to him too.

Nathi: Hey wake up.

Me: I want to go home.

Nathi: And leave me with no one you will never go home until I'm done with you.

Me: Are you going to kill me?

Nathi: Yes I'm going to kill you I have killed so many women because of what my mother did to me, you are all paying for her.

Me: What did your mother do exactly?

Nathi: You see my mother resented me soon after my father left her, she would touch me in inappropriate and force me to touch her back. She would make lick her pussy even if she was on periods, she hated me with every fibre in her bone. After she was tired of doing all those things she pimped me out to different man and they all raped while she was getting money from all my pain, I hated her so much and I vowed to make her pay but one day we woke up and she was dead just like that, she died peacefully in her sleep without paying for what she did to me. How can God be so unfair she was not suppose to die peacefully, I wanted to inflict the same pain she inflicted on me.

I didn't even know what to say I felt sorry for him I know you can think I'm crazy but it's not his fault that he turned out this way. I'm not saying what he is doing is right but his mother should have done things differently for him not to turn out like this.

Me: I'm so sorry you don't deserve anything that happened to you but why are you turning out like her.

Nathi: I'm not like that woman.

Me: Yes you are, you are exactly your mother's son.

I felt a hot slap across my face.

Me: Does that make you feel better? Just let me go I will say it was someone else who kidnapped me and I can help you, you need help not to go to prison because I know my brother will find me.

Nathi: I don't need help I'm fine and we are leaving in few hours before your brother finds you.

Me: Please don't do this don't let what your mother did to you control you.

Nathi: You know nothing about what that woman did to me so shut up.

He said leaving the room I saw it in his eyes the hate he has for his mother and I don't blame him I would also feel the same if I experienced what he went through. He needs help serious help, I hope and pray that my brother finds me before we leave this place I don't even know where we are.

Insert eleven

When the sun is out I know it's a new day and when it gets dark I know it's night time, no one has come to check out on me or to give me food.

I feel like I'm losing my mind I can't get what happened to sis Sindi out of my mind, for the first time today I get out of this tiny bed and go to the door hoping it's not locked. Lucky for me it's not locked, I opened it but it only led me to where sis Sindi was killed when I get inside her body is still there. I know there are traumatic things out there but this, this takes the cup a body without the head I look across the room and I don't see sis Sindi's head.

I continue checking around but it's not there where could it be, I sit next to her body and look at her.

Me: I don't even know how we got to a point where you die just like that, I have felt lonely and unloved for a long time since my parents died but you, you made me feel loved again. I'm sorry sis Sindi you didn't deserve to die like that, I brought death in your life and I will always blame myself for what

happened to you.

Muzi: It's not your fault you know.

I looked at him, I think he is a bit crazy he likes acting like a good guy but he is a monster himself.

Muzi: I didn't want any of this to happen but anything that gets me paid I do it.

Me: How do you sleep at night?

Muzi: I sleep just fine honey.

Me: Why are you here?

Muzi: Just to check up on you, we can never know I thought maybe you escaped.

Me: I don't even know where I am how can I escape, you are such a fool.

Muzi: You can call me whatever you like but next week you are going away.

I looked at him and he was smiling seems like he is enjoying this.

Me: Can I ask for a favour?

Muzi: Sure.

Me: Can I atleast bury sis Sindi's body.

Muzi: And where are you planning to do that?

Me: Even here I don't mind but her body is becoming very bad.

Muzi: My boys are going to help you with that.

Me: And I'm hungry.

Muzi: You also smell really bad for a cute girl like you.

Every time when I want to cry my tears are not there, ever since sis Sindi died I have not been crying I want to cry but my tears are not there.

Muzi: I need to go now.

He took out his phone and called one of his boys.

Guy: Boss.

Muzi: Where is that bread.

Guy: Here boss.

Muzi threw the bread on me and I caught it fast because I was hungry.

Me: This bread is rotten how do you expect me to eat it.

Muzi: I don't know make a plan sweetheart.

He turned to his guy and said...

Muzi: Help her bury that body then call me when you are done I will come get you.

He then left me with the guy.

Me: Please help me get out of here.

He just looked at me and dragged sis Sindi's body outside.

Guy: Are you coming or not?

I followed him outside and watched him digging sis Sindi's grave.

He then threw her body inside the grave.

Guy: Is there anything you want to say.

There's so much that I wanted to say but I had no words.

Me: No.

He finished then we got inside.

Me: Don't you have a conscience?

He looked at me.

Me: Im not saying feel sorry for me but please help me I'm begging you, I have been working here even though I didn't like the job but it is way better than being shipped away to some country you don't know.

Guy: Okay I don't want any trouble but come let me show you something.

We walked around and there was a room in the back.

Guy: No one has ever noticed this door so I'm going to open it and when the boss comes to fetch you will leave.

Me: Thank you so much.

Guy: I wish you the best of luck because this place is in the middle of nowhere even if you get out, I don't know where you will go because the road is very far from this place but when you get out of here keep running.

Me: Thank you, I think your boss is here.

I can't thank this man enough but he helped me a lot
I don't know where I will get the energy to do all this
but I will do it.

Muzi: Did you bury the body?

Me: Yes we did.

Muzi: Sure let's go man and you I want to do some
things to you but you stink.

I looked at him.

Muzi: Bye now see you on Monday.

I looked through the window and saw them leaving, I
took the rotten bread and ate. No matter how bad it
is I need the strength to do this.

Sbani

Our private jet just took off I feel like it's not moving
at all I just want to hold Isipho in my arms right now.

Sphe: Hey man we going to find her.

I just nodded my head and decided to call Muzi, I know I'm just adding my stress but I need to know how is Thando.

Muzi: Bafo how's home?

Me: All good my man how are things there?

Muzi: Pretty good man, I can't wait for this girl to go she is going to bring us so much money.

Me: How much did the buyer offer.

Muzi: 3million man.

Me: 3 million?

I kind of shouted that part, TJ signalled me to drop the call.

Muzi: Yes man look we will talk later I need to go.

He helped me because I was about to drop the call.

Me: Why did you tell me to drop the call.

TJ: I think I have a plan on how to get your girl back.

Me: Okay shoot.

TJ: They want to traffic the girl right?

I nodded.

TJ: So just talk to this Muzi guy, tell him that you found a buyer who is willing to pay atleast 8 million.

Sims: And then what will happen if they want the money.

TJ: Any of us can pretend to be the buyer but he would have to fly overseas so they won't hesitate to ship her. 3 million is a lot but 8 million is a lot lot of money so they will consider it then we will get your girl back.

Sphe: That's a good plan man.

Me: It is really but let's first get Isipho home.

Khoza: We are here boys let's go.

Isipho

I heard an aeroplane and I hoped those were my brother's.

Me: I told you to let me go because I knew they

would find me.

Nathi: I'm not going to jail.

Me: Looks like you are.

He paced up and down then took out his gun.

Nathi: I'm not going to jail for my mother's sins.

Me: Nathi you need help.

He pointed the gun in his head.

Me: Please no don't shoot yourself please I'm not going to open a case against you, I'm going to help you I promise I'm going to support you because I love you please Nathi.

Nathi: You know Isipho I really loved you, you were the first girl that I loved take care of yourself.

Me: Nathi please I love you too we can conquer this me and you baby please drop the gun.

Nathi: I can never live with what my mother did to me and what I have to all these other girls also to you, I'm sorry I really am.

He then pulled the trigger and I saw his brain fly

across the room, I have never screamed like that.

Sbani: Isipho Isipho!.

Me: This side bhuti.

I shouted, they got in running.

Sbani: We heard the gun shots oh Angel I thought he shot you.

He hugged me.

Me: Please untie me.

Sbani: Oh sorry I'm just happy to see you.

Sphe: We are really happy to see you.

Me: He killed himself.

Khoza: Good for him because I was going to shoot him myself.

I ran to him and threw myself on him.

Khoza: You are safe now don't cry.

Me: It was not his fault you know.

He removed me from his chest.

Khoza: Isipho.

Me: I know I sound crazy but it was not his fault.

Sbani: First you don't tell us you are being abused now you telling us it was not his fault, what is wrong with you Isipho?

Sims: Calm down man.

Sbani: Don't tell me to calm down we were worried sick about you and now you tell us this crap.

TJ: Let's get out of here and burn this place up.

Me: Please don't burn his body can we please bury him, I know you think I'm crazy but I'm not he doesn't deserve a proper burial I know but I want to give it to him. He died feeling unloved so I want to show him that what he went through was not his fault.

Sbani: That's not going to happen we are leaving him here come let's go.

I looked at khoza.

Me: Please Baba.

Khoza: This is crazy Isipho.

Me: I know Baba but please.

He looked at Sbani.

Sbani: Don't look at me I'm not involving myself with this madness, you shouldn't have called me to come and look for her. I left important things in Joburg to come and help you now you say this crap, you will all find me in the jet.

He walked out, I love my brother so much but I also need to this for my own closure I can't just let them burn him.

Khoza: Let's look for something to put him in then we take him with us.

TJ:Really? I'm with Sbani on this one this is madness.

He said leaving, the others helped and we left.

Insert twelve

Sbani

I don't understand Isipho sometimes it seems like

she is getting out of hand, I wish she was still young but now that she is growing up and doing all these things I don't understand her.

She almost died today that boyfriend of hers could have killed her but now he wants us to bury him, I don't understand any of this and I don't want to understand it then there's Baba who agrees with everything that she says.

We are now in the jet with everyone including this guy's body, seeing that Isipho is safe all I can think about is Thando, I have to do everything in my power to save her I can never forgive myself if anything happens to her.

Sims: Hey man we are here.

I'm even angry at them how can they allow this to happen atleast TJ was on my side.

Khoza: I got people to dig a grave in the cemetery and I organized a coffin so we can go.

Isipho: Can I clean him up.

Khoza: No I got people who are going to do that.

Isipho: Bhuti please come with us.

Me: If you don't want us to have trouble you will leave me alone, gents if you are done with this madness please come home I need to go back to Joburg ASAP.

Sims: Sho man.

They left me with TJ.

TJ: Let's do this call this guy.

I took out my phone and called Muzi.

Me: Can we talk.

Muzi: Sho.

Me: About that girl I found us a new buyer who is willing to pay atleast 8 million.

Muzi: What? Are you serious?

Me: Yes man I'm serious and you need to convince that woman that this is the best deal.

Muzi: Don't worry about that it's up to me, just make sure that the deal does not go away.

Me: Is the girl ready?

Muzi: I will call you after a few minutes man let me go check the girl out and get her ready.

Me: Okay I will be waiting for your call.

TJ: Let's hope this works out for the best man.

Me: I hope so too, I will be back I need to get something.

I went to get some weed from my room and checked up some cigarettes from Khoza's room.

I noticed the closet was open, I got closer and saw a silver suitcase in the closet.

I got curious and opened the case and I couldn't believe my eyes.

Me: TJ come check this out man.

TJ: What man I was making food I'm hungry.

Me: Look at this.

TJ: Are those guns?

Me: Yep looks like it.

TJ: Maybe it's nothing, tayma was in the military after all.

Me: I have a bad feeling about this.

TJ: You know all these years we have been friends I have learnt to trust your gut because it's always right so don't worry I will look into it just focus on getting your girl back.

Me: Okay if you say so let's go smoke.

I love weed and I believe it's healthy I don't see myself quitting it.

TJ got the food while I rolled a joint.

TJ: You should talk to Isipho you know find out what's going on with her.

Me: No man I don't want to talk to her, Isipho is just disrespectful and spoilt.

My phone rang.

Me: Is she ready?

Muzi: No we can't find her, we have searched everywhere for her man she escaped.

I got up and stood by the window Thando fucked up, why didn't she wait a little longer where will I find her now.

Me: What do you mean you can't find her.

Muzi: My man are still searching for her but she is gone.

Me: Find her.

I shouted and TJ whispered for me to calm down.

Me: I mean we can't lose so much money man please do your best.

Muzi: We will man will call you later.

I threw my phone across the room.

TJ: Sbani calm down man we will find her I promise, just calm down you will get in trouble with these people. You need to control your emotions because they will get suspicious please.

Me: I will try TJ but she jeopardised everything I don't think we will ever find her.

Khoza: Find who?

TJ: His girl escaped so our plan will not work unless they find her.

Khoza: Stop worrying about someone you don't know and fix things with your sister, you can't be busy worrying about some prostitute.

Me: What did you just say?

Sims: Sbani calm down.

Me: So I'm the one who is suppose to fix things with Isipho even though she was in the wrong,are you out of your mind?

Khoza: Heey watch your mouth.

Me: No you watch your mouth, I have done everything to make you happy and proud but now that I want to do me I'm being labelled as the bad guy.

Khoza: I didn't mean it like that.

Me: So tell me Khoza the guns in your room, what are they for?

Khoza: You searched my things.

Me: Yes I searched your things.

Khoza: I can explain.

Me: Don't! I need to go, TJ did you book my flight.

TJ: Yes bafo you are leaving in an hour.

Sphe: Why are you angry at us?

Khoza left I don't know where he went I hope he doesn't bring any danger in our lives.

Me: I'm not angry.

I went to my room and took a shower then packed a few things.

Isipho: Can I come in.

Me: Sure.

Isipho: I'm sorry Bhuti I don't like it when you are angry at me, you are my brother and I love you more than anything in this world. I'm sorry I didn't tell you that I was being abused and I'm sorry about the whole burial thing but I'm happy I did it believe me I am at peace. I promise to focus on school from now on and I wish you the best of luck on finding your girl.

Me: I love you too Angel but please don't be afraid to talk to me about anything I will always be here if you need me.

Isipho: I know Bhuti.

We hugged and she left leaving me to get ready.

Me: What's up with the bags guys.

Sims: We are also going with you so we can end this.

Me: Are you guys sure about this?

Sphe: Yes we are sure, we are brothers and we help each other out.

Me: We can't leave Isipho here and I don't trust Khoza what if he is into some shady dealings.

Sims: We can drop her off in my house, my mom is there.

Me: And they get along pretty well.

We all agreed then left, we dropped Isipho off then we went to the airport.

I got a call from Muzi.

Me: Talk to me.

Muzi: We still can't find the girl.

Me: I'm in a flight I will call you when I get there.

I drop the call.

Me: So guys what's the plan.

Sphe: You must really love this girl

Me: I like her but I also feel sorry for her she's been through a lot.

Sims: You also deserve the best man, so when we get there you will meet with Muzi while we search around the place.

TJ: I think it's best if we don't hide you will say we are your trusted man and that we are the best when it comes to searching people, he will believe you because he trusts you.

Sphe: Where do you get these great ideas?

TJ has always been the smartest one even when we were still in school.

Sims: He gets the ideas kulelikhanda lakhe elikhulu
(in his big head).

TJ: Yeah right.

We continued talking and planning everything.

Me: Sphe you have been smiling on your phone who
are you chatting with?

Sphe: No one hawu.

Me: I hope it's not Isipho because I will kill you.

The guys laughed.

Sphe: Mxm.

TJ: And we are here tell your friend to send you the
location.

Me: He sent it a while ago.

Sims: Today Muzi dies we will take care of the
woman later.

Sphe: I also agree what about you Sbani.

Me: I'm with you guys let's go.

We arrived at this place it is so far I don't even know how they find it, as soon as we get out of the car Muzi's man point us with guns.

Muzi: Who are these people?

Me: These are my men I trust them and they are good at what they do, start searching people.

Muzi instruct his men to stand down and start searching following my friends.

Me: So tell me what happened?

Muzi: I don't know we left Thando here yesterday but the back door was not locked so I guess she escaped.

Me: I'm sure she is not far and where could she go because this place is far from the road and the other side is just a forest.

Muzi: All I know is that we have to find her, she had not eaten for days I mean she can not run with an empty stomach.

He is saying all this without any sympathy in his face.

Me: Can you stay for days without eating?

Muzi: Ofcos not how can you even ask me that.

Me: Okay.

We sat down waiting for them to come back.

After an hour my phone rang.

Me: Helo.

Sphe: We found her but she is unconscious.

Muzi: Put the phone on loud speaker.

Me: I'm putting you on loud speaker.

I wanted him to know that Muzi was also listening.

Sphe: We can't find the girl, we have looked everywhere but we can't find her.

Me: Okay man sure.

Muzi: What do we do now?

I looked at him I want to shoot him but I don't want any blood in my hands, I think I need another plan because atleast now I have got Thando.

Me: We go I'm sure we will get another girl, I came to help I still need to go home.

Muzi: Thanks man for coming.

Muzi left first with his men.

Sims: Why did you change your mind about killing the guy?

Me: I'm not a killer but he will die one way or another.

TJ came with Thando, he was carrying her.

Sphe: We need to get her to the hospital.

Me: Let's go.

Thando looked pale with cracked lips and she smelt really bad, we rushed her to the hospital.

Insert thirteen

Sbani

We decided not to take Thando to the hospital in Joburg and took a flight back to Durban because they may decide to search for her in hospitals around Joburg. We just landed in Durban and we are

now going to the hospital, I carry her inside they attend to her immediately.

Sphe: She is going to be fine man don't worry atleast now we are out of Joburg.

TJ: Yeah atleast but we need to go back there and finish the mission soon.

Me: I'm just glad she is safe and guys thank you.

Sims: We got your back that's what brothers are for.

We waited for a few minutes then the nurse called us.

TJ: You can go man we will wait for you here.

I left and went to Thando's ward.

Me: Doc how is she?

Doc: She's fine just a bit dehydrated and she's needs to eat seems like it's been a while since she ate, as you can see she is still sleeping but will wake up anytime.

Me: Thanks doc.

The doctor left and I sat down looking at Thando,

she is beautiful I can't believe she went through so much pain at such a young age.

Thando: Someone once said "staring is rude especially if you have big eyes".

Me: Thando you are awake.

Thando: Yes where am I.

Me: You are in hospital in Durban.

Thando: How did I get here all I remember is trying to run away, how did you find me?

Me: That's not important right now what's important is that you are safe.

Thando: I don't even know how to thank you, thank you so much.

Me: It's only a pleasure Thandolwam.

Thando: So are you going to tell me your name now.

Me: Not yet just keep calling me hubby.

Thando: Okay hubby I'm hungry.

Me: I bet you are I will send one of my friends to buy

you something to eat while I go talk to the doctor.

Thando: Thank you.

I walked out and told my friends to go get some food.

Me: Doc do you have a minute.

Doc: Ofcos you can come in.

Me: So when will you discharge her.

Doc: I will keep her overnight you can come fetch her tomorrow around 10.

Me: Okay thank you doc so there are no other damages right?

Doc: No damages.

Me: Uhmm no STIs or any other diseases.

Doc: No she is totally clean.

Me: Okay doc thanks once again.

Doc: Just doing my job.

I walked out of the doctors office and went to Thando's ward, the guys were already in the ward laughing and talking.

Me: I see you have met these monkeys.

Thando: Yes I have.

Sims: So you are also agreeing that we are monkeys.

Thando: Me Uhmm no.

TJ: What are you saying beautiful?

Me: Beautiful? Hayi hayi TJ.

Sphe: Are you jealous.

Me: Mxm just leave guys.

Thando: No guys stay you are cool.

Sims: Did you hear that we are cool.

We continued talking while eating seems like we were all hungry and Thando is getting along well with my friends.

Me: I'm afraid we have to love and leave you now I will come fetch you tomorrow.

Thando: Okay goodnight guys.

We all left we were all just tired so we decided to just go home and sleep, I will fetch Isipho tomorrow.

TJ: Sbani vuka hawu(wake up).

Me: Don't tell me it's morning already.

TJ: Yes it's 8 o'clock.

Me: No man it can't be let me sleep for a few minutes I will be up just now.

Sims: You know if we let you sleep you can wake up tomorrow.

Me: Okay I'm up.

I woke up and took a shower then went downstairs.

Me: Guys you are eating cereal.

Sphe: Well we were lazy to make breakfast.

Me: I'm not eating cereal I will grab something on our way to Sims house.

TJ and Sphe have no family it's only us and Sims has a mother only, his father died when he was still young, so his mother is our mother as Khoza is the only father we all have. We have become one big family and I'm glad I have them.

Sims: I tried calling Isipho I wanted to tell her to get ready we will come fetch her but she is not picking up.

Sphe: You seem like you are panicking why?

Sims: I tried calling mom yesterday she did not pick up something is not right.

Me: Let's go.

I didn't want to overthink anything because I'm going to lose my mind, seems like we won't find peace anytime soon.

In a few minutes we were there we all got out of the car and ran inside.

Me: Isipho, mamzo.

Sims: They are not in here.

Sphe: I have checked everywhere they are not here.

TJ: And their phones are here so I can't trace them.

Me: Guys there's a note here and it's addressed to Khoza.

Sims: Why? What the heck is going on?

Sphe: Let's all calm down, we first need to find Khoza and find out what's going on.

TJ: Yeah I will contact him in the meantime Sbani go to the hospital and fetch Thando.

Me: Okay I will find you guys here.

If you can ask me what's going on through my mind right now I don't know, I can't imagine how Isipho is feeling right now after all that she went through and then this happens. I wonder what Khoza got himself into because now it's affecting all of us, I just hope it's not about those guns and he must pray that we find Isipho alive because if not I don't know what I will do to him.

I passed by the mall and got Thando some clothes I'm now in hospital.

Me: I see you are waiting for me.

Thando: Yes the doctor told me to wait.

Me: You can change I will wait for you outside.

I gave her clothes and got out, I'm really not in the mood for chitchats today.

She came out I can't lie she was looking so beautiful.

Thando: I'm ready we can go the doctor gave me this and told me to pass by the pharmacy and get these.

Me: Okay let's go.

Thando: Are you okay?

Me: Yes I'm fine.

We passed by the pharmacy and went to the car, I played music because I didn't want to talk.

Thando: Are you sure you okay?

Me: Thando please.

Thando: Okay I will keep quiet.

I drove to Sims house and Khoza's car was outside.

Me: And we are here we can go inside.

Thando: Hey guys.

Sphe: Hey Thando you good?

Thando: I'm okay.

No one was in the mood and Thando saw that so she kept quiet.

Me: So any news.

Sims: Khoza is still making some calls in the other room.

Me: Does he know anything about this.

Sphe: He knows everything about this.

Sims: Sorry Thando our mother and sister are missing so our minds are all over the place.

Thando: What? Hubby why didn't you tell me?

Sims: Hubby?

Thando: He told me to call him that because I don't know his name.

Me: TJ what's going on?

TJ: I'm trying to find them with the information Khoza gave me.

Khoza came back to the room.

Khoza: Son I know you are angry but I don't how this happened.

Me: What's going on tayma?

Khoza: So I once smuggled guns to Brazil it was just a once of thing so some high profile people found out, they told me to smuggle guns for them if not they will report me so I did. I was in the military I'm respected and I respect the law so I didn't want to go to jail hence I agreed, I told them I wanted out but they refused the guns you saw in my closet I was going to return them back to those people but they said I must smuggle them or give them the money they were going to get from the guns.

Me: So you refused?

Khoza: Yes I refused and they took your sister and mamzo.

Me: I don't understand I mean you have all the money and I take care of you, why did you become greedy?

Khoza: I don't know I'm sorry son.

TJ: Guys come check this out these people sent a video.

There was a video showing Isipho and mamzo tied up in chairs.

Khoza: I think I know where this place is.

Sims: Let's go them.

Me: We can't leave Thando here.

Sphe: Then let's go with her.

We all ran to our cars and left.

Insert fourteen

Few days later

We found hubby's sister and their mother and they are back home safe, I have been getting along very well with everyone even though I feel like I'm a burden. I don't know how long I will stay here maybe they are tired or they will get tired of me one day.

Isipho doesn't like me that much I don't know maybe I'm quick to judge, it's still awkward in the house because hubby is upset.

Isipho: Do you want to share what's on your mind.

Me: I would rather not.

Isipho: Im a good listener you know.

Me: I'm fine I just wonder how my life will turn out from now on.

Isipho: My brother loves you so I'm sure you will stay here for a little while.

Me: It's not like I have anywhere else to go.

Isipho: Did you finish matric?

Me: Yes I did.

Isipho: You know what I will try and apply for you in UKZN because I study there then you can study next year.

Okay why is she being nice.

Isipho: Maybe you are wondering why I'm being nice, I don't hate you Thando it's just that everyone has been in a bad space recently. I was kidnapped two times in a row and it's been very bad, I disappointed my brother and he feels betrayed by Khoza so it's been really bad.

Me: I'm sorry babe your brother will come around he is a good person.

Isipho: He is indeed his birthday is coming up I need your help.

Me: Okay I will help you.

Hubby entered the room.

Isipho: Let me excuse myself will see you later Thando.

Me: Hey are you okay?

Sbani: I guess.

Me: How do you really feel talking helps.

Sbani: So many things happened within a small period of time, my sister was abused and she buried the guy who almost killed her. And then Khoza I don't know what his problem is because he has everything he needs, I feel like I'm the eldest here and it's weighing me down.

Me: I'm sorry I don't even know what to say but be glad your sister is back and Khoza wants to make things right, don't shut them out especially your

sister she loves you and it seems like she learnt her lesson.

Sbani: Thank you I will try, I wanted to talk to you about something.

Me: Sho.

Sbani: I have organised therapy for you and Isipho, you need to talk about what happened to you so you can move on.

Me: I don't know.

Sbani: It's not up for debate you will go and I will monitor your every move.

Me: Okay uhmmm what about Joburg?

Sbani: What about it?

Me: When are we getting our revenge?

Sbani: We? Who is we?

This guy is kind of scary.

Me: Please don't do that.

Sbani: Do what?

Me: That scary face.

He laughed, gosh he's handsome.

Sbani: You think I'm handsome?

Me: Did I say that out loud?

Sbani: Yes you did.

I was so embarrassed.

Sbani: Don't be embarrassed it's not a crime to say your hubby is handsome.

Me: Mxm you are so full of yourself.

Sbani: Get ready we are going out the guys are already here.

Me: Is TJ here?

His eyes popped out.

Sbani: Don't start with me Thandolwam.

Me: I'm joking.

Sbani: It's not funny Thando.

Haibo this guy he was actually pissed he left then Isipho entered.

Isipho: I brought you something to wear, why is he so angry.

Me: He told me the guys are here then I asked him if TJ was here or not.

Isipho laughed.

Isipho: I see you want to kill my brother but I don't blame you have you seen how hot they are.

Me: They are extra hot .

We continued talking while I got ready Isipho was already dressed up, I'm trying by all means to feel safe and forget about a lot of things but it's hard. I think about sis Sindi everyday I may act like I'm fine but I want to go back to Joburg and kill mam Lorraine.

Isipho: You look beautiful Thando.

Me: Thank you, you also look great.

Sbani: Girls lets go.

We went downstairs and the guys whistled.

Sims: Damn Thando is that you?

Me: Yes it's me.

I said turning around.

Sphe: You look good Isipho.

Isipho: Thank you atleast someone noticed.

You can not miss the spark between Isipho and Sphe I wonder how will hubby react if they date, they would look really cute together but I doubt hubby will allow that he seems really strict.

Sbani: Are we going or not?

TJ: Hay man you are really grumpy these days why?

He just kept quiet we all followed him to the car.

Sbani

Thando looks really good and the guys are all enjoying her company I just don't want them around her especially TJ since Thando asked about him I'm uncomfortable.

And then there's Sphe and Isipho I don't know why they keep looking at each other like that because they will never be an item.

Thando: Come on cheer up you are really killing our spirit.

Me: I don't feel fine to be honest I don't know maybe I'm coming down with flue.

I have been feeling very weird these past few days I don't know what's wrong with me.

Thando: Maybe you should see a doctor.

Me: Yeah maybe I should, you look beautiful by the way.

Thando: Thank you hubby you don't look bad yourself.

Me: Thank you wifey.

Sims: Enough you two let's go eat I'm famished.

Sphe: Let's try out the shisanyama down the road.

Isipho: Let's go already.

We all left and got to the place.

Me: This place looks I don't know dirty.

TJ: Yoh we are going to die of hunger because of you and being a neat freak.

Thando: Let's go eat somewhere else then.

Isipho: Spur then.

Sphe: Yes let's go.

We all followed each other I wanted to laugh at them because they were so hungry.

We settled down and ordered.

Thando: It's him.

Me: Who?

Thando: It's him.

Me: Thando calm down who are you seing?

She got up from her seat and jumped at a man that was also in the restaurant.

Thando: You?

Isipho: Thando please calm down.

Man: Do I know you?

Thando: Is this some kind of a joke after all the things you did to me.

Me: Excuse me sir I'm sorry she must be mistaken, Thandolwam come let's get some air.

We went outside and went to the car.

Me: Are you calm now.

Thando: Yes I am.

Me: Who was that?

Thando: My uncle you know the one who used to abuse me that was him.

Me: I think he didn't recognise you but please next time try to calm down and handle things differently okay.

Thando: Okay.

Me: Let's go inside.

Thando: No I don't want go back in there but you can go back I will wait in the car.

Me: I will go get our food then call an Uber so we can leave.

She nodded it seems like there are many demons she still needs to face.

Insert fifteen

Sbani

Our Uber arrived and we went home, when we got there Khoza was not in the house so we settled down.

Me: Are you okay now?

Thando: Yes I'm fine I'm sorry about what happened earlier.

Me: No it's fine but you need to control yourself Thando because your past is still going to haunt you until you confront it and move on.

Thando: I know it's just that I never thought I would see him again I had this hope that maybe they died.

Me: Now that you know what do you want to do about it.

Thando: I want to pay them a visit but not now atleast when I feel ready.

Me: That's fine therapy is the first step.

Thando: Thank you, are you okay? You have been flinching like you are in pains.

To say the truth I have been in pains and I always feel an urge to pee all the time, my urine is a bit darker than usual.

Me: I have been feeling some pains in my lower abdomen but I will be fine.

Thando: Let me get you some water maybe your kidneys are dehydrated.

She got up and went to the kitchen I can't lie the pain is really there it can't be that my kidneys have a problem or can it?

Thando: Here drink you will feel better.

I drank the water and Thando finished her food that we bought at spur.

Thando: Are you not hungry?

Me: No I have no appetite.

Thando: But hubby you didn't eat.

Me: I'm fine I will eat later okay.

Thando: Okay.

Me: Come give me a kiss.

I thought she was going to hesitate but she didn't.

Me: Ouchh.

Thando: You are in pain why are you groaning?

Me: I'm going to be fine.

We continued kissing when it started heating up I pulled out.

Me: I love you but I want you to completely heal first before we persuade anything serious but if you feel like you are ready or maybe if you want to talk to me in order to heal it's fine I will always be here.

Thando: Thank you I love you too.

Me: I need to go to Joburg this week.

Thando: Don't you think it's dangerous maybe they

have figured out who you are.

Me: I don't care I need to do this for my parents and for my sister.

Thando: I also hate them especially Mam Lorraine and given a chance maybe I would kill her but babe do you really want their blood in your hands.

Me: Let's not talk about this Thandolwam please.

She lifted my t-shirt up.

Thando: Where is your pain exactly?

Me: Just around here.

She looked at me for a longest time and kept rounding her fingers around my birth mark.

Me: Thando.

She jumped.

Thando: Sorry uhmmm this birth mark I think I have seen it before.

Me: That's not possible because my father told me that only males around my family have this birth mark. My grandfather and his sons, which means it's

only Khoza and I who are left with it.

Thando: I don't know but I'm sure I have seen it before I just don't remember where.

I thought about what Thando was saying and wondered where she has seen this birth mark, maybe Khoza once went to Joburg and they had sex. I know Khoza sometimes sleeps with hookers no, no I hope it's not true.

Me: Maybe you will remember one day so what are your plans since you are now free to do whatever you want.

Thando: Isipho said she will apply for me in her school then I go back next year, the problem is that my documents are still in Joburg.

Me: Eish I will see what I do about that.

Thando: Okay but please don't put your life in danger.

I pulled her close to me and kissed her I'm becoming addicted to her lips they are soft.

Isipho: Get a room guys.

Me: Mxm why are you guys back?

Sphe: Aibo were we suppose to stay at the mall for the rest of the day.

Me: Whatever man, are you guys okay because I want us to go somewhere.

Sims: Let's go so Isipho are you going to fetch mamzo she said she's sleeping this side today.

Isipho: Yes Bhuti I will.

Me: See you guys later.

I wanted to tell the guys to accompany me to the doctor I'm really in pain.

TJ: So where do you want us to go muntu kaThando.

Me: The doctor.

They all looked at me.

Them: Why? Ogrend ntwana?

Me: Woaw I'm fine.

Sims: You can't tell us to drive to the doctor and tell us you are fine at the same time.

Me: Can we just go.

Sphe: You are worrying us.

I kept quiet and TJ drove very fast, we got to the doctor.

Doc: Majitha how can I help you?

Shawn is our doctor and we are friends.

Sphe: This moron here is sick and he doesn't want to tell us what's going on.

Doc: You know Sbani and being stubborn but for the fact that he came here means he is really in pain, talk to me.

I explained everything to him.

Doc: So do you feel pains on the both sides of your kidneys or just one.

Me: Both sides and as you can see it's a bit swollen.

I said lifting my t-shirt up.

Doc: This can't be good you should have come sooner Sbani, this means you may have kidney infections or kidney disease I will have to do some tests today and see what's wrong.

He did his thing the way the guys were looking at me I know they will attack me for being quite.

Doc: I will take these to the lab and I will give you some medication to take for now, excuse me for a second.

He left.

Sims: When did you start experience pain.

Me: Guys that's not important.

TJ: That's not important to who Sbanisamakhoza?

Okay when he calls me that it means he is pissed.

Sphe: How many times have we told you to stop acting tough but no you still do it.

Doc: I'm back.

You he actually saved me from all the lecture.

Doc: Take this don't drink it everyday only when you experience pain, come back Friday for your test results.

Me: Okay thanks Shawn my man.

Doc: If you experience severe pain before Friday please rush here.

If only he knew that I'm in deep pain even now but I don't like feeling helpless.

Sphe: We will make sure we monitor him, man thanks once again

Doc: Alright see you guys on Friday.

We went to the car.

TJ: Are you sure you not in deep pain because you can't even walk properly Sbani.

Me: I'm sorry I didn't tell you guys but I thought the pain would go away and I'm fine right now trust me.

Sims: Okay let's go then.

I nodded and TJ drove.

I can't be sick right now I still need to fix a lot of things I pray and hope that I won't be diagnosed with any disease I hate being sick.

Muzi

You guys know me already even though you don't know me at a personal level but you know I love money more than anything else in this world.

I don't have any family atleast not that I know off, my mother died a long time ago without even telling me who my father is. I have done so many bad things in my life but trust me I'm a good person sometimes I amaze myself when I feel sorry for a person, I got involved with Mam Lorraine a long time ago I once killed a family I know you guys already know about that.

I'm now on my way to Mam Lorraine's house I got a call that there was a shooting there, we tried looking for Thando but it's like she vanished into thin air. I really liked her if only I didn't listen to that woman she would still be here, I'm not a person who loves quickly but there was something about Thando that attracted me to her. I hope one day maybe when I have changed my ways I will find her if she is still alive and try to fix things.

I arrive at Mam Lorraine's house and rush to her room jumping bodies all the way up, I hope whoever did this won't come for me.

Me: What happened here.

Mam Lorraine: Muzi come closer.

Me: What's going on are you shot? We need to rush you to the hospital.

Mam Lorraine: No.

Me: What do you mean no? You are shot.

Mam Lorraine: Just shut up and listen.

I nodded my head and sat next to her as she was holding my hand.

Mam Lorraine: Your mother was my younger sister she fell in love with your father but when she got pregnant your father had already returned to work since he was in the military, they loved each and your father wanted to marry her but he was always busy. Your mother did not get the chance to tell your father about her pregnancy because I advised her not to, I did that because I was jealous of their love.

Your father never came back till your mother gave birth, when he came back I told your mother not to tell him that she was pregnant and she gave birth to you. I liked your father's brother but he rejected me so many times, when you were still young I poisoned your mother and she died, then you grew up and became the man you are today. The people I made you shoot in Durban were your family I'm so sorry Muzi please one day find it in your heart to forgive me, your father is still alive he was here he is the one who shot me and I told him everything.

My head was spinning I didn't even know what to say, if it was you what were you going to say? What do you say when someone says things like this, how do you react.

My hands were trembling.

Mam Lorraine: They will forgive you I told your father the truth that I have been using muti on you in order to do all the things you were doing, you are a good guy just like all the Khoza men I'm sorry son.

I took out my gun and shot her, I shot her until my

bullets were finished. I hate her so much why didnt she just die without telling me all these things, maybe I should just kill myself. I have a father who never knew about me, this woman was controlling me using umuti this means I was like a zombie or I am a zombie.

I don't cry I didn't even know I had tears till today, I cried so much and screamed. I went to my car took out petrol and burned the whole house down with all the people inside. I felt like I was out of breath, I got into my car and drove away to my mother's grave.

Insert sixteen

Narrated

Muzi kept driving around until he was at his mother's grave, he parked his car and got out tears streaming down his face.

He kneeled down.

Muzi: Mama.

That's the only thing that came out of his mouth, he sat down and layed his face on the grave there's so much he wanted to say but words failed him. His mother was everything to him she was the only thing that mattered he felt like Mam Lorraine loved him but after what she told him, he realised she never did and the fact that she was the one who killed his mother was killing him inside.

Muzi: I'm so sorry mama.

He got up and got back to his car and went to his house, he didn't know Sbani is a Khoza so he took out his phone and called him.

Muzi: Hey man.

Sbani: Howzit.

Muzi: Good man listen I need a favour.

Sbani: Shoot.

Muzi: I need to come to Durban and sort some things out.

Sbani: Okay it's fine, are things good there?

Muzi: No Mam Lorraine died today things are a mess

man.

Sbani: That sounds hectic man I will hear from you when you are this side.

Muzi: Sho man thanks.

Sbani: Correct.

Muzi wasn't sure on how to feel about wanting to meet his family and the fact that he was the one who killed some of the family members killed him but he was hoping that they forgive him, what he didn't know is that Sbani is the child of those people he killed and that they are cousins.

On the other side Isipho and Thando went to see a therapist today.

Isipho: I don't know how you want us to do it maybe you go first or what?

They were now in the doctors building.

Thando: If you don't mind it's fine we can get inside together.

They agreed and they got inside the doctors office.

Dr Williams: You can all sit down and be comfortable, you can sit on the couch or the floor wherever you are comfortable.

Isipho sat on the couch and Thando sat down between Isipho's legs.

Dr Williams: I'm Dr Williams and I will be your therapist from now on, are you guys sure that you are comfortable with each other on the same room.

They both agreed.

Dr Williams: Okay so let's begin, whoever wants to start can start.

Isipho: I will start if that's fine.

Thando and the doctor nodded.

Isipho: I think the problem started when I dated Nathi he was loving and handsome what attracted me to him is the fact that he made me laugh, I really loved the fact that I was always happy and free around him.

Dr Williams: Why did he change.

Isipho: I don't know really at first I thought I was doing something wrong but then I realized it had nothing to do with me, when he first hit me I apologized because I thought it was my fault because he told me I made him do it.

Dr Williams: What contributed to him hitting you.

Isipho: I hugged my high school friend who was a guy in the mall then when we got to his house he told me to never disrespect him like that then he hit me, then everything I did that he didn't like he would hit me and tell me it was my fault. I actually believed him because I let him control me, I was no longer inlove with him because I was afraid of him.

Dr Williams: Why didn't you leave?

Isipho: Because every time I tried to leave he convinced me not to, he actually convinced me that I still loved him and I believed him even though there was something inside me that told me he was manipulating me but I stayed anyway.

Dr Williams: Did you tell anyone about this?

Isipho: No I didn't and the reason is that I believed it

was all my fault so I thought if I told anyone else that person would blame me too.

Isipho was now crying and Thando was also crying.

Dr Williams: I think we will have to continue tomorrow that's enough for today but I want to assure you Isi that it was never your fault, most abusive man are manipulative and they make you do whatever they want. Most women stay hoping things will eventually get better some stay because they believe it's their fault. That's why we have woman who die everyday in the hands of man who once claimed to love them.

They nodded and prepared to leave.

Sbani received a call from his doctor and rushed there alone because he didn't want his family to know what was wrong.

Dr: Sbani my man.

Sbani: Shawn what's up.

Dr: I see you came alone today.

Sbani nodded but Shawn knew that he came alone because he was afraid of the results and didn't want his family to know.

Dr: Okay let's go to my office.

They followed each other to Shawn's office.

Sbani: So what do you have for me?

Dr: I'm afraid it's bad news Sbani.

Sbani: Just tell me already.

Dr: You have a kidney disease your kidneys are failing and the bad thing about it is that both of them are failing.

Sbani: What does that mean.

Dr: It means we have to get a donor for you as soon as possible because your kidneys are failing and it's bad man, I will transfer you to the hospital and we take it from there.

Sbani: I must go to the hospital now?

Dr: I can give you two days to maybe get a second opinion and tell your family.

Sbani: Thanks man I need to go.

Dr: Sbani.

He got up and left, Shawn took out his phone and called Sphe to tell him everything because he knew Sbani was not going to say anything to them.

Insert seventeen

We were all just chilling in the house only hubby and Sphe were not here even Khoza was here, I never thought that one day I would be part of a big loving family like this one. They have their problems but I think every family experience problems there and there.

We going back to a therapist tomorrow and I can't wait after hearing Isipho talking like that pouring her heart out made me want to tell my story.

Khoza was discussing something with the guys and it looked serious, I was just missing hubby he left a while ago and he hasn't returned home. Sims mother is a great person and she is trying so hard to be

there for all of us, she is just great.

Sphe came to the house running he closed the door behind him and looked around then ran to hubby's room.

Mamzo: Hayi Sphehlehle what's wrong?

Sphe: Where is Sbani?

Everyone stopped everything they were doing and looked at him.

TJ: What's going on? Sbani is not here he left a while ago and we thought he was with you.

Sphe: No we need to find him.

He was in the verge of crying I have realised that he is the emotional one.

Khoza: Okay son calm down and tell us what happened.

He looked at TJ and Sims and they panicked.

Them: The test results.

They said at the same time.

Sphe: Shawn called me apparently Sbani went to him and he told him the results and he left his office I thought he came home.

Mamzo: Mfana wami we don't know what you are talking about so calm down and tell us everything.

Sims: Sbani told us to take him to the doctor because he wasn't feeling well so we went to Shawn and he suspected that maybe he has some serious kidney problems.

Khoza: And you didn't tell us this because?

TJ: We were going to tell everyone after getting the test results today.

Isipho was already crying.

Me: I think the best thing is for us to go to the doctor and let him explain what's wrong with hubby and then we take it from there.

Mamzo: Let's go.

We all got into a family car and left then we arrived at the doctors.

Dr: Family you can come this side.

We all got inside and sat down.

Dr: Sphe did you find Sbani.

Sphe: No man we decided to come here first then we will go look for him.

Khoza: Shawn tell us what's wrong my son.

Dr: The results show that Sbani has a stage 4 severe kidney disease which is CKD and this means his kidneys are failing.

Mamzo: Tell us more about kidney failure.

Dr: If your kidneys stop working completely, your body fills with extra water and waste products, you will feel tired and weak because your body needs clean blood to function properly. Untreated uremia may lead to seizures or coma and will ultimately result in death.

I looked around and everyone looked scared I didn't want to think about the worst thing that can happen because I will not cope if something happens to hubby.

Khoza: So Uhhh Doc what is the next step now.

Dr: Sbani has to be admitted to the hospital I have sorted everything out so all he needs to do is to go to the hospital and then we start looking for donors.

Isipho: Doc I thought a person lives well with only one kidney.

Dr: Yes Isi that's true but your brother has a problem with both of them so he needs a donor as in yesterday.

Isipho: Is he going to die?

Mamzo: Isi baby no let's get some fresh air.

Sims: So what do we do now?

Dr: Just find him if some of you want to do some tests to see if maybe you can donate it's fine we can go to the hospital.

Khoza: Boys do you know where we can find Sbani?

TJ: I think I know.

Khoza: Take Thando with you and you will find us at the hospital.

So hubby's name is Sbani I wonder why he didn't

want to tell me.

TJ: Let's go.

We took an Uber to the house first to take a car then he drove the cemetery.

Me: Do you think he is here.

TJ: I know he is here it's where he finds his peace.

Me: Okay let's go then.

We walked around I don't know if I'm the only one who is afraid of graves but I am terrified of them I always feel like there are ghosts around.

TJ: Stop looking around you will fall.

Me: Aren't you afraid?

He laughed.

TJ: No I'm not, there is your man.

He was sleeping on top of the grave I have never seen this before.

Me: Is he really sleeping?

TJ: I'm sure he is.

Me: Yoh I can never.

TJ: Go talk to him I will wait here.

I went to stand in front of him and he was fast asleep hayi I'm unable to can mina guys.

Me: Hubby.

He didn't respond and I felt my heart jumping fast he can not die.

Me: Sbani vuka.

I said shaking him.

Sbani: Ummm hey how long have I been sleeping here.

Me: For hours I guess.

Sbani: How did you find me?

Me: I'm with TJ but he is waiting outside.

Sbani: Shawn called them didn't he?

Me: Yes he did how are you feeling?

Sbani: I don't know Thandolwam.

His voice was so low he didn't sound like himself.

Me: You will be fine let's go to the hospital everyone is waiting there.

Sbani: Am I going to die?

I felt my tears falling.

Me: No you will not die, you will not do that to me so don't even think about it.

He nodded and held my hand.

Sbani: This is my mother and that's my father.

The graves were joined together.

Me: You are introducing me now.

He chuckled, God I miss his laugh I swear if something happens to him I will die.

Sbani: Yes I am, let's go.

He couldn't even walk properly.

Me: TJ please come help.

Sbani: Hayi Thando I can walk.

TJ: Stop being stubborn please.

We helped him walk until we got to the car.

Sbani

I went to the cemetery to talk to my parents I don't want to die I'm still young and I still have a lot to live for. I'm the only one who is strongly connected to my parents so I always talk to them because I feel like they can hear me. TJ is now driving to the hospital I got a call from Muzi earlier he said he will be here tonight.

When we got to the hospital I told Thando to go inside I wanted to talk to TJ.

TJ: Don't tell me you want to convince me to run away with you.

Me: Haa haa that's funny, Muzi wants to come this side I don't know to sort out what, I want you to protect Thando from him. Make sure he doesn't see her.

TJ: Ummm Sbani.

Me: What's going on.

TJ: I don't think I should tell you this.

Me: Just tell me what if I die.

TJ: Don't play like that man so Khoza told us that he found out that he has a son and Khoza killed that woman.

Me: Don't tell me Muzi is his son.

I asked laughing but he did not laugh.

Me: No it can't be no.

TJ: Please Sbani let's focus on you getting better right now.

I felt my chest tightening up I couldn't breathe.

TJ: Sbani no breath, Nurse help.

I heard him shouting the nurses came and they took me inside.

I was now laying on the hospital bed with drips.

Dr: We have tested everyone besides Thando and TJ and they are all not a match.

Isipho: What's going to happen to my brother.

Dr: I can't tell right now but we need a donor fast.

He said getting out, my family was looking at me like I'm already dead.

Me: Come on guys have some faith I'm not going to die.

I faked chuckled.

Isipho: Bhuti please promise me you won't die.

Me: Hey Angel come here.

It broke my heart to see my Angel this sad.

Me: I promise to fight for you ngane kaMah I won't leave you alone in this world I promise, now don't cry.

I wiped her tears.

Khoza: We are all here for you son we will be right next to you everyday and I'm sorry about everything.

Me: You will still have a chance to make it up to me tayma don't worry.

Mamzo: I know you are strong I'm not even worried.

She was lying she was scared but she was being

strong for me and for everyone else.

My boys were just quite I know they are afraid more than anyone.

Me: Guys smile a bit you all look ugly.

Sims: Mxm.

Sphe: Can you get better already.

We all laughed, I don't know what happened but I heard the machines beeping and the doctor telling them to get out then lights out for me.

Insert eighteen

Muzi

My plane landed in Durban and a guy was waiting in the airport with a board written my name I didn't know him but I approached him slowly.

Sphe: You are Muzi?

Me: Yes I am and you are?

Sphe: I'm Sphe, Sbani's friend.

Me: Who's Sbani?

I asked because I don't know any Sbani, he showed me a picture of the guy that I didn't know was Sbani.

Sphe: Things are going to make sense very soon get in the car.

I hesitated but another guy came out of the car with a gun.

Sims: Get in.

I got in without asking anything, there was an old guy inside the car and another one that was driving.

Me: Where are you taking me?

They just looked at me and kept quiet.

Khoza: Drop us at the house.

The old guy said, it's like I have seen him before maybe on a photo I don't remember.

They drove to the house.

Khoza: Go back to the hospital I will catch up with

you guys later.

They nodded and left.

Khoza: You can sit down.

I sat down and looked at him I swear I have seen him somewhere.

Khoza: Why are you looking at me like that.

Me: I think I have seen you somewhere I just can't recall where.

Khoza: Something to drink?

Me: No I'm fine.

Khoza: Do you know Sbani?

Me: Yes I do even though I didn't know his name was Sbani.

Khoza: Did you speak to your sisters mother?

Me: Yes I did, wait you are the one who killed her that means you are...

Khoza: Your father yes I am.

I can't believe this if he is my father then how does

he know Sbani.

Me: I..I don't know what to say.

Khoza: Sbani is my son his father was my brother.

I got up and stood by the window, I killed someone's father.

Khoza: It was not your fault your aunt told me that she was using muti on you.

I looked at him and he was so chilled, too chilled for my liking I think he is supposed to be angry I killed his family after all.

Me: Sbani knew who I was?

Khoza: He went to Joburg to avenge his parents death because he saw you shooting them but a lot happened so I decided to take matters into my own hands, I don't want to lie I was going to kill you if she didn't tell me you were my son.

Me: Does Sbani know that I am your son?

Khoza: No he doesn't know.

Me: What's going to happen from now on?

Khoza: I'm going to get you some help to remove all the muti you were fed.

Me: I need to talk to Sbani.

Khoza: Sbani is dying he is in hospital.

I don't know whether I'm seeing things or what but he looks like he doesn't care about Sbani.

Me: What's wrong with him?

Khoza: His kidneys are failing and we can't find donors.

Me: Maybe because I'm family I can donate.

Khoza: No you can't do that, what if something happens to you?

Me: I don't care I have done enough damage already this is the least I can do.

Khoza: No you won't do that, I'm going to the hospital now when I come back we have to go somewhere.

I nodded, I don't care if he is my father or not but I don't like him. He left me in the house and went to

the hospital, I waited a few minutes then took out my phone and called Sbani's phone. His friend picked it up I told him to come to the house and to come alone, he arrived to the house.

Sphe: What's up man.

Me: I want to help Sbani maybe I am a match I don't know.

Sphe: Where is Khoza?

Me: He left he said he was going to the hospital.

Sphe: I didn't see his car on my way here.

Me: I don't know but he told me not to help Sbani.

The guy was shocked.

Sphe: Why?

Me: He said he doesn't want anything to happen to me.

Sphe: So what do you want to do?

Me: Let's go.

He asked me to go to the car while he made a phone

call, I was really happy I was doing this.

Sphe: Let's go man.

He drove to the hospital.

Narrated

Sphe called TJ and told him to take Thando and Isipho home because he was on his way to the hospital with Muzi. They drove to the hospital and went to the doctor.

Sphe: Shawn please run some tests on this guy.

Doc: Okay let's do it now.

The doctor started the tests while Sphe went to the others, TJ was also there .

Sphe: Why are you here?

TJ: They drove themselves.

Sphe: Is Mamzo here?

Sims: No they all left.

TJ: So is Shawn testing Muzi?

Sphe: Yes man lets hope it's a match I'm loosing my mind.

Sims: Where is Khoza?

Sphe: He said he was coming here and he also told Muzi not to help Sbani.

TJ: Something is off with Khoza we need to look into it.

Sims: He is greedy I don't even understand why he just accepted Muzi just like that.

TJ: Let's worry about Sbani then we will worry about other things when we know he is fine.

They all agreed while they waited for the doctor.

On the other side two men were talking.

Man1: We had a deal man.

Man2: Don't worry about that it's coming down soon.

Man1: Don't tell me that, you have been saying that

for weeks now.

Man2: I know but I'm still getting things together I don't want to be caught.

Man1: You told me that they don't know that their father left them that money and those businesses.

Man2: Yes they don't know but everytime I try to get these things their signatures are needed.

Man1: Just forge them.

Man2: I'm going to get it done don't worry.

Man1: If you are failing to do that I'm going to tell them everything about you.

Man2: You know what I'm capable of, if you don't back off I will kill you before you talk.

He said that and took off.

Insert nineteen

We had to go home because we needed some to rest, we haven't slept since Sbani went to the hospital I don't remember the last time I asked God

to do something for me but these days I have been begging him to give Sbani another chance.

Mamzo: We came here to rest but you are stressing yourself.

Me: I can't help myself I'm worried about him.

Mamzo: I know you are baby but don't worry Sbani is going to pull through believe me he is a fighter.

Me: But Mamzo it will be better if he already got a donor we wouldn't be worried like this have you seen how Isipho is, this whole thing is breaking her up.

Mamzo: Sbani is a very special kid you will never understand but trust me when I say he will survive all this.

She hugged me and I cried while she comforted me.

Mamzo: Go sleep baby I will be back later okay.

I nodded and went to Sbani's bedroom but Isipho was sleeping there so I didn't want to disturb her, I took a throw and went to sit on the couch, I couldn't sleep so I decided to clean around the house and cook.

Sphe: What's that smell?

Me: Sphe ungithubile (You scared me).

Sphe: Sorry T are you cooking I'm hungry.

Me: Yes I'm cooking.

Sphe: I thought you came here to rest and now?

Me: I couldn't sleep so I decided to keep myself busy.

Sphe: Is Mamzo around?

Me: No she went out.

Sphe: Okay can I dish up for myself.

Me: Sure you can, let me finish up here.

I finished dusting around and went to sit down with him.

Sphe: Let me dish up for you.

Me: No I'm fine.

Sphe: It's not up for discussion.

It's no use arguing with him even I didn't feel like eating, he went to the kitchen and came back with my food.

Sphe: So how's Isipho?

Me: She's not good Sphe I'm worried about her, she doesn't speak nor eat.

Sphe: I'm also worried about her I don't even know what to say to her.

Me: You like her don't you?

He smiled.

Sphe: Is it that obvious?

Me: Ofcos it is the spark between you two cannot be missed.

Sphe: It's more than just liking her Thando I love her but she's like my little sister.

Me: She's not your little sister though.

Sphe: You don't understand.

Me: Have you told her how you feel?

Sphe: No and uSbani will bury me alive if I do that.

Me: He will understand because he can see that you love her.

Sphe: Eyy I don't know Thando I just hope Sbani survive all this.

Me: How is he?

Sphe: No change we still don't have a donor.

Me: Do you think he will pull through please just be honest.

Sphe: I don't know but I hope so.

We heard footsteps and it was Isipho.

Isipho: Hey guys.

Sphe: Angel come here.

She ran to him and cried in his arms.

Sphe: Shhh don't cry try to be strong for your brother you know that you are his strength.

Isipho: Will he die?

Sphe looked at me.

Me: No Sbani won't die never.

Isipho: I just wish he can wake up now.

Sphe: He will don't worry.

They looked at each other I think they wanted to kiss but I cleared my throat.

Sphe: Hayi marn Thando.

Me: What did I do? I just want to be sure that you guys really want to do that.

Isipho looked at Sphe.

Them: Yesss.

We all laughed.

Isipho: You will talk to bhuti Sbani for us right Thando.

Me: No I'm not getting involved.

Sphe: Why must Thando talk to Sbani.

Isipho: I thought you like me.

Sphe: Me like who? No I'm your brother Isipho.

Isipho looked down I think she wanted to cry she was so embarrassed.

Sphe: I'm just joking Angel I love you a lot but you know how your brother is.

Me: Don't play like that Sphe you almost killed the kid.

Isipho: I was so embarrassed I thought maybe I misunderstood you.

Sphe: No I really want us to be in a relationship
Isipho but I don't want us to focus on that right now.

Isipho: I love you too.

They kissed.

Me: Ewuuu get a room guys.

Them: Shiya umona daar.

Me: Mxm I'm going to the room.

Sphe: No don't go Thando I'm going back to the hospital now, Mamzo just texted me to fetch her.

Isipho: Are we not going to the hospital?

Sphe: No love just rest I will fetch you tomorrow morning.

Me: Love huh?

He threw a pillow on me.

Sphe: Kahle Thando, Isi walk me out.

They walked out I really hope Sbani will accept their relationship they look good together and I think Sphe loves Isipho for real.

Isipho came back all smiles.

Isipho: Ngiyajola(I'm dating).

Me: Ugirl uqomile.

I got up and we danced.

Isipho: I'm glad you are here with me Thando I don't know what I would do if you were not here.

Me: I'm glad I'm here also babe.

Isipho: I'm hungry.

Me: I cooked go dish up.

She went to the kitchen while I went to take a shower.

I went to Sbani's room and striped naked then took a shower after I was done I lotioned and wore Sbani's Nike tracksuit bottoms and top.

I went to the sitting room humming a song I was feeling positive about everything.

Isipho was still eating I sat down.

Isipho: That was fast.

Me: Come on I was taking a quick shower.

She raised her eyebrows.

Me: Hayi suka.

There was a knock on the door, I got up and went to open up.

Man: Are you Thando?

Me: Yes.

Man: Is Isipho with you?

Isipho: Yes I'm here.

Man: Your father said I should come fetch you guys and take you to the hospital.

Me: And you are?

Man: I work for him.

Isipho: We are not going anywhere until I speak to

him and confirm what you are saying.

He took out his phone and made a call.

Man: Here.

He said giving Isi the phone but something didn't feel right, I have seen shady people all my life and this one is one of them.

Isipho talked with Khoza.

Isipho: Okay we are coming.

Me: We need to get some things inside please wait for us here.

Isipho: Something doesn't feel right.

Me: I was about to say the same thing.

Isipho: Here take my phone and send a message to Sphe I will be back.

She said running to her room, I sent the message and hid the phone in my track bottom, Isipho came back with a gun.

Isipho: Let's go.

Me: Can you use a gun?

Isipho: I think so let's go.

We went outside and the man was still waiting for us.

We got inside his car and left, halfway through the driver Isipho spoke.

Isipho: This road will not lead us to the hospital though why are you taking it.

I didn't even notice because I still don't know the place that much.

Man: Shut up.

We looked at each other and panicked.

Sphe

When I left the hospital to the house the doctor was still busy with the tests I don't know what's taking so long because even now they are not back.

I'm glad Isipho gave me a chance I swear I will never

hurt her, Shawn gets inside the ward running with nurses following him.

We all get up.

TJ: What's going on?

Doc: We need to take him to the theatre right now.

He says while nurses take him away.

Me: What's going on?

Doc: Just wait I will get back to you guys.

He says running away.

Sims: What do you think is the problem guys?

TJ: I don't even want to think.

Mamzo: Let's pray.

She always says Sbani is connected to prayer more than we know we don't understand why even Sbani doesn't understand.

Mamzo: Lord your word says you are closer to the broken hearted here we come before you and we ask you to please touch Sbani with your healing hand,

nothing is bigger than you oh Lord wake him up and let him come back to us. I have never seen all these children broken like this please don't take their brother away from them Amen.

Us: Amen.

We all looked side ways because we wanted to cry.

Mamzo: Oh ngane zam come here.

We all became vulnerable in her arms I don't know what we would do without her.

After that we all calm down and waited for the doctor.

Sims: Sphe can I use your phone I need to call Isipho to bring my charge.

I looked for it but it was not in my pockets.

Me: Eish I think I left it in the car go look for it.

I gave him the keys, he went out and came back.

He gave me the keys, when he unlocked my phone his face changed.

TJ: You look like you just saw a ghost.

He looked at Mamzo but she was reading the Bible not minding us.

Sims: Guys come see.

He whispered.

There was a message from Isipho telling us about a man who came to fetch them and how they felt like something was wrong.

TJ took his laptop.

TJ: Let me try tracking the number.

He did his thing.

TJ: This phone is outside Durban.

Sims: What's going on now I'm tired I don't want any drama.

Me: Who could be behind this.

TJ: Maybe it's Khoza I have been tracking his movements he seems shady.

We were still talking when the doctor came to us.

Sims: Talk to us.

Doc: Ummm Eish.

Me: Shawn please.

He smiled.

Doc: The operation was successful, the guy who donated gave us both his kidneys so that means he died after giving it to us, he left a letter to be given to Sbani.

Mamzo: How is Sbani?

Doc: He is still not awake but he is responding well to the organs I don't know when he will wake up.

Me: Thank you so much man.

We all kept shaking his hands, I can't believe Sbani is now out of danger.

Doc: He is a fighter excuse me.

He left us all excited.

Mamzo: I need to call Isipho and Thando.

We looked at each other.

Mamzo: Talk before I make you all talk.

Me: Uhmm I think someone kidnapped them.

I said showing her the message.

She slapped us one by one.

Sims: Hayi Mamzo.

Mamzo: Find them make sure you find them before Sbani wakes up, don't come back here without them.

We all ran outside and got into the car we will worry about Muzi's body when we come back.

Insert twenty

Sbani

I didn't know where I was but all I know is that I was at peace I didn't want to leave this place, all the blooming flowers and the green grass the birds singing around and people in their white clothes. I closed my eyes and enjoyed the air that was breezing around when I opened them I saw my parents.

Me: Mama, Baba.

They both came to me each one of them holding my hand.

Mama: Oh Sbani ngane yami (my child).

She said a tear escaping her eye.

Me: Am I dreaming? Is it really you?

Baba: Sbanisamakhoza you are not suppose to be here your sister needs you.

Me: I enjoy being here.

Mama: It's not your time yet, you need to go back to your sister.

She let go of my hand and touched my face.

Mama: Mama loves you my boy.

Baba: I'm proud of the man you have become you still have a long way to go, I have forgiven them so has your mother please find it in your heart to forgive them.

Mama: Don't hate yourself because a part of him is now in you.

She said that pointing at someone I didn't see clearly, when he lifted his head I was shocked.

Me: Muzi.

Baba: He can hear you but he can't talk because he still needs your forgiveness.

I didn't know what to say I just kept quiet.

Them: Now go and live your life to the fullest and let your sister be happy don't be stubborn, we love you all of you.

Me: Mama, Baba please don't go.

I opened my eyes and was blinded by the light, I tried moving but I felt pains in my abdomen.

Mamzo: Sbani oh thank God.

Me: Water.

She ran to my side of the bed and poured me some.

Mamzo: Let me help you.

Me: No mamzo I'm not disabled.

She laughed with tears in her eyes.

Mamzo: Still stubborn even after waking up from your death bed.

We both chuckled.

Me: Ngiwu die hard.

Mamzo: I'm so happy you are back my boy.

She said kissing my face.

Me: Hayi Mamzo.

Mamzo: Hayi leave me alone I'm just happy let me go get the doctor.

She ran out I could she was really excited, I expected to see everyone here especially my Angel but maybe they will be here soon.

Mamzo came back with Shawn.

Doc: My man I'm glad you are awake how are you feeling?

Me: In pain man but I'm glad to be back.

Doc: You will be fine, you were really lucky to get a donor who donated both his kidneys to you.

Me: What do you mean both? What does that mean for him?

Doc: Yes both unfortunately it was bad for him so he passed on.

Me: Are you listening to yourself how can you allow that? Why didn't you just take one kidney?

Doc: It was his choice.

Me: I don't understand.

I shouted and the pain became worse.

Me: Ouch.

Mamzo: Please Shawn excuse us I will explain everything to him.

Doc: It's fine mah if you are done please come see me.

Mamzo nodded while Shawn left.

Mamzo: Sbani please try to calm down we don't want you returning to sleep for days okay.

I nodded I'm a person who snaps easily and I can't control that.

Me: So mamzo who is this person?

Mamzo: Don't overreact please, it was Muzi.

Me: Was he a match?

She nodded.

Me: How?

Mamzo: Muzi was Khoza's son that he didn't know about so when his aunt died he told him to come and look for his family here in Durban and that he was using muti on him to do all the things he was doing.

My head was spinning and my heart beating fast.

Mamzo: When Muzi came here Khoza already knew about him because he is the one who killed Muzi's aunt.

Me: So Khoza allowed his son to die because he wanted to help me.

I was so confused.

Mamzo: No Khoza told Muzi not to donate his kidney to you, Sbani he didn't care whether you died or not.

This keeps getting interesting.

Mamzo: So when Khoza left Muzi at the house he called Sphe to come and fetch luckily he was a match he then decided to save you by giving you his kidneys.

Me: I don't know what to say why was Khoza against Muzi's idea of giving me his kidney.

Mamzo: We all don't know, we all don't know why Muzi decided to die in order to save you but he left a letter to be given to you.

Me: I saw them Mamzo.

Mamzo: You saw who?

Me: My parents and Muzi on the other side, they told me to get back to you guys and that I should forgive Muzi.

Mamzo: I know you did boy.

She said giving me the letter, I put it under my pillow I'm not ready to read it as yet. I can't believe all this, life really is unpredictable.

Me: I need time to think about all this, right now I

need to see my family where are they.

Mamzo: Ummm I need to go and talk to Shawn.

Haibo is she just going to ignore me hell no.

Me: Mamzo.

Mamzo: They will be here they went home for a bit, but they will come see you later okay.

I knew something was up because she said that leaving the room.

I sighed and closed my eyes I hope they are fine wherever they are.

Isipho

We arrived in an abandoned building right outside Durban, they told us to get out of the car and we did.

We followed each other till we got inside the room.

Me: No Baba.

I shouted when I saw Khoza beaten up and tied in a

chair.

Khoza: Isi I'm sorry.

Man: Tie them.

They tied me and Thando on the chairs that were in the room.

Man: I will give you time to tell them what's going on here then I will be back with the papers.

He said talking to Khoza, this reminded me of the time when I was kidnapped and when I looked at Thando I saw that she was also uncomfortable.

Khoza: I'm so sorry ngane kamfowethu.

Me: What are you sorry for baba?

I was confused because I didn't know what he was talking about.

Khoza: I just became greedy, your parents had some businesses that were suppose to be divided between you and your brother but I didn't tell you guys and tried to get them for myself.

Me: What? But why?

Khoza: Like I said I became greedy when you get home go to my room you will find everything there.

Me: No we are all going home baba I forgive you okay, it doesn't matter what you did I forgive you.

Thando: Isipho I think it's time we used that gun.

I didn't even notice that she had untied herself.

Me: Untie me and baba first.

She didn't hesitate she did as I said.

Khoza: Give me the gun there's a back door there.

We looked at him.

Khoza: I'm not going to kill you guys now go and wait for me outside.

Me: No I'm not leaving you here.

Khoza: Isi please my Angel I have to fix this myself.

He opened his arms and we both hugged him and ran outside.

We stayed there for some few minutes and then we heard gun shots.

Thando: Shhh don't cry he is not going to die.

Me: Thando I'm scared.

Thando: I know you are baby I'm also scared but let's wait.

Me: Do you still have my phone.

Thando: Oh I even forgot about that.

She said taking it out.

Me: We can't make a call the battery is about to die let's hope they will track us.

Thando: I know they will.

After a while it was quite the shots had stopped.

Me: I'm going inside.

Thando: Isi no wait.

She said following behind me, when we got inside Khoza was laying on the floor bleeding.

Me: Baba please no.

Khoza: I'm so sorry please tell Sbani that I'm sorry and I love you both I hope one day you will find it in

your heart to forgive me.

Me: I forgive you Hlase please don't die.

He closed his eyes and took his last breath right there in my hands.

Thando: I'm so sorry baby.

While we were sitting there and I was crying in her arms, the man from earlier came pointing a gun on us.

Man: Now that your father is dead I get all the businesses here sign.

Thando: Don't sign Isi.

Man: If you don't sign I will shoot your friend.

When I was about to sign the man fell down and Sphe came running to me.

Sphe: Sthandwa sam hey are you okay? Are you hurt?

I didn't respond I just cried.

TJ felt Khoza's pulse and shook his head to the others.

Sims: I need to make some calls.

TJ: We need to get out of here.

He was holding Thando.

Sphe: Isipho get up let's go.

Me: We can't leave Baba here.

Sphe: We are not going to leave him.

Sims: I think we should take Khoza's body with us we will just take him to the hospital to avoid too many questions.

TJ: That's fine let's go.

I can't believe Baba is gone I hope and pray to God that my brother wakes up I know I'm not alone but I need my brother now more than ever.

We got in the car and I layed my head on Sphe's chest.

Sphe: Sleep baby.

I tried closing my eyes but I kept on seing Khoza apologising, I hope wherever he is he knows that I forgive him with all my heart I forgive him.

Twenty one

I'm laying in TJ's chest in the car and I can't help myself but think about the good times I ever had in my life and I realize they are few compared to the pain I have endured. I remember when I was still young with my parents around the way my father used to look at me, like I'm the only thing that matters in this world and I fooled myself by thinking that every man in this world will look at me the way my father looked at me. I now realise that it was because my father loved me so much, I look around the car and I see Isipho crying in Sphe's chest. Death is something that we can never get used to no matter how much we experience it, Khoza was everything to Isipho and Sbani no matter what he had done to hurt them it doesn't matter now.

TJ: Are you okay?

Me: I don't know hey all I want now is peace.

TJ: Don't worry it will be fine.

Me: I hope so.

TJ: We are here.

Me: We are at the house already.

TJ: Yes.

We all got out of the car.

Sims: I will go to the hospital you guys can stay here
I will be back.

TJ: I will go with you.

Sims: No stay bafo just to be safe.

Sims left and we got inside the house.

Sphe: I will go run a bath for Isi then tuck her in.

Me: Okay please TJ come help me out.

I also needed someone to give me the attention
Isipho was getting from Sphe.

We went to my room with TJ and he went to the
bathroom to run a bath for me.

He came back.

TJ: I'm done you can take a bath I will go make some
food.

Me: Please don't go.

I said getting closer.

TJ: Thando no what are you doing?

I didn't speak I held his face and kissed him but he didn't respond instead he pushed me and I fell on my bed.

TJ: Don't fuck with me Thando what do you think you are doing huh?

He was so angry veins were popping in his head.

My mind came back and I realised what I had done, I dropped my eyes from embarrassment.

Me: Uhmm TJ I...Uhmm.

TJ: Save it.

He said running outside, I went to the bathroom and got into the bath tub.

Me: God what have I done? How do I fix this?

I asked myself while tears were falling down my face.

After I was done I got out and went to the bedroom

to lotion after I was done I wore my pyjamas and got into bed. I was hungry but I was scared to go to the kitchen, when I was about to sleep Isipho came to my room.

Isipho: Please come eat babe.

Me: I'm not hungry.

She sat on my bed.

Isipho: I know you miss my brother I also miss him but he will wake up.

Only if she knew what I had done.

Me: I miss him so much.

I said crying I wasn't lying I really miss Sbani but I was also crying because I was ashamed of myself.

Isipho: Shh don't cry please lets go.

Me: Okay let's go.

She smiled.

We went to the kitchen and the guys were making food.

Sphe: You can sit there we will bring the food.

Isipho: Okay.

Me: He is so sweet.

Isipho: I know I guess I'm lucky.

We were sitting in the lounge and they were in the kitchen, they brought our food.

I didn't even want to look at TJ I wonder what he thinks of me.

We ate in comfortable silent not so comforting for me though, when we were done Sims arrived looking drained.

TJ: Are you okay bruh?

Sims: I need food a shower and a drink.

Sphe: Go shower first.

Sims: No I will eat now we need to go to the hospital.

Isipho: Is it my brother?

Sims: I don't know.

TJ: Where is Khoza's body?

Sims: The mogue we need to prepare for the funeral soon.

Sphe: Okay you ladies can go change so we can go.

We went to change our pyjamas and then went back to the others.

Sims: Let's go I'm not driving I'm too tired.

TJ: I will drive.

I got in the back with Sims.

Sims: You are awfully quiet Thando are you okay?

I nodded my head.

Sims: Are you sure?

Me: Yes I'm fine.

He nodded his head and and we arrived at the hospital quicker than I expected.

We went to Sbani's bed and he was not there.

Isipho: Where is my brother?

She asked crying.

Sphe: Isi baby please calm down.

I looked around but he was not there.

Sbani: Why are you guys crying?

We all turned back he was coming from the toilet.

Isipho ran to him.

Isipho: Bhuti.

Sbani: Ouch.

She giggled.

Isipho: Sorry Bhuti.

She helped her get into bed.

Sbani: Smile guys I'm back now.

Sphe: Don't ever sleep for that long man.

They all bro hugged him I just stood there not knowing what to do or say.

Sbani: Thando.

He said looking at me.

Sbani: Are you going to just stand there?

Sims: She is still shocked and happy I guess.

Me: Uhmhhh yeah I'm just happy you are back I missed you.

Sbani: Come give me a hug then.

I walked slowly to his bed.

Me: I happy you are back hubby.

Sbani: Hey don't cry I will never leave you I'm back for good.

Me: I know you are.

I felt so guilty I shouldn't have done what I did, I just put myself in an awkward position.

Sims: So did you see Moses?

We all laughed.

Me: I was Jesus's right hand man.

TJ: You wish I'm sure you were just drinking wine there.

Mamzo: You are all back.

Sims: Yes we are Mama.

We all talked and laughed everyone was glad that

Sbani is back.

Sbani

I was happy to be back and to see everyone laughing
I missed them and I missed this.

Thando is acting weird or maybe she still can't
believe I'm back, I want to talk to Isipho alone.

Me: Can I please have a moment with my Angel.

Sims: Ofcos we will be outside.

They left, I parted a space for her in my bed and she
lay next to me.

Me: I love you Angel you know that right?

Isipho: Yes Bhuti I know and I love you too.

Me: Did you miss me?

Isipho: Everyday promise me that you will never
leave me again.

Me: I promise Angel.

Isipho: Bhuti.

Me: Mhh.

Isipho: Khoza is dead.

I raised my head and looked at her.

Me: What do you mean?

She told me everything that happened.

Me: I don't know any businesses.

Isipho: That's because Khoza never told us.

No matter what differences we had with Khoza he was still my father and I didn't want him to die.

Me: How do you feel about all this?

Isipho: There's no use to be angry right now or to hate Baba because he is dead now and he is never coming back, I forgive him Bhuti and I wish he didn't die he was the only parent we had besides Mamzo.

Me: I know baby I also wish things were different but I guess this is what God planned for us, I also forgive him. Where is he now?

Isipho: The mortuary.

Me: Okay I will talk to Shawn so that he will discharge me maybe tomorrow so that we will plan the funeral.

Isipho: Okay Bhuti I'm so glad you are back.

Me: I'm glad to be back Angel.

Isipho: Do you know who donated his kidney?

Me: Actually it's two kidneys.

Isipho: What?

Me: Yes it was Khoza's son that he didn't know about, the person who shot our parents.

I continued to explain everything to her.

Me: Please forgive him.

Isipho: Have you forgiven him yet?

Me: No but I'm working on it.

Isipho: I forgive him only because he saved your life so will we bury him too.

Me: If that's okay with you.

Isipho: It's fine Bhuti.

Me: Okay baby I need to rest now you can go and call Thando for me.

Isipho: I will see you tomorrow, I love you.

Me: Okay love you too.

She left and after a few minutes Thando came to my ward.

Me: Cheer up hubby is back now.

She giggled.

Thando: How are you feeling? Are you in pain?

Me: I'm glad to be alive even though I'm still in pains.

Thando: It's really good to have you back.

Me: Thandolwam are you okay?

Thando: Ummm I'm fine.

Me: Thando.

His voice was demanding.

Thando: I'm fine believe me it's just that it's been a long day.

Me: Oh Isi told me I'm sorry about what happened are you okay though?

Thando: Yes I'm okay just tired.

Me: You can go I will see you guys tomorrow.

Thando: Okay goodnight I love you.

Me: I love you too.

I held her and tried to kiss her but she just ran outside, okay that was weird I wonder what's going on with her. Everyone came to say their goodbyes and they left.

I gathered some strength to read the letter Muzi left for me, I opened it and it read:

" Khoza, Hlase, Mlilo, Bhovungane I wish things were different but I can't change the past I can only do what I'm about to do rectify my mistakes, the way I was fond of you it's like I knew you were my blood I wish we met during different circumstances but life doesn't always go the way we want. I know you will be confused to why I gave you both of my kidneys but I feel like I owe you that much, I heard that all the

things I did were not my own will but the fact remains I pulled that trigger and I left you and your sister orphans. I feel like it will be only selfish for me to give myself another chance to life because I don't deserve it and I'm so ashamed to face you after realising I have caused you so much pain. I'm so sorry about everything bafo I hope you will find it in your heart to forgive me some day, I will never sleep peacefully in my death until you forgive me.

Ngixolele Hlase.

Your brother Muzi."

I didn't know what to say, now I wish he didn't die because I will have a brother and all the things he did were not by choice but a part of me is glad he is dead because he was going to be a reminder of what happened to my parents. I saw him pull that trigger and I will never erase that image from my mind.

Twenty two

Sbani

It's been two days since I came back home things are a bit tense since we are busy planning two funerals and Shawn told me to take it slow because I'm still in pains, Thando is still acting a bit weird and avoiding TJ a lot I don't what's going on. I don't want to jump into conclusion but it seems like something happened between them I just don't know what to think now.

I get out of bed and go to the others.

Isipho: The doctor told you to take it slow kodwa bhuti.

Me: I'm tired of sleeping I just want some fresh air.

Isipho: Okay do you want some food?

Me: Yes please, where are the others?

Isipho: They went to town, Mamzo is busy with the guests I'm so tired I want all this to be over now.

Me: It will Angel.

She went to get me food and came back.

Isipho: How are you feeling?

Me: I'm still in pains but I will be fine.

Isipho: I mean emotionally?

I look at her and sigh I haven't really talked about how I feel.

Me: I don't want to lie I miss him, Khoza is the one who raised us. We were only left with him but now we have no one.

Isipho: I miss him too so much but we have each other right.

Me: Right!

I haven't told Thando that we will be burying Muzi and that he was my brother I don't know how she will react but I will have to wait and see.

I finished eating and Isipho took my plate to the kitchen she is treating me like I'm sick or something.

Isipho: Don't you want to sleep now?

Me: Hayi Isi I will just chill on the couch.

Isipho: Uhmm Bhuti.

Me: Mmmm.

I wasn't looking at her but she didn't talk so I looked at her.

Me: What's wrong Angel?

Isipho: Please don't be mad.

Me: I'm not promising you anything, just talk.

Isipho: Uhmm.

Me: I told you that you can talk to me about anything I don't want any secrets between us.

Isipho: Me and Sphe are in a relationship.

Me: In a relationship how?

She was already crying.

Isipho: He is my boyfriend.

Me: I thought Sphe was like a brother to you.

She nodded.

Me: Then how come you telling me that he is now your boyfriend.

Isipho: I love him.

Me: As a brother right?

Isipho: No as my boyfriend.

Me: Unlove him then.

Isipho: Bhuti please.

Me: Don't please me ningijwayela kabi nina.

Isipho: I'm sorry Bhuti.

Me: Get out of my face.

She didn't move she just sat there and cried, I always expected something like this to happen because of the way they used to look at each other. I don't like to see her cry but I'm punishing her, I hear the car outside and they all get in.

Isipho looks at her and attempt to go to him.

Me: Sit down Isipho.

Sims: Man what's going on? Aren't you suppose to be in bed.

Me: I'm suppose to be in bed while Sphe is busy fucking my sister.

Sphe: Bafo it's not like that.

I get up and punch him in the face but hurt myself in the process.

Me: Ouch.

Thando: Babe you are hurting yourself please sit down.

Sphe is holding his bleeding mouth.

Me: So why didn't you guys tell me Sphe was dating Angel.

TJ: There's a lot to worry about Sbani we were going to talk about that after the funeral.

Me: Wena TJ just shut up, why is Thando avoiding you?

I look at him and he looks at Thando.

Thando: Can we please go to your room and talk about that.

Me: Fine wena Isipho go get the first aid kit and fix your boyfriend.

She smiled.

Isipho: Does that mean..

Me: Don't get carried away it means nothing.

I get up and go to my room with Thando following me.

Me: Talk.

I really hate being lied to as much as I knew that Sphe likes Isipho he should have talked to me first because he is the one who is my best friend.

Thando: Please don't be mad.

Me: I think I'm tired of hearing that today so just talk Thando.

I don't usually call her Thando and she knows it.

Thando: So Ummm I kissed TJ.

She said looking down.

Me: What do you mean you kissed TJ and which TJ are you talking about?

Thando: TJ your friend.

Me: Hayi I'm being tested today so am I suppose to

guess what happened just tell me everything.

Thando: I was just feeling lonely so I kissed him but it was a mistake I swear.

Me: So wena everytime you feel you are going to kiss my friends.

Thando: No no I swear it was just a mistake and he didn't kiss me back.

Me: So I'm suppose to believe that he didn't kiss you back and that nothing else happened?

Thando: Yes please believe me hubby please.

Me: Don't call me that bring me that laptop.

I have hidden cameras in each and every room so she took the laptop and I checked, I saw everything I actually applaud TJ for what he did if it was someone else we would be talking a different story now.

Me: So what if TJ didn't reject you were you going to sleep with him?

She kept quiet and cried.

Me: Stop crying and talk Thandolwethu.

Thando: No I'm sorry.

Me: So how am I suppose to trust you around my friends tell me.

Thando: It was a mistake really, you can trust me.

Me: Just get out Thando and please tell TJ to come see me.

Thando: Ngiyaxolisa Hlase (I'm sorry).

As much as that made my heart jump it didn't work.

Me: Phuma Thando (get out).

She wiped her tears and left, I really don't know how to feel about this it was a mistake yeah but we will have those moments where we fight with Thando, how am I suppose to trust her not to run to my friends.

TJ: Bafo.

Me: Thando told why didn't you say anything.

TJ: I didn't want to cause trouble between you and Thando because I saw that she made a mistake.

Me: I don't know man how will I ever trust her again.

TJ: Just give her a chance to prove herself.

Me: Thanks man for reacting the way you did.

TJ: We are brothers I wouldn't just let Thando cause conflict between us.

Me: I hear you.

TJ: And go easy on Sphe he loves Angel.

Me: Just get out TJ.

TJ: Stop being stubborn.

I took my pillow and threw it on him he ran out laughing, I love each and everyone of them I don't want anything to come between us not even Thando. I thought about what my parents said about me being stubborn and that I should let Isipho be happy maybe they were talking about this.

Sphe got in.

Me: What do you want?

Sphe: To talk.

Me: I'm listening.

Sphe: I'm not going to play with her and you know that but I'm sorry I should have talked to you.

Me: If you dare hurt her.

Sphe: I know you going to kill me, you know you are my brother and I don't want us to fight over this.

Me: You are my brother yet you fell in love with my sister.

Sphe: AHH come on man you know what I mean, the heart wants what it wants.

Me: I hear you but you not off the hook yet .

I told him about what happened between TJ and Thando.

Me: You know how much I love her but I don't tolerate bullshit, I can't be in a relationship with someone that I cannot trust.

Sphe: I don't want to lie to you Thando loves you a lot futhi I believe she made a mistake just let this one slide then we can see how she behaves.

Me: Fine.

Sphe: I will leave you to rest then stop thinking too much.

Me: Sho Bafo.

He left and I tried to sleep.

Isipho

I was impatiently waiting for Sphe outside my brother's room just to hear what he said about us.

Me: So?

Sphe: Calm down babe your brother has no problem.

Me: You mean he gave us his blessings.

Sphe: Not really but we shouldn't rush him.

Me: okay.

We kissed.

Me: I want to talk to Thando.

Sphe: okay I will go to the others.

Thando didn't seem fine and she said she wanted to sleep.

When I got into her room she tossing and turning, sweating and crying I think she was having some nightmare.

Me: Thando wake up its just a dream.

Thando: Sis Sindi.

Me: Calm down its just a dream okay.

I gave her some water.

Me: This is not the first time you having a nightmare what's going on?

Thando: I have been dreaming about Sis Sindi, she says she wants me to find her head.

She was now crying.

Me: Ummm what head?

Thando: When they killed her they took her head.

I know the story about Sindi but I don't know all of it.

Me: Shhh calm down.

She was really breaking down so I went to get my brother.

I didn't even knock.

Sbani: Isipho what the hell.

Me: It's Thando.

Sbani: I don't have time for this just get out.

Me: She is breaking down she has been having some nightmares.

He got out of bed and I followed after him.

Sbani: Thando what's going on.

She told him what she told me.

Sbani: We will try sorting this out after the funerals.

Me: I think you have to sleep with Thando Bhuti because she is scared.

Sbani: No she will be fine.

Thando: Please.

Sbani: Okay fine.

I think there is something wrong between them.

Me: I love you both.

I said that and left them in the room.

Twenty three

Sbani

Today we are burying my father and brother I feel really sad I haven't cried because I'm trying to be strong for my sister but the truth is I'm hurting really bad. After all the things that happened with Muzi and my father I didn't wish death on them I wanted them to live.

I wake up and go through my closet looking for something to wear, I hear someone clearing their throat.

Sphe: I have been standing here for almost thirty minutes and you have been doing the same thing.

Me: I'm trying to look for something to wear.

Sphe: Heey man stop.

Me: I can't seem to find these damn clothes.

Sphe: Sbani please just stop you can cry it's fine.

He held my arm and I let my tears roll down my face.

Sphe: Just let it out you have been strong for too long.

Me: It hurts bafo a lot.

Sphe: I know it hurts but nawe musa ukukhala ngathi uyithekeni (don't cry like a lady).

I let go of him and laugh.

Me: You are crazy man.

Sphe: Do you remember the first time we drank alcohol and Khoza let us sleep on the cold tiles without any blankets.

We both chuckled.

Me: And the next morning he made us drink two cases of Heineken.

Sphe: He was so strict but he was also a great father

to all of us.

Me: Yeah that's true I'm going to miss him so much.

Sphe: We will all miss him back but now let us give him the funeral he deserves.

Me: You are right let me check out my clothes.

Sphe: No it's fine they are already ready I took them out while you were sleeping just take a bath, I will go check on the others.

Me: Okay man thank you.

Sphe: You know I have got you.

He left and I took a shower then wore my clothes which I found placed on my bed, they are treating me like a child in this house.

I went to check out on Isipho on her room.

Me: Knock knock.

Them: Come in.

She was with Thando, speaking of Thando we are okay but I still don't trust her and her nightmares haven't gone away.

Me: Ladies are you okay?

Thando: We are fine how are you?

Me: I'm okay can I please talk to my sister.

Thando: Ofcos I will leave you guys to it.

Thando left and I looked at my sister.

Me: Angel.

Isipho: It hurts Bhuti.

Me: I know Angel and I feel the same way.

Isipho: I will miss him.

Me: I know you will come here.

She ran to my arms and I hugged.

Me: Shhh don't cry I'm here and I will always be here for you.

Isipho: I know I love you.

Me: I love you too Angel now get ready it's getting late.

I left her and went to check on things and the gents I bumped into Mamzo.

Me: Mamzo.

Mamzo: Boy.

Me: I wanted to thank you for everything I don't what we would have done without you.

Mamzo: It's my pleasure, you know I will always be here for you guys all of you especially now that I'm the only parent you all left with.

Hearing her saying that she is our parent made me happy.

Me: Thank you.

Mamzo: Everything is ready you can go to the kitchen the boys are eating there.

I nodded and went to the guys.

Me: Guys bathini.

Them: Moja.

We ate and then prepared for the day.

The service started and we were all sitting in front, the pastor called me to speak.

The guys accompanied me to the front.

Me: Uhmm we are not suppose to be here today I say that because I believe that these two still had a lot of things to live for but here we are and we know that we can never outdone what the Lord has done, I wanted them to live and see me and my sister get married in fact see all of us get married but God had other plans. When I think about my father the only thing that stands out in my mind is how he treated my friends as his own and how he was always there when we needed him, we will always remember him as our friend, our advisor and our father. It's sad that he had to reunite with his son this way but I hope they have the best relationship wherever they are going.

Thank you.

We all went to sit down then the service continued until we went to the cemetery.

And all was done for the day they were gone and there was nothing we could do.

Me: What a day.

We were now at home just sitting in the lounge all of us.

Sims: I'm dog tired I just want to relax.

TJ: Me too man.

Mamzo: You can all relax after cleaning the yard.

We all looked at each other.

Me: I have already called the cleaning company.

Mamzo: Ini? You all just making money.

Sphe: Please Mamzo we are all tired.

Mamzo: I will let you guys rest only because I know you are tired and thank you for everything.

Sims: Thanks mama.

We all sat there and talked until it was late and we decided to call it a night.

Thando

We went to Sbani's room since I sleep with him now because of the nightmares.

Me: Should I run a bath for us or will we take a shower.

Sbani: A shower would do because I'm tired.

We went to shower then we went to bed.

Me: Goodnight babe.

Sbani: Goodnight sthandwa sam.

We kissed then he fell asleep right away I tried sleeping but when I closed my eyes I kept on seeing sis Sindi I don't know maybe it's because I have been thinking about her a lot since the nightmares but it felt so real.

I saw myself walking around in woods there was wind blowing around the place, I heard sis Sindi calling my name. I was responding but it was like she can't hear me, I walked around and the wind started blowing very strong. I walked till I saw a person sitting by the river I kept on walking till I reached her, I tapped on her shoulder and she turned I couldn't believe my eyes it was sis Sindi.

I tried speaking but words failed me.

Sis Sindi: Help me! Help me Thando you are my only hope.

She got up and looked at me a tear dropped from her eye I couldn't miss the pain written all over my face. I tried holding her hand I wanted her to tell me how to help me, when I tried getting closer to her she kept moving backwards. When I was about to touch her, her head disappeared and she was left without it. I turned around and ran but I felt foot steps like she was chasing me and I could here the voices repeating the same thing.

" Help me Thando you are my only hope" I was now sweating and crying since I was running, I couldn't even find a way out of the forest because the wind was now blinding my eyes.

Sbani: Thando wake up.

Me: Mmmm.

Sbani: Wake up its just a dream.

I was shaking uncontrollable.

Sbani: Hey I will get you some water.

He ran to the bathroom and came back with water.

I drank it and sighed this is starting to weigh me down.

Me: She needs some help.

Sbani: Let me go and fetch mamzo.

He ran out and came back with Mamzo.

Mamzo: What's going on Thando?

I told her what happens.

Mamzo: There's someone I know that will help you, we will go there tomorrow.

Sbani: Will that person help her?

Mamzo: Yes she will.

Me: Thank you.

Mamzo: You have to pray everytime you sleep.

Sbani: Can you pray for us.

She prayed.

Mamzo: Don't worry everything will be fine wena

Sbani you don't realise it but you have power

invested in you to help people like Thando.

We looked at each other.

Sbani: What does that mean Mamzo?

Mamzo: Nothing goodnight.

Me: Goodnight mama.

She left and went to her room.

Sbani: Will you be able to sleep?

Me: Yes by the power invested in you I will sleep peacefully.

Sbani: Come on don't tell me you believe what she said.

Me: She is always saying that so I'm starting to believe her.

Sbani: Let's just sleep.

He held me in his arms and hummed a song for me.

Insert twenty four

When we are young and still growing we think life is

a bed full of roses and that life is sweet not knowing that it is a total opposite. Now I have learnt that life is not meant to be easy, it's meant to be lived. Sometimes happy, other times rough but every up and down you learn lessons that make you strong. We always behave like life owes us something even after showing us that it owes nothing yet we never learn.

We are now on our way to see the prophet or sangoma I don't know, Mamzo woke us up in the early hours of the morning and we are all going. They are all sleeping beside Sphe who is driving I'm just looking around wondering what I would have done if Sbani did not come back for me, I wonder where my feet would have taken me since I was running and not looking back. What life would be like if Sis Sindi was still alive.

I'm disturbed from my thoughts by Mamzo telling Sphe to pull up the car because we have arrived I didn't even notice that she was awake.

Who comes to someone's house at this time I'm sure they are still sleeping.

I wake everyone to tell them that we have arrived.

Sims: So what now, we are going to wake them up?

Mamzo: No she knows we are already here.

Sbani: I'm sleeping wake me up when she comes.

The gate opens and a very young beautiful lady comes out to meet us.

Mamzo: Luthando.

Luthando: Mama it's been long.

Mamzo: Ngiyazi ukuba matasa nje (I know it's just that I have been busy).

Luthando: I know mama are they all here.

Mamzo: Yes they are.

She greeted us by our names even though we didn't tell her, I don't think she is the one that we came to see she looks young.

Luthando: I'm the one who's going to help you guys and I'm not that young Thando.

Me: Uhmm how did you know that?

She just laughed gosh she is beautiful and the guys were looking at her in awe.

Luthando: I'm married guys so stop looking at me like that.

Sims: Are we getting inside or what it's kind of cold in here.

Luthando talked to Mamzo on the side then came back to us.

Luthando: Let's go.

We all got out of the car and approached the house.

Luthando: Who said we are getting inside, we will go to the river first you can't get in there without being cleansed.

The guys were really cold they ran to the car.

Luthando: Please listen to me get off that car and start walking following mama, we are not using a car to the river.

TJ: Are you serious?

She didn't talk but she pointed the way.

We all walked in silence, I wonder when she woke up because it's still very early for this.

We walked for about thirty minutes then we got to a river, when I say a river I don't mean something maybe like a dam I mean something like an ocean.

Sbani: You got to be kidding me.

Sphe: All I know is that I'm not getting inside that river.

Sims: Nami bafo nginawe kulokho (I'm also with you on that one).

Luthando: We are here please stop talking and listen to me, are you all listening?

Us: Yes.

Luthando: I will get into the river with one person at a time for a cleansing we need to be fast because there are a lot of things we need to do today so please don't give me any problems. I'm not going to beg you guys to do this, I will go into the water first to pray then the first person will come but Sbani you will be the last one.

Sbani: Why?

She did not answer him instead she hummed softly and gently it was just calming.

Luthando: Oh and please take off your clothes.

Isipho: You mean we must be naked?

She nodded and went to the water she wasn't even afraid.

Sims: Mamzo is she serious?

Mamzo: Yes.

Mamzo said taking off her clothes.

Sphe: I'm never coming to this place.

Luthando: Can the first person please come.

Mamzo went in first it seems like she is used to this.

After Mamzo it was TJ then Sphe then Isipho then Sims, The way the guys screamed it was all just funny but it was now my turn.

When I put my foot in the water it was so cold.

Luthando: I don't have all day Thando I will put your

head under this water ten times I know I didn't do it to the others but I know why I'm doing it to you.

I nodded reluctantly.

She did her thing while praying I felt like I was going to die, when she was done I went to the others mind you we were not suppose to get dressed until we get to the car so we were all just standing there naked and cold.

It was now Sbani's turn and he was just standing there looking deep into the water.

Luthando: Sbanisamakhoza come and gents I will need your help with this one it's going to be a bit hard.

The guys went to assist Luthando while doing her thing and took longer than I expected, I would be lying if I say I saw what she was doing it just became blur.

Me: Do you see anything?

I asked Isipho.

Isipho: No I was even afraid of asking you because I

thought it was happening to me only.

After a while they all came back.

Luthando: Let's all walk back to the car and when we get you all get dressed and go inside.

We walked to the car while naked when we got there we wore our clothes and got inside the yard, the house is a double storey very beautiful.

No one was talking we were all just drained by the water I guess.

Luthando: You can all sit down so we can begin.

We sat down on the mat in her hut, the guys sat on their side and us on our side.

Luthando: So let's begin with you Thando.

I felt my heart beating fast.

Luthando: You need to go to Joburg and dig Sindi's head in front of Lorraine's house and go bury it where you buried her body, you need to go back home where you were born and do a ritual for your parents but don't worry I will assist you with that and lastly you have to go see your aunt she needs to talk

to you before she dies. You are where you suppose to be now don't mess it up because you will never get another chance in this life.

This was just a lot to take in but I understood everything she said.

Luthando: Isipho and Sphe I see a good thing between you guys don't mess it up, Sphe I need to take you to your parents their hearts bleed for you. I know you have questions and I will answer them when I'm done.

Luthando: TJ it's all good but...

She looked at Sphe then at TJ she kept doing that for about ten minutes.

Luthando: TJ and Sphe I see something common between you too, you are brothers.

We all gasped but TJ and Sphe were just looking at each other.

I saw the resemblance between them but I thought it's because they have been friends for long.

Luthando: Don't worry I will explain, you were both

stolen from your parents house when you were still young by your mother's friend and her husband, they started resenting you guys because the more you grew up the more you looked like your parents so they knew people are going to start asking questions. They separated you guys when you were still young so that's why you don't know each other.

TJ: It can't be we are the same age.

Luthando: That's because you are twins.

They looked at each other and tears fell from their eyes.

Luthando: It's all good now don't worry.

She looked at Mamzo.

Luthando: Sims and mama all is well you just need to do a small ritual for your husband.

Sbani you will go under water for five days, when you come back you will not be a sangoma or anything like that you will just help those people that you will be assigned to help and you will be able to see everything just like me. It will not be your every day

thing just like me but you have to do it because it's who you are.

The look on hubby he was so terrified and the thought of him staying under water for five days was terrifying for everyone.

Luthando: Don't be scared it's your destiny so nothing will happen to you, Sbani and Isipho your parents are saying it's time to fix those businesses now and continue building your legacy. And to all of you no matter what happens between you guys solve it like a family because that's what you are, No one between all of you can ever survive without the other. This was all God's plan he knew that through everything that has happened to each and everyone of you, you will always have each other please just keep it that way and mama you are blessed keep being there for them.

Mamzo: I will I promise.

Luthando: I know you are all hungry and tired, I will organise food for you guys then you can rest later

we are going it's still a long journey.

Sphe: I can go anywhere after I have ate and rested but not the river.

We all laughed.

Sims: Me and you both.

Luthando: No more rivers, Sphe and TJ come with me.

They followed her outside.

Isipho: The river was not that bad I feel lighter and free.

Mamzo: That's what it does.

Sbani: You have been there?

Mamzo: Yes.

Me: I saw the way you behaved mama you were not scared at all.

Two girls brought us food and beverages.

Sims: Finally.

We all ate in silence I didn't even realise I was this

hungry until now.

Sphe and TJ came back smiling.

Sphe: Don't tell us you also ate our food.

Sbani: Ofcos we did.

TJ: You are not serious right?

Mamzo: They are just joking boys please don't faint.

We all laughed while eating.

Mamzo: The way you all screamed in the water you were like small girls.

TJ: Let's not talk about that please.

We laughed because he is the one who screamed the most.

Mamzo: So how do you guys feel? Did coming here help?

Me: You have no idea mama thank you so much.

Sphe: We are really grateful Mamzo we wouldn't have known that we are blood brothers I just don't know what to say.

Sims: You are just going to start crying we know you so just shut up.

We all expressed our gratitude to Mamzo.

Sbani: So Mamzo you knew about this gift of mine didn't you?

Mamzo: Yes I did your mother was my best friend so she told me everything.

Sbani: So you think it's safe for me to go to the river?

Mamzo: Yes it's safe I knew you will have to do it some day.

Sbani: It's fine then.

TJ: Thokoza.

He said teasing Sbani.

Sbani: Mxm just shut up and let me sleep.

The mat was comfortable enough for us to sleep.

Luthando came to the hut with blankets.

Luthando: I'm only giving you guys two hours to rest then we hit the road to Joburg, I will come wake you

guys up.

Mamzo: Thank you Luthando.

Luthando: It's my job mama and the power of the Lord, you guys before you sleep remember that life goes on whether you choose to move on and take a chance in the unknown, or stay behind locked in the past thinking of what could have happened.

She said that and left us to think about what she was saying, we all layed down without saying anything I guess everyone was just thinking about it. I think the time has come for us to face the past and leave it behind so we can move on and be happy without worrying about what occurred when we were young or all the mistakes we made while growing up. It's been long since I felt at ease when I'm about to sleep, I smile then drift off to sleep.

Insert twenty five

Sbani

Life is really unpredictable it shows us that whatever we plan for ourselves God will always decide because he planned our lives before we were born. We always think that we have better plans but He always has even greater plans, sometimes I think it would be better if we are born holding a paper or book with all our journey so we would know what we will face when we grow up that can actually prepare us for everything we face but maybe some of us will not be able to handle it. I never in my whole life thought that I would be told that I have the power within me to heal people or to see beyond of what meets the human eye.

I get up and go outside, Isipho was right going into that water makes you feel calm and free.

Luthando: You are awake?

Me: Yes I am.

Luthando: What's on your mind?

Me: I'm just thinking about life and everything you know.

Luthando: You know growing up I didn't know I had a

gift but my grandparents always told me I'm a special child.

Me: Did you understand what they meant about that?

Luthando: No I didn't but when I finished matric I started having dreams and everything I dreamt actually happened but still I didn't understand until they died and then I had no one to tell me what it all meant.

Me: I'm sorry about that, so when did it all make sense?

Luthando: When I met my father who also had the same gift, I went through a lot before it all came together but I'm glad that I had my husband through it all. He is my strength I don't think anyone else would have stayed with me to walk the journey I walked.

Me: I guess you were lucky then, I love my sister and everyone else in my life but the only people that I feel like I will always have a strong connection with are my parents. Everytime when I feel down or when I feel conflicted I go to their grave and talk to them

and after that I feel much better.

Luthando: That's because you do have a strong connection with them and it will always be like that till you join them in the after life. Do you love Thando or you feel sorry for her because of the things she went through?

Me: I think I love her no I know I love her I just don't feel that connected to her maybe it's because we haven't spent much time together alone. When she told me she kissed TJ it actually caused me to doubt her a lot.

Luthando: She loves but I don't know whether she is your soulmate or not. I can see you getting married but I don't see who you are marrying whether it's Thando or someone else it's just not clear but my advice after all this is done spend time with her then you will know.

Me: You just confused me more.

Luthando: Don't be everything that will happen in your life from now on, you will see it and know whether it's right or wrong.

Me: Thank you for the talk.

Luthando: It's my pleasure it's always great to talk to someone who gets you, now let's go wake the others we need to hit the road.

Me: Don't you get tired of doing all this?

Luthando: No I don't think I can live my life without doing it, the sad part is that even my children will follow in my path not all of them but my son is already giving me problems.

Me: If you don't mind me asking who had this gift in my family?

Luthando: Your parents.

Me: Both of them?

Luthando: Yes both of them.

I nodded, they died when we were still young we wouldn't have known all that. I don't like thinking about my parents because it makes me think about what Muzi did.

We went inside and they were all awake just folding the blankets.

I looked at Thando and thought about what Luthando said can it be possible that she is not my soulmate, I don't think I want to meet someone else even though I'm still not sure how I really feel about Thando.

Luthando: I'm glad you are all awake I hope you have rested.

Mamzo: We have baby thank you.

Luthando: I will drive with you mama and you all can go together.

Sims: I'm not driving first.

Sphe: I'm not driving at all because I drove when we came here.

Luthando: I don't care how you all do it but let's go.

Me: I will drive first let's go.

We all got into the car and I drove, every one was happy chatting and enjoying the drive. It makes me very happy to see them smiling and laughing like this.

We stopped at some garage to relieve our selves and get some food.

Sims: Let me drive man.

Me: Even if you didn't say it I was about to ask you to.

Sims: Mxm.

Thando was sitting alone in the backseat, TJ was sleeping and Sphe was busy all lovey dovey with my sister.

Me: Are you okay?

Thando: Yes I'm just scared.

Me: Don't be everything will work out just fine.

Thando: I'm not sure if I'm ready to see that place again.

Me: You have to do this so that we put the past behind us.

Thando: I know and thank you for helping me do all this without you I don't know where I would be.

Me: I'm here for you always.

Thando: I love you hubby.

Me: I love you too wifey.

We kissed and it felt right so right that I became sure she is the one or maybe that's how I want to feel.

Sphe: Hayi guys you can't be kissing like that in front of us.

Me: You have been licking my sister like no one's business in front of me so nje please.

Sphe: I will never hear the end of it.

Me: Vele you will never.

We all laughed.

After a few hours we were in Joburg.

Sims: We are here.

We all got out of the car and waited for Luthando and Mamzo.

My phone rings and it's Mamzo.

Mamzo: Where are you guys? We are in Lorraine's house.

Me: You didn't tell us to drive there though.

Mamzo: You guys knew we were coming here didn't

you.

Me: Okay we are coming please send us the address.

I gave Sims the address then he drove.

Me: Are you ready sthandwa sam?

Thando: I think I am let's get this over and done with.

Me: I'm here okay.

She nodded I could see that she was scared.

We arrived there and the house was burnt down I remember Muzi telling me that he burned the house.

Luthando: Get out of the car we don't have enough time.

We all got out the car and followed Luthando she is nice and all but when she is on work mode she doesn't laugh at all.

Thando

I looked around and the place was burnt down, this

place was once a place I thought I would call home. It wasn't so pleasant but at least I had a roof over my head, in here I found a person who was my friend and sister.

Then I remember the pain I went through all the things Mam Lorraine did to me.

I feel someone hold my hand.

Sbani: Hey I'm here we are all here don't be scared.

I nod my head a few times.

Luthando: Well boys you need to dig over there.

Sphe: Where?

Luthando: Here.

She said pointing where the door was located.

Sbani: Okay let's get to it then.

Luthando: Can you even dig or ningo skrr skrr.

We all laughed while the guys started digging.

Me: Stop please stop.

I was already seeing the skull, I fell down on my knees

and attempted to touch it.

Luthando: No Thando let me touch it first.

I nodded.

She took it out and did her thing.

Luthando: Bring that box.

TJ gave her the box and she put the skull in it, I can't even see it's her but I believe it because Luthando is saying so.

Luthando: You can carry the box Thando and we go to where you buried her body.

I took the box and went to the car with it then we drove to the place I was kept captive. The place I wished to never visit ever again.

Sbani: We are here are you ready.

Me: I don't know.

Sbani: I know this is hard on you harder than we can all imagine but you need to do this not for anyone else but for you and for Sindi.

Me: Okay let's do it.

We did all the necessary things and it was all done.

Luthando: You can have a minute and talk to her.

I nodded my head.

Sbani: I can stay with you if you like.

Me: Please.

He kneeled down with me.

Me: Uhmm sis Sindi I hope you are now resting in peace, if I could I would turn back the hands of time but now I can't. I wish you were still here to see me grow and become all that you wanted me to become, it kills to know that you died while fighting for my freedom I promise to make you proud everyday. Lala uphumule sthandwa sam I will always be grateful for everything you did for me and I will always carry you in my heart. I love you always.

Sbani: It's okay all is done now.

We got up and went to the others.

I'm glad I did this I hope sis Sindi is now happy wherever she is.

Luthando: She will let you know how happy she is let's go.

I hope this is a beginning of new things I can now focus on my future and on my relationship with Sbani hoping it will all work out just fine.

Insert twenty six

1 year later

Life changes you lose love, you lose friends. You lose pieces of yourself that you never imagined would be gone. And then, without you even realising it these pieces come back. New love enters.

Better friends come along and a stronger wiser you is staring back at the mirror with a smile of confidence.

Don't ever try holding back from being made a better person, don't resist problems and challenges because they come to make you a better person than you already are.

What we face is different but we all come out strong it's up to you if you want to give up or get up and face the world because everyone is fighting their own battle whether they do it with a smile on their faces or with worry.

Never in my wildest dreams have I thought that I will find happiness in this world but now you don't even have to ask me whether I'm okay or not it's written all over me. I went to see my aunt and her husband last year, let me tell you how it all went down.

Few months back

Sbani: Are you sure about this?

Me: I'm not sure but I have to do it, I'm tired of living in the past.

Sbani: Let's get in then.

I took a deep breath and Sbani held my hand reassuring me that it will be fine and that's all I needed him by my side.

Sbani: Knock Knock.

The door opened and I came face to face with my

nightmare, she just stood there and looked at me without saying anything. I attempted to go back to the car but she called my name.

Aunt: Lwethu.

That's what she used to call me when things were still going well between us.

I looked back and I saw tears in her eyes but I didn't believe she was really crying, "those are just crocodile tears" I said to myself.

Sbani: Sthandwa sam please lets get inside.

I wiped my tears and followed after him to the house.

Aunt: Ningahlala phansi (You can sit down).

We sat down, the house was still the same except that it was all dusty now and the furniture was a bit worn out.

It was now awfully quiet in the room with my aunt sniffing I don't know why she is acting because there are no cameras here or any price to be won.

Sbani looked at me then at her and cleared his throat.

Aunt: I'm sorry I could be offering you guys something to drink but we have nothing in this house.

Sbani: It's okay mah, Thando uyakhuluma or what? I knew he was getting pissed.

Me: Uhmm I came here to find closure, I want to leave the past behind me and carry on with my life but I can't do that without knowing what I did to you for you to treat me the way you did.

Aunt: Lwethu I can never justify what I did to you, I don't even know what to say besides I'm sorry.

Me: Why did you hurt me like that you were suppose to protect me.

Aunt: I know and there is no day that passes by without me not thinking about what I did to you, I regret it sthandwa sam I know I wronged you and no amount of apologies can undo it but please forgive me.

Me: You hurt me beyond repair, do you know where I went when you and your husband kicked me out I stayed on the streets, the streets aunt and I

ended being a prostitute almost died in the process while you were here living your best life.

She came to me and kneeled down.

Aunt: I was not living my best life Lwethu my brother's spirit haunted me for neglecting you and as you can see I lost everything.

Me: Where is your husband?

Aunt: He left me for someone else you know how he is like, please forgive me ngane kamfowethu I don't have enough time in this world please.

Me: What do you mean you don't have enough time?

Aunt: I have cancer and the doctor told me that I have a few months to live please forgive me so I can be able to rest in peace.

Coming here I told myself that I will forgive my aunt because she is the only blood family member I have left then we will take it one day at a time working on our relationship but now this.

Me: Aunt no you can't die now I still need you to make it out to me.

Aunt: I'm being punished Lwethu for all the things I did to you.

Me: But I forgive you.

Aunt: You do?

That came out as a whisper.

I looked at my pillar of strength and he nodded.

Me: Yes I do please don't die.

I was now holding her hands crying.

Sbani: Mah we can get you all the help you need if you allow us.

Aunt: And I appreciate that with all my heart but please let me rest Lwethu I can never live with myself after all that I have done.

Me: But I want you to live.

Aunt: I can't Lwethu.

Me: No you can't do that to me if you want me to be happy you will allow us to help you.

Aunt: I have suffered enough the pain is unbearable

please let me go.

Then it was it she started having seizures we took her to the hospital but she was gone, I know you may think I'm a fool but I didn't want her to die. I wanted her to live but there was nothing I could do than to accept it and move on.

Now

Me: Isi why are you running who is chasing you?

She closed the door and sat on my bed.

Me: Okay you are scaring me what's going on, I thought you were at school.

We are both studying at UKZN and we stay here not at res.

Isipho: I had to skip class I wasn't feeling well.

Me: Okay did you go to the doctor?

Isipho: No Ummm I think I'm you know.

Me: No I don't know.

Isipho: Urgg Thando you can be slow at times.

She took out four sealed pregnant tests.

Me: Isi no no.

Isipho: I know I think I'm pregnant Bhuti is going to kill me.

Me: I thought you and Sphe were not doing the deed.

Isipho: We were Uhmm I mean we are.

Me: Okay let's not panic just do the tests and let's see what they say.

Isipho: What if they come out positive?

Me: Just do them.

She went to the bathroom panicking, hubby is going to kill this one and the hardest thing is that we don't keep any secrets from him because he sees things before we do, if Isi is pregnant I bet he already knows. He went to the river and he ended up staying there for a whole month not five days we all thought he was never coming out but he did and everything

is fine now.

Isipho: Thando.

Isi shouted from the bathroom.

Me: So?

Isipho: Please check them for me I'm scared.

I took them all and they were all positive.

Me: Ummm Isi.

Isipho: They are positive aren't they?

Me: Yes I'm sorry babes.

Isipho: Bhuti uzongibulala Thando (he is going to kill me).

She started crying.

Me: Please calm down you can't be crying like this while pregnant.

She just looked at me and cried more.

Me: Isipho please.

Isipho: Maybe he already knows oh my gosh what am I going to do.

Me: He is going to be angry yes but he will calm down.

Isipho: We talked about this and I promised him that I will not get pregnant while I'm still at school and he asked if I was having sex with Sphe and I said no.

Me: It's going to be fine.

I took her to my bed and she fell asleep, I went downstairs and Mamzo was there.

Me: Mama we hardly see you in this house it's like you found yourself a man.

She laughed.

Mamzo: Hayi Thando I'm actually on my way out.

Me: So who is he?

Mamzo: Hayi mahn Thando I'm not your friend.

Me: Are you blushing?

She hit me with a towel.

Mamzo: You won't be laughing like that when Sbani ask you why you didn't tell him that Isi is pregnant.

Me: Wait you know?

Mamzo: Ngimdala mina Thando (I'm old).

Me: Please stay so that you will talk to him for us.

Mamzo: No I can't keep my man waiting.

Me: Shisa mama "your man".

We both laughed.

Me: Wait let me go with you I want to go see hubby in his office.

Mamzo: You want to bribe him with your vagina.

Me: Haa mama.

I ran to my room to freshen up, I love the way Mamzo treats us it's like we are all her children no favouritism what's so ever.

Me: We can go.

Mamzo: I bet there's a lingerie underneath that dress.

We laughed and she dropped me off at the office.

I went straight to his office because his PA was not there.

Me: Knock knock.

Sbani: Come in.

Me: Hubby.

Sbani: Wifey.

We kissed.

Sbani: What did I do to deserve this because I always have to beg you to come to my office.

Me: I missed you and I bought you lunch.

Sbani: Thank you as if you knew my PA called in sick so I have no one to buy me food.

Me: And I bought you desert.

I lowered my dress and showed my lingerie, yes Mamzo was right so don't look at me like that.

Sbani: Ummm Thando marn.

I was now sitting on his lap.

Me: Don't mind me just eat.

I kneeled between his legs and removed his belt then i put my hands inside him and took out his manhood.

I put the tip in my mouth and he jumped.

Me: Please don't move.

Sbani: Thando.

He groaned my name but I continued with what I was doing and he had stopped eating his hands were now in my head, he came in my mouth and I swallowed. He lifted me up and put me on his desk and started kissing me from my mouth down to my breasts.

Me: Sba..ahh.

He went down till he was on my vagina, my lingerie was already on the floor torn.

He put his tongue on my vagina.

Sbani: Thando why did you come to my office today.

Me: I Ummm ahhh yes.

Sbani: I asked you a question Thando.

His mouth vibrated on my clit while he talked but I didn't answer.

He put one finger then two fingers and I went crazy

his tongue was still on my clit.

Sbani: Are you answering or not?

He asked again going in and out fast.

Me: I ahhh Sbani I'm cumm..

He slowed his pace down.

Sbani: You are not going to cum before you answer my question.

Me: Sbani please.

Sbani: Please what?

He asked taking out his shaft and rubbing it on my entrance total torture.

Sbani: uthi why are you here?

Me: Sbani I ahhh.

He put it in and took it out I swear I wanted to cry.

Sbani: Khuluma sthandwa sam (Talk my love).

He was now going in deep I could feel him on my womb, he hit it fast and deep.

Me: Isipho is ahhh yes.

Sbani: Isipho is what?

Me: She is pregnant baby ahh damn I wasn't suppose to say that.

Sbani: Good.

He said going in and out gosh he is so good, we continue with our thing and the rest is history.

Insert twenty seven

Sbani

Life is great I guess all the storms are calm and pass us now, if someone told me that realising and embracing your gift was this wonderful I wouldn't have agreed but after I went under the ocean I came back feeling like I was born again that's how great it felt. I have helped a few people and I'm still going to continue doing so, the businesses are now up and running and we opened other branches so each one of us owns a company except for the girls because they are still studying atleast that's what I thought

before Isi got pregnant. I knew the day they made that baby that she was going to get pregnant but there's nothing I would have done.

After our little session Thando fell asleep in my office but now we are in my car going home since I'm done working, she's not talking to me because I made her tell me that Isi is pregnant I don't know how I made her do it but she is saying I did.

Me: So you not going to talk to me?

She kept quiet.

Me: Thandolwam.

Thando: Isi is going to kill me.

Me: So you weren't going to tell me if it wasn't for my deep strokes.

Thando: This is not a joke Hlase.

Me: Nam I'm not joking wifey I'm asking you when were you going to tell me?

She kept quiet.

Me: Awusakhulumi Thandolwethu (You can't talk

now).

She knows I'm getting pissed when I call her that.

Thando: Uhmm I was going to tell you.

Me: If you were going to tell me then why are you angry that I know huh.

Thando: It's just that Isi was suppose to tell you herself.

Me: And what were you suppose to do keep it a secret?

Thando: Yes I mean no I'm sorry okay.

Me: Uphakamisela bani izwi(Who are you raising your voice to).

Thando: I'm sorry Hlase.

Me: It's fine vele I already knew.

I passed by McDonald drive thru.

Me: What do you want to eat?

Thando: Nothing I'm not hungry.

Me: Ufuna sixabane yini Thandolwam?

She ordered for everyone, I know you all think I'm being harsh but I hate being lied to and she knows it.

I drove till we got home.

Thando: Please don't tell Isi that I told you.

I chuckled she literally wanted to cry.

Me: I won't wifey relax.

We got inside the house and they were playing video games.

Me: You guys good?

They nodded not even paying attention to me, I went to the room to freshen up while wifey went to the kitchen after I was done I went back to the others.

Sims: Hayi Angel you are cheating why are you always winning.

Isipho: Because I learnt from the best.

She said looking at me and smiling, I love her so much but she is growing too fast.

Thando: Food is ready.

We all gathered around the table.

TJ: Mamzo is not around again.

Me: She is with her man.

They all looked at me.

Me: What? It's the truth.

Sims: Who is he I think I need to see him.

Me: She will tell us when she is ready.

Sims: Mxm.

Sphe took a bite on his burger and ran to the bathroom, Isi looked at me then looked down.

TJ: What's up with him?

We all shrugged our shoulders, Sphe came back looking all sick.

Me: Are you okay bafo.

Sphe: I don't know I have been feeling like this today and I haven't ate.

TJ: You need to see a doctor.

Me: Doctor for what ungaguli (When you not sick).

Isipho and Thando choked on their drinks and we all looked at them.

Sims: Talk what's going on?

They looked at each other.

Me: Are you guys talking or should I?

Them: Uhmm no argh yes.

Sphe: Nithini?

Isipho: Bhuti I'm sorry.

Me: For what?

Thando: Come on Sbani you already know.

Me: How do I know did you tell me?

Thando looked at Isi.

Isipho: No Thando you didn't.

Thando: I'm sorry Isi your brother made me tell him I didn't mean to.

Isipho: Did he force?

Thando: No he Uhmm I'm so sorry Isi.

Isipho: You promised Thando.

TJ: Woaw we are still waiting to know whats going on.

Isi go up and attempted to leave.

Me: Isipho sit down.

Sims: Bafo don't shout at her.

Me: Isipho here is pregnant.

Sphe: Isipho.

Isipho: I was going to tell after I have told my brother but Thando here ruined everything.

Me: Which everything are you talking about? you mean the fact that you are pregnant.

Isipho: Bhuti I'm sorry ngiyaxolisa Hlase.

Sphe: Bafo.

Me: Don't Sphehile don't we talked about this and you promised you were going to wait until she graduates.

TJ: Calm down Sbani what's done is done kodwa

nani ke what happened to protection.

Isipho: I'm sorry Bhuti TJ.

TJ: It's okay Angel.

Me: Since you guys are grown enough to build your own family you will have to find your own place.

Sphe: You are being too hard on us now Sbani.

Me: You knock up my sister and you still have the nerve to tell me that, uyajwayela wena Sphe.

I got up and punched we fought and everyone was just watching us. When we were done we got up.

Sims: Do you guys feel better now?

Me: Mxm I need some air.

Sphe followed me.

Sphe: I'm sorry bafo it just happened.

Me: Is that suppose to make me feel better.

Sphe: Hayi what should I do now kiss you.

Me: Fuck off.

Sphe: I'm still shocked.

Me: Are you happy though?

Sphe: Over the moon.

Me: Okay Donald.

Sphe: Mxm.

Me: I'm still angry by the way.

I got up and went inside, Isi and Thando were shouting at each other upstairs.

TJ: I didn't expect that.

Sims: Neither did I but they are in a relationship and they are intimate.

Me: I really don't have a problem with their relationship but I wanted Isi to graduate first before this.

TJ: There is nothing we can do now, go talk to them before they kill each other and Sbani be calm please.

I nodded.

Thando

Me: I'm sorry Isi I didn't mean to tell him and he already knew.

Isipho: I don't care if he already knew or not but you didn't have to tell him.

Me: I don't know what else to say because I told you I'm sorry.

Sbani: Why are shouting at each other like that?

Us: Thando broke a secret, Isi I have been apologising for that.

Sbani: How am I suppose to hear you when you talk at the same time?

He is chilled and I don't like it.

Sbani: Sit down both of you.

Isipho: I'm sorry Bhuti I know I disappointed you.

Sbani: It's fine there is nothing I can do to change the situation so it's fine.

Me: I'm sorry Isi.

Isipho: It's fine but next time don't let my brother's dick control you.

Sbani: I'm still here.

Isipho: Were you serious about throwing us out?

Sbani: Yes angithi you are grown now and you can make babies.

Isipho: Bhuti.

Sbani: Let's go I need to talk to you and Sphe about that ugly baby you carrying.

We all laughed, Sbani is like a ticking bomb really.

They left and I went to the bathroom to smoke some weed Sbani told me to quit smoking and I told him I did.

I smoked and when I was done I went back to my bedroom only to find Sbani sitting on my bed.

Me: Ummm I didn't know you were here.

Sbani: Ufuqa insangu Thandolwethu (You smoke weed now).

Me: I'm sorry.

Sbani: Is this the life you want us to live, you lying to me all the damn time and then you say sorry.

Me: I was just stressed.

Sbani: Didn't you say that you quit smoking.

Me: I did I mean I tried.

Sbani: Then what happened?

Me: Just stop shouting at me, just because you helped me out doesn't mean you control me.

Sbani: Wow just wow.

Me: I didn't mean it like that.

He was already gone, no need to tell me I know I'm stupid very stupid. I just keep ruining things I don't know what's wrong with me.

I went downstairs and Isi and Sphe were cuddling on the couch.

Me: Did you guys see Sbani?

Sphe: They went out.

Me: Okay goodnight then.

Isipho: I thought your friends from school were having a party aren't you going.

Me: I forgot about that.

I went to the room and when I was about to fall asleep a message came through my phone from my friend at varsity saying they were outside.

I hesitated but then I woke up freshen up then wore a very nice dress.

When I got downstairs Isi and Sphe were not there so I sneaked out.

Zane: I thought you weren't going to come.

Me: If you didn't come fetch me I wasn't.

Zane: Get inside let's go.

Me: Where is the party again?

Zane: My boyfriends place, why didn't bring your boyfriend?

Me: We kind of had a fight earlier on.

Zane: And you are here instead of apologising.

Me: No it's fine he will calm down.

She drove to her boyfriend's place and it was packed.

Zane: We are here let's go I will introduce you to some of my friends.

She kept on introducing me.

Me: Is that your boyfriend?

Zane: Yes and that's his cousin he's a psychopath please stay away from him.

Me: Don't worry I will.

Her boyfriend and cousin came to us.

Zane: Babe this is my friend Thando, that's Gift my boyfriend and Chad his cousin.

Me: Nice to meet you guys.

Gift: Same here can I steal Zane for a sec.

Me: It's fine.

Zane: Friend remember what I told you.

She was talking about Chad.

Me: Yes friend.

Chad: Nice eyes Thando and you are beautiful.

Me: Thank you Chad excuse me.

Chad: Where are you going I'm still talking to you.

I swallowed hard.

Me: I want to get something to drink.

Chad: I will call someone to get us something to drink.

Me: No I want to go talk to the others.

He lifted his t-shirt and there was a gun on his waist.

Chad: If you dare shout you will die sit the fuck down.

I looked around and Zane was no where to be found.

What did I get myself into.

Insert twenty eight

Sbani

Earlier we went to get some drinks because I was

pissed at Thando sometimes I really think she is not my soulmate, she just doesn't get me and she is disrespectful asf.

We are now in the car going back home we have work tomorrow.

Sims: Don't tell me you are still pissed?

Me: This is why I was never in serious relationships.

TJ: Hayi abafazi (woman).

Me: I just want to sleep I have a very important meeting tomorrow.

Sims: And we are here.

We got inside the house.

TJ: It's so quite I guess everyone is sleeping, goodnight gents.

Me: So bafo.

I went to my room we are now using the same room with Thando but she was not there. I checked the room she was using before still not there.

I went to Isipho's room she was not there, I checked

Sphe's room and they were watching a movie.

Me: Sorry to disturb you guys but have you seen Thando.

Isipho: Thando is sleeping Bhuti.

Me: I have checked the rooms but she is not here.

Isipho: Bhuti what do you mean?

Me: I mean just that akekho.

They got off the bed and we searched the house.

Sims: What's going on nifunani?(what are you looking for).

Sphe: Thando.

Sims: Where is she?

Me: She is clearly not in the house.

Sims: Hayi I'm starting to get fed up with this girl.

TJ: Where could she be Angel did she tell you anything?

Isipho: No.

Sphe: The party you talked about.

Me: What party?

Isipho: She said she was not going this means she sneaked out.

Isipho checked her phone.

Isipho: Ummm she might have gone to the party.

Me: Give me that.

I scrolled down on Isipho's Instagram and the dress that Thando is wearing I don't even want to talk about it.

Me: Who is Zane and what is she wearing?

Sphe: Let me see.

They kept on passing the phone to each other.

Sims: I don't understand what does Thando want exactly.

Isipho: Bhuti can we please fetch her.

Me: No I'm going back to sleep, Thando sneaked out and didn't tell anyone this means she knows what she is doing.

Isipho looked at the guys.

Sims: No I'm not getting involved.

TJ: Me neither goodnight guys.

Sphe: I love you but let's go to sleep.

Isipho: Sphe.

Sphe: Isipho let's go.

She dragged her feet and followed Sphe while I also went to my room to sleep.

Narrated

Chad found an empty room in the house and took Thando to it.

Chad: Just relax don't do anything stupid or else you die.

Thando nodded but her eyes were on the gun since she knows how to shoot.

Chad: I'm not going to hurt you let's just have fun.

He said taking out some weed and cocaine.

Thando: You smoke weed?

Chad: Yes you do too?

Thando thought about the argument she had with Sbani earlier but then she nodded.

They smoked and kept on smoking till Thando was too high, he took off Thando's clothes and his clothes made Thando lay on the bed. He also layed next to her naked and took some photos and posted them on Instagram tagging Thando in the process. You see Chad is a really psychopath he stopped taking his meds a few days ago and his cousin doesn't know.

He didn't even rape Thando but the photos he took were very intimate and they looked like a real couple, Thando was no asleep. Chad put Thando's clothes on her and then slept next to her smiling.

On the other side Isipho woke up because her was beeping nonstop with notifications.

Some people from Varsity were sharing the photos,

she took her phone and couldn't believe her eyes she ran to the bathroom to wash her face because of shock.

Isipho: Thando what have you done no no.

She tried calling Thando's phone but it went straight on voicemail.

Sphe: Babe are you okay?

Isipho: Yes I'm fine.

She hid her phone and went back to the bedroom.

Sphe: Is everything okay.

She thought about lying but then they were going to see the photos because they were all over social media.

Isipho: Please don't freak out.

She said showing him the photos.

Sphe: What the hell is this?

Isipho: I don't know.

Sphe: Isipho don't lie to me is Thando cheating on

Sbani.

Isipho: I don't know.

Sphe: Sbani doesn't deserve this let's go to TJ maybe he can take out this photos before Sbani sees them.

They went out of their room and heard TJ and Sims talking in the kitchen.

Sims: Morning love birds.

Sphe: Guys there's no time for that look.

He showed them the photos and TJ dropped his bowl of cereal.

TJ: What in the world is this?

Isipho: Can you do something before my brother see them.

TJ: People are sharing them so I can't even if I tried.

They all sat down.

Sims: Sbani is going to lose it.

TJ: No offense but he doesn't deserve this.

Sphe: That's exactly what I said.

Isipho: Do you think we should tell him I mean he is going to freak on us too if we don't.

Sims: He has a very important meeting today we can't ruin that.

Sbani: Ruin what? Morning family.

Sphe: You look happy.

Sbani: That's because I am.

They looked at each other.

Isipho: Good luck Bhuti on your meeting.

Sbani: Thanks Angel.

TJ: Is Thando back?

Sbani: I do not know and I don't care, she does as she pleases so let's leave her like that.

His phone rang.

Sbani: No I haven't checked my phone.

They looked at each other again.

Sbani: Okay I will check it right now.

Sims: Uhmm Sbani I wouldn't do that if I were you.

Sbani: Why?

TJ took his phone from him.

Sbani: TJ what the hell man.

TJ: Nothing I want to check something.

Sbani: Isipho can I use your phone.

Isipho: No Bhuti.

Sbani: What do you mean no?

Isipho: I mean my battery is dead.

Sbani: Really Isi you were just using it right now so don't let me repeat myself give me that phone.

Sphe: Isipho don't.

Sbani: Okay what's going on?

Them: Nothing.

Sims: Just eat man you going to be late for your meeting.

Sbani: No TJ bring back my phone now.

He roared and TJ gave him his phone, and there were endless notifications coming through.

Sbani: What in the name of the Lord is this?

Sims: We told you not to touch your phone.

Sbani: Isipho!

Isipho: I didn't know I swear Bhuti.

Sbani: Do you know this guy?

Isipho: No I don't.

Sbani: Okay it's fine I'm going to work now.

TJ: Bafo.

Sbani: No I'm not going to do anything it's her choice so it's fine you guys should also get ready for work and Isipho attend your classes.

He left them there.

Sphe: What was that?

Sims: Sbani is most dangerous when he is calm I don't like this.

TJ: Let's hope he won't do anything drastic.

They all went to their rooms to get ready for work.

Thando woke up with her head pounding not even remembering what happened yesterday, she got up and Zane and Gift were looking at her with pity.

Thando: Guys don't tell me I slept here.

Zane: You did friend.

Thando: I need to go home I'm sure they are worried sick about me.

Gift: Thando please slow down.

Thando: Why?

Zane: You can't go outside just yet.

Thando: What do you mean?

Zane took out her phone and showed her the photos.

Thando: No no is this Instagram?

Gift: Yes I'm sorry.

Thando: I'm as good as dead, where is Chad? How can he do this to me?

Gift: Chad left Thando he went back to the States he doesn't stay here.

Thando: Ohh no no did he oh gosh noo.

Zane: Please calm down he didn't rape you.

Thando: How do you know that Zane how?

Gift: Because we checked the CCTV camera and saw everything that happened.

Thando: I'm going to lose everything, my family and the love of my life. How can I be so stupid.

Zane: Atleast we have the footage they will see that you did nothing wrong.

Thando: I did everything wrong by coming here, you shouldn't have fetched me.

Zane: So now it's my fault.

Thando: No I'm sorry friend.

Zane: I told you to stay away from Chad no that I'm blaming you but I told you.

Thando: I know I'm sorry please take me home.

Gift: I suggest we do it later because now people are waiting for you to come out these photos are everywhere.

Zane: Please try sleeping friend I will wake you up later.

Thando tried sleeping but she couldn't, she kept on tossing and turning.

She felt someone shaking her.

Thando: I don't even know when I slept.

Zane: It's good that you were able to sleep.

Thando: Is it time to go?

Zane: Yes friend take wear these tracksuits.

Thando: I'm so scared.

She said wearing the clothes.

Zane: I know you are let's hope it will go well.

Thando nodded with tears streaming down her face, they went to the car and Gift drove to the house.

It was awfully quiet but Thando couldn't control her

tears they were just streaming down.

Gift: We are here.

They went inside the house everyone was back and they were playing cards.

TJ: Thando what are you doing here?

Gift: Sho bafethu it was not Thando's fault, my cousin is sick and he is the one who took those photos while Thando was sleeping.

Sbani: So that's the story you decided to fool us with.

Zane: No we have the footage clip please watch it.

Isipho brought her laptop then they watched.

Sims: You can leave now thank you for bringing her home.

Zane: Bye friend good luck.

They left and Thando was still just standing there.

TJ: Aren't you gonna sit down miss party.

Thando sat down.

Sphe: So Thando why did you sneak out.

Thando: I didn't want to wake you guys up.

Isipho: Did he hurt you?

Thando: No and I'm sorry I didn't mean for this to happen.

Sbani: Did he force you to smoke?

Thando nodded no.

Sbani: Khuluma marn(Talk).

Sims: Bafo calm down.

Sphe: Talk Thando.

Thando: No he didn't.

TJ: I thought you quit smoking.

Thando: It was just a once off thing.

Sbani looked at her and chuckled.

Sbani: A once off while you were smoking earlier on in our room.

The others: What?

Thando was just crying.

TJ: I managed to take down your photos and threatened to sue anyone who shares them.

Thando: Thank you.

Sphe: But people will always see you as that girl who trended on social media.

Isipho: I don't even know what to say Thando.

Sbani: Thando are we not treating you right? Are you unhappy? Are you not satisfied with all that you have now? Huh.

Thando: I am I'm so sorry I don't know what came over me.

She kneeled down and touched sbani.

Sbani: Don't you dare touch me, I'm going to sleep.

Everyone went to their bedrooms leaving Thando crying on the floor.

Insert twenty nine

Sbani

Life works in its own way we may think that we got everything under control but no, I didn't sleep last night I kept on turning and tossing thinking of things we may have done to treat Thando bad or maybe she feels like a prisoner in this house I don't know.

I wake up and go to my hut to talk to my parents maybe they have a better explanation for this.

Me: Khoza, Bhovungane, Mlilo, Hlase

Baba, mama amandla wam aqhumuka kimi ngikhanyiseleni.

Voice: Sbani move out of the house.

Me: Baba no.

Voice: It will only be temporary and for the best, give Thando some time to think about what she wants.

Me: This is my home I'm not going anywhere.

Voice: Sbani live your life ever since you found Thando you were convinced she is the one without even getting to know each other please my son just

move out.

Me: Mama.

Voice: Listen to your father mfana wam if Thando is the one you guys will find your way back to each other.

Me: But it's not fair.

Voice: Sbanisamakhoza.

Me: Hlase.

Then it was quite and I knew they were gone, Thando messes up and I'm suppose to pay the price. How do I even tell my family that I'm moving out just to give Thando some time in my home.

I leave the hut and go to the kitchen only to find TJ sitting there.

Me: Bafo.

TJ: Mfethu.

Me: Why are you awake this early?

TJ: It's 7:00 it's not that early and I have a meeting.

Me: I thought we don't go to work on my Fridays.

TJ: I will come back early it's important.

Me: Okay then.

TJ: What's up with you?

Me: What do you mean?

TJ: Sbani I know you so out with it.

Me: My parents told me to move out of the house.

TJ: Move out but why?

Me: To give Thando some space.

TJ: Give Thando some space my foot you not going anywhere.

Me: I don't want to but I have to because we can't kick Thando out of the house.

TJ: Why not?

Me: She has no where to go man.

TJ: This is not fair.

Me: They told me to live a little.

TJ: I agree with them on that one.

Me: Ofcos you do.

We laughed.

TJ: Where will you stay?

Me: I will use the other house.

TJ: This is some messed up shit.

Me: I know man lets make breakfast since we are awake and maybe it will soften everyone else's hearts.

TJ: Yeah man lets do it.

We made breakfast while talking and laughing.

Sims: You guys made breakfast?

Me: Yes why are you surprised?

Sims: You know it's unlike you.

TJ: Mxm whatever.

Sphe: It smells nice in here.

Sims: Guess who made breakfast?

Sphe: No way, you guys actually made this breakfast or you ordered it.

Me: Just sit down and eat.

Isipho: Morning brothers.

Me: Angel how are you?

Isipho: Fine Bhuti where is Thando?

Me: I don't know can we eat now.

We all had breakfast and when we were done Sims and Sphe collected the dishes.

TJ: Guys I have an early meeting.

Sims: On Friday?

TJ: Yes I will be back before you know it.

Me: Ummm can you guys sit down I want to talk to you.

Sphe: I bet this is why you made breakfast.

Me: I'm moving out.

Isipho: Moving out how?

Sims: What do you mean?

Me: My parents told me to give Thando some space.

Sphe: Space?

Me: Yes I don't know how to explain it but they said it's best if I move out.

Isipho: Bhuti no.

Me: I will be few blocks away and you guys will come visit.

Sims: Why can't we just kick Thando out.

Me: You guys know that she has no one except us so I have no choice.

Isipho: I'm going with you.

Me: Isipho no please stay here Thando is going to need you around.

Isipho: But you are my brother and you need me more.

Me: I'm old enough to take care of myself you know that.

Sims and Isipho just left the room leaving me with Sphe.

Me: Say something.

Sphe: I don't know what to say.

Me: Don't tell me you are going to cry, I'm not going overseas I will be here.

Sphe: I just think this is not fair you don't deserve any of this.

Sphe has always been my best friend so I understand why he feels this way.

Me: I didn't know you love me like that are you sure you not gay?

We laughed.

Sphe: Fuseg Sbani.

Me: I need to do this for myself so I can be able to think things through, live my life without worrying about Thando. After all that happened we haven't been living our life we have become too serious and I think it's time we let loose a little.

Sphe: You are right man lets hit the club later.

Me: Sho case I love you man.

Sphe: I love you too Bafo let me check on my baby
momma.

Me: I can't believe you impregnated my sister.

Sphe: Let it go Sbani hayi.

He said going to his room bumping to Thando.

Thando: Isi told me you are moving out.

Me: Yes I am.

Thando: Is it because of me.

Me: No I'm just giving you some time to think about
what you want.

Thando: Please don't go I will move out.

Me: Uyephi Thando usufuna ukuba iphara?(And go
where Thando you want to be a junkie?).

Thando: I'm sorry Sbani I really don't know what's
going on with me.

Me: That's why I'm giving you time to find out.

Thando: What about us?

Me: I don't know let's maybe take a break.

Thando: I'm sorry I really didn't mean to hurt you.

Me: Yet you did Thandolwethu just take this time to find yourself, think about what matters to you and focus on your future.

Thando: Okay thank you.

Me: Don't you have a class today?

Thando: I do but I can't go people will be laughing at me.

Me: Go to school your first step in all this is to face the world so that people will forget about those photos.

Thando: But...

Me: No buts Thandolwethu I may be moving out but I will still monitor you at school.

I left her there and went to my room maybe this is for the best.

Thando

I sat on the couch and cried I really ruined things this time and the best way to fix this is to work on myself. I get up and eat then go to my room to prepare for my class I'm not ready for this.

Isipho: Are you happy now?

Me: You can't just barge into my room like this Isi.

Isipho: My brother is moving out because of you.

Me: I know and I'm sorry.

Isipho: Fix this please just fix it Thandolwethu.

She says and leave.

I don't want Sbani to move out but maybe this is for the best, we need some time apart so that we can know what we really want.

After I'm done I call an Uber and it drops me at school, as soon as I enter the gate I can feel the stares on my back and I can feel them whispering others even pointing at me. I turn my back to leave but I hear Zane calling my name.

Zane: Friend please just stay don't mind them.

Tears are already falling from my eyes.

Me: I don't think I can do this.

Zane: I know you can, I don't know how this makes you feel but I can imagine.

Me: Okay let's go to class.

All the way to class people were pointing at me and laughing, guys were busy whistling telling me how sexy I looked in those pictures.

Zane: Thando please don't mind them.

Me: Easy for you to say.

Zane: Don't bite my head off.

Me: Sorry Zane I just...

Zane: I know friend I know so please stop crying.

We got into class and we were kind of late so everyone had settled down so you can imagine the way they were staring at me.

Some guy: Thando we are having a party at my place later on can you please come and entertain us.

Zane: Thando don't mind him.

Lecturer: Settle down.

We sat down but none of them concentrated especially the guys they were all looking at me.

Me: Zane I'm leaving.

Zane: Don't let them get to you please.

I get up and run outside crying while the guys were whistling.

After a few minutes the lecturer came to me outside.

Lecturer: So how long will you run?

I didn't know how to answer that so I kept quiet.

Lecturer: Look I also saw those photos and I don't know what happened but I know it's not your fault, you wouldn't have asked that guy to post them knowing what it will do to you so now wipe those tears and let's get back in there.

Me: I can't.

Lecturer: I will give you time to calm down.

I nodded and sat there for a while then got back inside.

Lecturer: Thando come here, I want you to stand here and make them understand it wasn't your fault.

Me: No I can't do that.

Lecturer: Can you all listen Thando has something to say.

Me: Uhmm I know you all think it's my fault but trust me it's not, I went to that party to enjoy myself. I'm not blaming that guy for the fact that I smoked weed but I blame him for putting something in my weed that made me weak and sleepy. Some of you think he is my boyfriend but he is not and I'm lucky he didn't rape me, he took those photos without my knowledge and posted them without my knowledge. I'm ashamed to face the world because of what he did to me but it wasn't my fault so please don't blame me and don't think that I'm a slut because I'm not. Ladies please be careful when you go to parties it's not safe I may have been lucky but some of you may not be.

Lecturer: Thank you Thando and I hope everything is cleared if someone harasses you about those photos you have every right to report them.

Me: Thank you.

Zane: You did great friend.

I smiled and sat down I can't lie I was feeling a lot better, people were still staring at me but I didn't care because they now know the truth.

We got out of class and went to eat.

Zane: So how are things at home?

Me: Bad friend Sbani is moving out and everyone else is just ignoring me.

Zane: Just focus on yourself and earning their trust again they will come around you will see.

Me: I hope so because I love them and they are the only family I have.

Zane: Do you want to come to my place today we will catch a movie and just chill.

Me: No friend I will pass thank you.

Zane: Okay Gift is here let's go we will drop you off.

Me: Okay lets go.

We left and they dropped me off at the house.

I got inside the house and there was no one it was just too quiet so I decided to call an Uber and go see my therapist hoping to catch her because it's Friday.

Me: Is doc still inside?

PA: Yes Thando haven't seen you in a while.

Me: I have been around.

PA: You can go through because there is no one.

I went through to the office.

Me: Knock knock.

Therapist: Come in.

Me: Doc glad I caught you.

Therapist: Thando it's been a while.

Me: I know doc.

Therapist: You can sit down.

I sat down on the floor.

Therapist: The way you are sitting tells me that this is not a friendly visit.

Me: No I take it you saw the photos.

Therapist: Yes I did how are you feeling?

Me: I don't know really, I didn't tell anyone that I was going to that party I sneaked out and that's not like me I don't know what's happening.

Therapist: Are you past everything that happened in the past?

Me: I think so.

Therapist: I don't want you to think I want you to be sure.

Me: I'm still not used being around people who care that much for me and sometimes I do things without thinking them through.

Therapist: If you are not careful you will lose everything Thando.

Me: And I don't want that, that's why I'm prepared to

work on myself.

Therapist: Let's do this come back and start your sessions with me then I will help you be you again is that fine.

Me: Yes doc thank you.

Therapist: I'm leaving now I can give you a lift.

Me: Okay it's fine.

I waited for her to finish what she was doing and we left. I really want to work on myself and discover what I'm most passionate about so I can get my family back.

Insert thirty

It's been a month since Sbani left the house he doesn't visit only the others visit him so this means I haven't seen him for a while, I can't lie I miss him a lot being away from him made me realise how much I love him. I'm doing much better now the therapy is really helping it made me realise that I hadn't healed fully but I'm still focusing on myself.

Zane is coming to the house today we have some few notes to go through so I wake up and go to the kitchen.

Sims: Thando hey I thought I was the only one in the house.

Me: I thought so too, aren't you suppose to be at work?

Sims: I'm not feeling well so I decided to work from home.

Me: Pecks of being your own boss.

Sims: Ofcos aren't you suppose to be at the campus?

Me: No my friend is coming over we have a few notes to go through.

Sims: Okay then.

We then kept quiet I guess we didn't know what else to say since we haven't talked in a while they were all still avoiding me.

Me: I'm making breakfast do you want some?

Sims: Uhmm sure.

I started with breakfast.

Us: So how are you? How's Sbani?

We laughed.

Me: Okay you go first.

Sims: How have you been? The therapist told us you are attending again.

Me: I'm much better now I'm actually good the sessions are really helping me out.

Sims: That's good.

Me: Ummm how is Sbani?

Sims: He is fine.

Me: That's great.

Sims: You miss him don't you?

Me: Everyday but I'm glad he gave me time to work on myself.

Sims: Okay I'm glad you are okay.

I nodded, I was kind of disappointed I expected him to say Sbani misses me too but he didn't.

He went to his room while I finished making breakfast, after I was done I dished out for the both of us.

Me: Right on time let's eat.

Sims: Thank you.

We are in the kitchen because it was just the two of us.

Me: Where are the others?

Sims: TJ is at work then Sphe and Isi went to the doctor.

Me: Is everything okay with the baby?

Sims: Yes just regular check ups.

Me: Okay that's good.

Someone knocked.

Me: I will open.

It was Zane.

Zane: Friend I know it's still early but I slept at Gifts house so he dropped me here since he was going to

work.

Me: No it's fine you can come in.

I led her to the kitchen.

Sims: Thando who was that?

He turned and looked at us, the way he looked at Zane.

Me: Sims this is Zane my friend you met her that day but maybe you don't remember, Zane this is Sims one of my brother's.

I don't think they heard me they were both just staring at each other.

Me: Guys.

I shouted.

Sims: Uhmm excuse me.

He ran to the room.

Me: Friend what was that?

She was still staring at the passage where Sims disappeared.

Me: Zane.

Zane: Uhmm sorry friend what did you say?

Me: What was that?

Zane: What was what?

Me: Don't do that you guys were literally undressing each other with your eyes.

Zane: I don't know what you talking about.

Me: Haibo Zane you like him don't you?

Zane: I see you made breakfast it's like you knew I'm famished.

Me: Heeh you changing the subject now.

Zane: Who is he?

Me: But I introduced you to him.

Zane: I didn't hear you okay.

Me: That's Sims.

Zane: Uhmm okay.

Me: Oh no friend you like him I can feel your heartbeat from here.

Zane: Just shut up and let's eat.

Me: Let me dish up for you.

Zane: No it's fine I will eat from his plate.

I laughed so hard when people talk about love at first sight do they mean what I have just witnessed.

Me: Hamba Zane kaGift.

Zane: Mxm.

Me: Gift is going to kill you.

Zane: Let's drop it please, so did you talk to Sbani about your business Idea?

Me: No I'm just scared to face him after everything you know.

Zane: But friend you can't avoid him forever.

Me: I know I will talk to him.

Sims came downstairs all dressed up.

Me: I thought you were working from home?

Sims: Uhmm something came up I'm going to see Sbani.

Me: Can you sit down I want to run something by you.

Zane: Thando I will be in your room.

Me: Okay friend.

Sims: Who is she?

Me: Haibo I thought I introduced you guys to each other but seems like you didn't hear me, that's Zane my friend.

Sims: I remember seeing her that day.

Me: When did you start stuttering when you talk.

Sims: I don't know what you talking about.

Me: You like her don't you?

Sims: Thando if you don't talk I'm leaving.

I laughed.

Me: I want to open a centre for woman who are abused so I need someone who will sponsor me so that I will be able to buy or rent a building.

Sims: Okay I will to talk to the guys, bye.

Me: You literally have a boner by just looking at her.

Sims: Leave me alone and bye.

Me: Bye say hi to Sbani for me.

He left and I cleaned the kitchen then went to my room.

Zane: Why are you looking at me like that?

Me: Don't tell me you had an orgasm by just looking at him.

Zane: Why are you saying that?

Me: The box of wipers next to you.

Zane: Leave me alone.

Me: Haibo weZane.

This is literally the cutest thing I have ever seen.

Zane: Fuseg.

Me: I love you too.

I said going to shower in the bathroom.

Sims

I'm not someone who falls in love maybe there's only one girl I have loved my entire life, I just smash and pass but today the way my heart was beating I don't know. Seeing Zane made my mind stop functioning for a while she is beautiful, her eyes, her lips gosh everything about her is just perfect is this love at first sight? I don't know but all I know is that yena Ungowami.

I get to Sbani's office without knocking.

Sbani: Simbongile marn what if I was busy.

Me: Well you are not busy.

Sbani: Aren't you suppose to be in bed I thought you were sick?

Me: I was Ummm I mean I am.

Sbani: Which is which exactly and please sit down.

Me: Okay I'm still not feeling well but I couldn't stay at the house.

Sbani: And why is that?

Me: Thando's friend.

Sbani: What about her?

Me: I don't know man when I saw her I just I don't know.

Sbani: I never thought I would see this Sims in love.

Me: Who said anything about being in love yazi uyaphapha.

Sbani: Explain it then why are you not at the house.

Me: The way she smiles oh gosh everything about her is just perfect Sbani.

He whistled.

Me: Really?

Sbani: You are whipped.

Me: I need to get her man.

Sbani: Which friend are you talking about you mean the one who has a boyfriend.

Me: Boyfriend not husband so I still have a chance.

Sbani: Go get her vele she is yours.

Me: Enough about me, Thando said hi.

Sbani: Tell her I said hi too.

Me: Come on atleast say it like you mean it.

Sbani: Can we not talk about Thando.

Me: Okay but she needs our help.

Sbani: What is it this time.

Me: It's actually something great if you ask me.

Sbani: Talk then.

Me: She wants to open a centre for abused woman so she needs a building.

Sbani: Find her one then.

Me: There's a building I know she can use and it's ours so no need to rent or buy it.

Sbani: Great then everything is settled.

Me: There's also a building around here and you have a lot of space.

Sbani: Don't start with me I don't want Thando to work in this building.

Me: Don't tell me you still angry.

Sbani: No I'm not I just don't want to work near her that's all.

Me: Because you still love her.

Sbani: No Sims because angifuni.

Me: Okay don't bite my head off, we are coming over later.

Sbani: Please don't I will be busy.

Me: With what?

Sbani: Nothing.

Me: I know you are fucking your PA.

Sbani: Just go Sims we are done here and I have a meeting in 10 minutes.

Me: So how is she?

Sbani: How is who?

Me: I mean in bed?

Sbani: Fuseg just leave.

We laughed and I left then went to the mall to buy

some snacks for Thando and her friend don't look at me like that.

When I got to the mall I went to Pick and Pay.

Gift: Bafo.

Me: Hey do I know you?

He was holding a cute little boy.

Gift: I'm Gift Zane's boyfriend I once came to your house to drop Thando off.

I clenched my jaws thinking they have a child together.

Me: Oh I remember man is this your son?

Gift: Uhmm yes.

Me: Okay he is cute just like his mother.

I swear I wanted to cry.

Gift: Actually Zane doesn't know I have a son and a wife.

A lady approached us while smiling.

Lady: Babe I got everything.

Gift: Okay sthandwa sam, Bafo I will see you around.

Me: Sho man.

Now I wanted to punch him in the face, he looks happy with his mini family and I must say his wife is beautiful I guess he picks well but why is he playing with Zane like this.

I took everything I needed and went home.

Thando: You are back?

Me: Yes is Zane gone?

Thando: No she went to the bathroom.

Me: Okay I got you guys some snacks.

Thando: Thank you.

Zane came and I just couldn't take my eyes off her.

Zane: Staring is rude Mr.

Me: I'm sorry I didn't even realise I was staring you are just beautiful.

Zane: Thank you.

She sat down and I also joined them.

Me: So are you guys done with your notes.

Thando: Yes we are, so did you talk to hubby uhh I mean Sbani.

I feel sorry for Thando because Sbani seems to be avoiding her a lot.

Me: Yes everything is ready you just need to find those woman.

Thando: Just like that?

Me: Yes just like that Thando.

Thando: Thank you so much.

Me: You have to thank Sbani for that.

Thando: Tell him I said thank you.

Me: I'm not your messenger and stop avoiding him you guys are still family after all.

Thando: Okay I will send him a message.

Zane: Just go see him friend.

Me: Tell her.

Thando: Okay I will.

Zane: Friend I have to go Gift sent me a message telling me he can't pick me up because he is working.

This guy is lying to her I mean I just saw him with his family.

Me: I can drive you home.

Zane: I will call an Uber thank you for the offer.

Me: No I insist let's go.

Thando: There is no use arguing with him friend so just go I will see you tomorrow.

Zane: Okay friend I love you.

Thando: I love you too.

We went to the car and I drove to her place.

Me: Uhmm so you stay alone?

Zane: Yes but I spend most of my time in my boyfriend's place.

Me: You mean Gift?

Zane: Yes.

Me: How long have you known him?

Zane: Ever since I came to Durban it's been six years now.

Me: Six years in a relationship or just knowing each other.

Zane: Four years in a relationship we were friends for two years.

Me: I see, how much do you know him?

Zane: I think I know everything about him because we are honest with each other.

I just felt sorry for her, she thinks she is in a relationship but her boyfriend is fooling her.

Zane: This is where I stay thank you.

Me: Zane can I take you out tomorrow.

Zane: You mean on a date?

Me: No Ofcos not I respect the fact that you are in a relationship just as friends.

Zane: Okay it's fine fetch me tomorrow.

Me: Will do enjoy the rest of your day.

Zane: You too Sims.

I watched her till she got inside, how do I tell her that her boyfriend is making a fool out of her I need to find a way, I can't just watch her being played like this.

Insert thirty one

Sbani

Me: I hope we still on the same page Mahle I don't want drama.

Mahle: Ofcos you have been telling me that ever since we started this.

Me: I want us to have an understanding.

Mahle: We do, no catching feelings I understand and besides I have a boyfriend.

Me: Okay then you can go I will see you later.

Mahle: Later and you don't have any meetings left.

Me: Okay I will just go home there's something I need to do.

She nodded and left, Mahle is my PA and we have been sleeping together ever since I moved out of the house, we are not in a relationship and I don't want us to be. I still love Thando but I'm giving her space to work on herself then if we still click after that it's fine we can try something out.

I pack my things and leave I'm going home I need to talk to Thando about this project of hers, I call her therapist everyday just to check her progress and I'm glad she is doing okay.

You can think I'm being unfair by sleeping with my Mahle but no I'm not a guy needs to release and I can't do that with Thando because she still needs some time, I can't use the fact that she loves me to my own advantage.

I arrive at home and open using my own key, I find Thando sleeping on the couch with a pile of books besides her. I take my phone and capture the moment she looks cute, I go to the kitchen and

make lunch for the both of us.

After I'm done I wake her up.

Me: Thando wake up.

Thando: Mmm.

I know she hates being woken up.

Me: Wake up.

She opens her eyes slowly while rubbing them.

Thando: Hubby Uhmm I mean Sbani when did you get here?

Me: A few minutes ago and you were fast asleep.

Thando: It's just that I'm tired I have been studying.

Me: It's okay I understand I made lunch.

Thando: Thank you I'm starving.

Me: Here you go.

Thando: This means I was in deep sleep I didn't hear anything.

Me: Yeah but atleast you locked the door.

Thando: Yeah let's eat.

We are in silence awkward silence if you ask me.

Thando: I will wash the dishes.

Me: No leave them I want us to talk.

Thando: Oh okay.

Me: How have you been?

Thando: Good my sessions with the therapist are really helpful.

Me: That's great.

Thando: Wena unjani (How are you?).

Me: Hayi ngiyaphila ukuba matasa nje nomsebenzi (I'm good I have just been busy with work).

Thando: Great.

Then we were quite.

Thando: Listen Sbani I'm really sorry about everything.

Me: It's fine Thando and I'm not here to talk about that.

Thando: Okay what's up?

Me: I want you to tell me more about this center of yours?

Thando: There are too many people who live in their homes who are being abused so I want to work with them, show them that you can speak out and get help that there's no need to be afraid.

And maybe I can get someone who can teach them how to defend themselves something like offering self defense classes.

Me: Interesting well I know Sims told you about the building.

Thando: Yes he did.

Me: Okay then we can go check it out if you are not going to continue studying.

Thando: Okay let me change.

She went to the bedroom while I took the dishes to the kitchen to wash them.

I hope this project of hers will keep her mind off everything that is not right maybe this is a beginning

of great things for her.

Thando: We can go.

She was wearing a short floral dress and vans,
Thando is beautiful.

Thando: Stop staring let's just go.

Me: Uhmm yeah let's go.

We got into the car and I drove to the building it was
quite in the car with Thando stealing glances at me.

Me: Why are stealing glances at me?

Thando: I'm just wondering why I messed things up
between us I mean you are every woman's dream.

Me: That's what you think?

Thando: Ofcos you are Sbani, I'm sure ladies are
throwing themselves at you.

I chuckled.

Me: Is that your way of asking me if I have a
girlfriend or not?

Thando: No but I might as well ask unayo?

Me: Actually yes I'm in a relationship.

Thando: Who's the lucky lady.

Me: I better not say.

I was just messing with her and it worked because she just looked out the window and kept quiet.

I drove in silent since we got to the building.

Me: We are here.

Thando: Okay let's go.

Me: This is it since you said you will need two spaces I will give you the whole building.

Thando: Really?

Me: Yes we will get everything you need then when you are ready you can start.

Thando: I don't even know how to thank you but thank you I really appreciate it.

Me: You welcome.

Thando: Since I have seen it can I go home.

Me: I will drop you off.

Thando: No I don't want to intrude.

Me: Intrude? Ukhuluma ngani(what are you talking about).

Thando: Your girlfriend?

Me: Where is she?

She blinked a few times and I knew she was going to cry.

Me: Come on Thando I was joking I don't have a girlfriend.

Thando: Mxm.

I laughed at her.

Me: You are jealous.

Thando: It's not funny Sbani just take me home.

Me: Let's go miss jealous.

She hit me on the shoulder.

Thando: Can we be friends?

Me: Okay friend.

Thando: You sound gay.

Me: Maybe I am.

We both laughed maybe it's a good idea if we become friends that will give us a chance to get to know each other better.

Thando: Let's go then and please spend the night at house for once.

Me: Okay asambe (let's go)

Thando

I'm really happy Sbani was able to find me a building for all that I want to do I will sure make him and myself proud. I think us being friends will change a lot of things because we don't know each other that Well, we just decided to settle down without having fun I just think this is our chance.

I think he does have a girlfriend maybe he just doesn't want to break my heart I hope they broke up soon don't look at me like that I love Sbani and I want us to work.

Sbani: I will come back later with the guys.

Me: Okay later then.

He dropped me off and left, I got into the house and Isi was eating. We don't talk since Sbani left I guess she still blames me and she hates me, I don't mind her anymore.

I pass her and go to my room without saying anything, she stops me.

Isipho: Thando wait.

Me: Listen Isi I know this is your home and I hurt you with what I did but I won't stand your insults.

Isipho: Please sit down I just want us to talk.

Me: Okay.

Isipho: I just want to apologise for how I have been behaving these past few days I was just hurt and disappointed I'm sorry.

Me: Ummm it's fine I'm also sorry.

Isipho: I miss you.

Me: Yet we stay in the same house, I miss you too

mama bear.

Isipho: Let's hug it out.

We hugged and I kissed her stomach.

Me: This one is growing fast.

Isipho: I'm tired Thando I feel like I'm carrying a whole lot of people.

Me: Sphe is a twin don't forget that.

Isipho: Don't say that please.

Me: I'm glad we are okay now I was thinking of moving out.

Isipho: No don't even think about that, have you talked to my brother.

Me: Yes and we decided to be friends.

Isipho: That's good atleast you guys are talking.

Me: And you are seriously eating cow feet.

Isipho: Cravings babe.

Me: I see I don't want to get pregnant then.

Isipho: Well we will see about that.

Me: Let me cook the guys are coming home soon.

Isipho: Okay will help you.

Me: I bet you will.

We laughed, she is huge I think she's carrying twins.

Me: So how did you know Sphe was the one.

She smiled.

Isipho: The way he made my heart beat, the way I felt when I looked at him. The way I missed him when he was not around when you have found the one you just know Thando, you don't need anyone to confirm it.

Me: Mmmm I hear you.

Isipho: Don't leave me hanging did you meet someone.

Me: Maybe.

I was lying.

Isipho: Tell me more babe.

Me: He makes me feel some type of way I don't

know how to explain it.

Isipho: So who is he?

Sphe: Who is who?

Me: Oh you guys are back.

Sims: Nikhuluma ngamadoda la.

Isipho: No we were just talking about celebrity crushes.

Me: Yeah celebrity crushes.

Sbani: Hamba celebrity crushes.

TJ: I'm hungry guys how is it going there?

Me: You guys can go freshen up then when you come back the food will be ready.

Sims: Okay let's go gents.

They left and we laughed.

Isipho: That was close.

Me: Tell me about it oeh.

Isipho: Even though you were talking about my brother.

Me: You know me well.

Isipho: Don't worry everything will work out just fine.

Me: I know babe help me set the table.

We set the table and dished out for everyone.

TJ: This is good thanks Thando.

Sphe: You were really hungry Bafo the way you are eating.

TJ: I didn't eat all day meeting after meeting.

Sims: I see what did we do for Sbani to visit us?

Isipho: I'm asking myself that.

Sbani: Mxm just leave me alone.

We are in comfortable silence and then when we were done we chilled in the lounge.

Sims: So Thando your friend?

Me: What about her?

Sims: I like her a lot.

Me: I know but she has a boyfriend and they seem serious.

Sphe: Shoot your shot Bafo she's not married.

TJ: Exactly.

Sbani: That's what I told him.

Sims: Remember when I was in your office Sbani.

Sbani: Yeah.

Sims: Yeah I passed by the mall and I saw Gift with his wife and son.

Me: Wife and son? No maybe you were mistaking him with someone else.

Sims: He came to greet me so that's how I know all this.

Isipho: This means Zane doesn't know.

Me: Ofcos she doesn't, they been together for four years and she trusts Gift with her life.

Sbani: What will you do Sims.

TJ: I think we must find a way for Zane to find out without being involved directly.

Sbani: Maybe we can track Gifts movements then

maybe if he is at the mall with his family you Sims take Zane to the same mall.

Sphe: That's a good idea.

Isipho: I agree what do you think Thando?

Me: That's a good idea guys I just feel sorry for her, she wasted her whole life with Gift.

TJ: That's life kunzima.

Sbani: Kurough.

Sphe: So wena Sims you are in love?

Sims: Can we watch a movie.

TJ: Icatchile idyan.

Sphe and Sbani: Icatchile.

We all laughed.

Sims: Leave me alone.

Me: Yeah let's put that movie.

We all agreed but I was thinking about the whole Gift thing, how can he be this cruel this is going to break Zane.

Insert thirty two

I stood up and went to the kitchen to get some snacks then I stood by the door and looked at my family laughing and I smiled thanking God for giving me them I may have acted like I'm ungrateful but I really am, it was just a stupid mistake. I took the snacks and went back to them.

Isipho: Let's play a game it's called I want to, a person is going to say something he/she wants to do.

TJ: Cool then who is going to start?

There was a knock on the door and Sbani went to get it.

Zane: Hey guys.

Me: Friend hey what are you doing here, come sit down.

Zane: I was bored I thought Gift was going to fetch me but he said he is working late.

The guys looked at each other, I'm sure Gift is with

his family. I introduced her to the family since they don't quite know her.

Sphe: Nice meeting you Zane.

Zane: Nice to finally meet you all.

Sims: Sit down we were about to play a game.

Sphe: I will start guys so I want to have a baby girl.

He said looking at Isi and they smiled.

We all said ncooah.

Sims: Okay I want to find someone I can love and who can love me back, I just want something serious I mean I'm not getting any younger.

He said looking at Zane and it was a bit awkward.

Us: Yeah we get you.

Isipho: I want to have you guys by my side forever and I want to have a baby girl.

Us: We love you too.

TJ: I want to fuck as many girls as I can before getting into a serious relationship.

Us: Really?

Sbani: That's so like you, mina I want to be happy.

Us: That's all?

Sbani: That's all that matters.

Me: I want to be able to stand on my own, I want love, happiness and all the good things life has to offer.

Them: That's good.

Zane: I want to tell Gift that I'm pregnant with his child but I don't know how to.

We all looked at her shocked but she was just smiling.

Sims: You are pregnant?

Zane: Yes I'm four months pregnant.

Sims wanted to talk but TJ talked first.

TJ: Congratulations baby girl.

Me: Yes friend congratulations.

We kept congratulating her.

Sims: Excuse me.

He went out I guess to smoke that's what they do when they are stressed.

Zane: What's up with him.

Sbani: No don't mind him, so how are you planning on telling baby daddy that you are expecting?

Zane: I don't know but I want it to be special I mean it's our first child.

Isipho: It's not easy babe see how huge I am.

We all laughed but Isipho cried.

Sbani: Angel what's wrong?

Isipho: So you guys think I'm huge.

Sphe: But mamakhe you said it yourself.

Isipho: Mxm so you knock me up and you say I'm huge.

Sphe: But babe...

Isipho: Just shut up.

She said getting up and going to the bedroom.

Sbani: I don't want my sister to cry so follow her.

TJ: Angithi uyamithisa wena follow her.

We all laughed while Sphe followed Isipho grumbling.

Zane: So I'm still going to react that way.

Me: Yes friend maybe worse.

Zane: Atleast Gift will be there to take care of me.

TJ: Uhmm I think we should go to sleep now Sbani what do you think.

Sbani: Yeah I think so goodnight ladies.

Us: Night guys.

Sims was already upstairs.

Me: So friend you really pregnant?

Zane: Yes I am and I'm happy.

Me: Uhmm that's good.

The way I was feeling sorry for her I swear I wanted to cry.

Zane: Enough about Gift jnr, I see you and Mr Khoza are okay.

Me: Well.

Zane: You guys are back together aren't you?

Me: Oh how I wish we decided to be friends.

Zane: That's a good start Gift and I first became friends that's why we are this tight.

Why is she talking about Gift gosh I just want to tell her but I can't.

Me: You are sleeping over right?

Zane: Ofcos.

Me: Let's go sleep then.

We went to my room and Isipho was there, there are two beds.

Me: And then?

Isipho: The guys decided to sleep together so I'm joining you guys.

Zane: I hope you guys have snacks because it's going to be a great night.

Me: Yeah we do.

Them: Yay.

I don't even remember how I became friends with Zane but I'm glad we are friends because she's a good person.

Sbani

We decided to sleep together today I know we are not going to sleep we will just talk the whole night.

Sims: I can't believe she is pregnant.

Me: But you guys can raise the child together when she finds out about Gift.

Sphe: What if she doesn't find out?

Sims: Or maybe understands his reasons.

TJ: Okay guys slow down I have been checking Gift on Instagram and his wife posted that they will go to spur tomorrow to celebrate their son's birthday.

Me: Do you know his wife?

TJ: Yes she is the one who tagged Gift.

Sphe: Let me see, damn she's hot.

Sims: That's what I said when I saw them.

TJ: He sure knows how to pick them.

Me: Let me see, wait I know her.

TJ: How do you know her?

Me: Sphe look again you also know her.

Sphe took the phone and looked again.

Sphe: Wait no no it can't be wow it's really her.

TJ and Sims: Who?

Sphe: One of his exes.

He said pointing at me.

Me: Yes one of the good ones.

TJ: So you were banging that ass.

Me: Just shut up let's focus on the plan.

TJ: The plan is we all go to spur tomorrow, get there a little early than them.

Sims: Okay I just hope it works and Zane leaves his

cheating ass.

Me: Trust me it will work.

Sphe: Haike masekusho isangoma don't worry.

Me: Mxm uyaphapha wena.

I hit him with a pillow.

TJ: So Sbani what's going between you and Thando?

Me: Nothing we decided to be friends.

Sims: We all know where that friendship will end.

Me: I don't know what you talking about.

Sphe: Ofcos you do.

Me: Mxm I will just send Thando a text message to tell her about going to spur.

Sims: Yes do that.

TJ: You can't wait can you.

Sims: I just care about her.

Us: Ncoah.

Sims: I'm just worried about something though.

Sphe: What?

Sims: TJ are you gay?

TJ: Really? I just told you guys that I want to fuck as many ladies as I can.

Me: Maybe you were joking ufuna sididiseke.

TJ: Niyabheda I'm not gay and I think I have seen someone I like but I don't want to jinx it so I won't tell you guys.

Sphe: Just tell us.

TJ: No wena Sbani when will you stop sleeping with Mahle.

Sims: She is hot naye uMahle.

Me: Can we sleep now.

Sphe: Come on.

Me: No let's sleep.

We all slept and we woke up in the morning with the ladies singing out loud.

Sims: They think they can sing.

Us: Kanti they can't.

They sound like they are in a good mood I feel bad about what's going to happen but it is what it is.

Me: Let's just take a shower and get dressed because it's already late.

We agreed and then when we were done we went down stairs.

TJ: Ladies morning is everything ok I heard you guys crying.

Zane: Wow we were actually singing.

TJ: Oh I thought you were crying.

Me: You sounded great guys don't mind him.

Thando: We wanted you guys to wake up I mean it's half past eleven already.

Sphe: What? Let's go.

We all went to the car, the ladies were wondering why we were rushing we just don't want to miss Gift.

We got to the mall then parked the car and went to spur.

Zane: You guys do this more often?

Me: We haven't done it in a long time.

Zane: It's great I actually feel like I really belong I mean Gift is the only family that I have.

TJ: Uhmm let's order.

This is going to be harder than we all thought.

Isipho: Yeah I'm starving.

Sphe: You always starving.

Isipho: What was that?

Sphe: Nothing babe.

Me: Isi I can't believe you are really pregnant.

Isipho: Haw Bhuti.

Sims: You are killing the vibe.

Me: Okay let's order.

We all ordered and waited while talking and laughing, to tell you the truth I wished Gift was no longer coming because that will ruin our day.

Speaking of which he entered holding his wife and

his son, the ladies were not facing his side so they did not see him.

They picked a table and his wife saw us then approached our table.

Her: Oh my gosh I can't believe it Sbani, Sphe?

Sphe: Ummm Melissa hi how have you been?

Melissa: I have been good, Sbani.

Me: Melissa hi.

Melissa: I see you still look good.

TJ: Who's this beautiful lady? Guys aren't you going to introduce us.

Me: Oh this is our old friend Melissa, Mel this is my family.

Melissa: Nice meeting you guys.

TJ: Hey Mel's I'm single.

Melissa: Sorry but I'm married.

She said showing us her diamond ring.

Zane: Wow your ring is fancy and beautiful my kind

of style.

They didn't know she was only bringing trouble.

Melissa: That's my husband over there and our son it's actually his birthday today so we are here to celebrate.

Zane: He looks like someone I know.

Gift wasn't looking at us he was busy with his son.

Melissa: Let me call him, Babe come meet my old friends.

He walked to us without even realising that Zane was here.

Melissa: This is my husband G...

Zane: Gift oh my gosh no.

Melissa: You guys know each other?

Gift: No.

Zane: Yes.

Gift: Babe let's go to our table.

Zane: Babe? You are calling her babe while I'm here?

Gift you are married and you have a son yet you never told me?

She got up and slapped him then held her stomach.

Zane: Ouch.

Thando: Friend are you okay?

Isi: Zane you are bleeding.

Sims: No.

Zane: Oh no my baby.

Gift: Baby? Zane are you pregnant?

Me: Shut up just shut the fuck up before I do something I will regret.

TJ: Guys let's drive her to the hospital.

We asked for takeaways then left leaving Gift and his wife standing there.

Insert thirty three

Gift

As you all know I'm Gift Zwane born and raised here in Durban I'm the only child and my parents are married, I met Zane 6 years ago we first became friends for two years but I fell in love with her. I fell in love with her the first time I saw her but she did not feel the same way that's why we decided to be friends but I guess later on she fell in love with me too and we have been in a relationship for four years. I love her so much I really do but I love my wife more I know it's crazy right but it's the truth, Zane and I have been through a lot together she supported me through my worst days. She has never cheated on me and I know she doesn't deserve all this, I met Melissa three years ago and we were in a relationship for two years then I married her on the third year. I wanted to tell Zane about her but I just didn't want to hurt her feelings and break her heart.

Zane never talked about marriage and when I found Melissa I thought of asking Zane to be my first wife then Melissa my second but I knew she was not going to agree and I couldn't imagine the thought of losing her.

I'm a fool I know but it is what it is, as much as I don't want to lose Zane but I don't want to lose my wife either that's why I pretended not to know her but when I saw her bleeding I knew that there is a possibility that she will lose our child. I knew she was/is pregnant because I did it intentionally hoping she will agree to be my second wife, that's bad and selfish I know but I needed her to agree.

I watch them as they get into the car and drive to the hospital, I don't know what I think or want maybe it will be better if Zane loses the baby so that she can be free but a part of me is still hoping she doesn't so that she may be my wife.

Melissa is looking at me with those explain yourself eyes.

Me: Can we go home we can celebrate our son's birthday there.

Melissa: Who is she?

Me: Who is who?

Melissa: Don't play dum with me, the girl who was bleeding.

Me: I will explain at home.

Melissa: No I'm not going anywhere with you until you explain yourself.

Me: Melissa you are causing a scene and you know I don't like attention.

Melissa: Was she pregnant with your child?

Me: I'm taking my son home you can stay here and shout all you want because I told you I will explain at home.

Melissa: Gift.

Me: Uphakamisela bani izwi?(Who are you raising your voice to).

She keeps quiet I take my son and go to the car and she follows after me, I know she has every right to be angry but that doesn't mean she should disrespect me worse in public.

We get to the car and I drive home, it's quite in the car only baby sounds.

We get home and she gets out of the car and run to the house, I take my son who doesn't even

understand what's going on.

I get inside and go to our room, I put my son in his cot and look at Melissa who is crying.

Me: I'm sorry.

Melissa: You are sorry for what?

Me: I'm sorry for everything Mels.

Melissa: So you never broke up with her?

Me: No.

Melissa: Do you love her?

Me: Melissa.

Melissa: No please answer do you love her?

Me: I love her.

Melissa: Wow.

Me: But I love you more and you know it.

Melissa: At this moment I feel like I know nothing.

Me: I'm so sorry Mels.

Melissa: Was she carrying your child?

Me: I don't know maybe.

Melissa: So what are you going to do now?

Me: Nothing.

Melissa: Do you still want to be with her?

Me: No I don't I only want you.

Melissa: When I came into your life you were with her which means you love her.

Me: But I chose to marry you.

Melissa: That doesn't mean you love me more.

Me: But I do.

Melissa: You wasted so many years of that girl and now you want to leave her just like that you even pretended like you don't know her, how cruel are you?

Me: Zane will never agree to be my second wife and she will totally not agree to be my sidechick.

Melissa: Wow are you even hearing yourself?

Me: I'm sorry okay I'm going to end things with her and focus on us.

Melissa: So you expect me to forgive you?

Me: I'm not expecting you to but I'm pleading with you to.

Melissa: Just get out of my face I need to think.

Me: Please don't divorce me.

Melissa: I'm not going to do that but please fix this make that poor girl understand because she is going to be broken more than I am.

Me: I love you and I will try talking to her.

Melissa: So you going to see her?

Me: Didn't you say I should make her understand, how will I do that if I don't talk to her?

Melissa: Whatever.

Me: What did you just say?

Melissa: Nothing but you really hurt me Zwane.

Me: That's how I felt when you cheated on me.

Melissa: Really? You pulling that card now?

Me: I need some air.

Melissa: Zwane.

I left and went to my car then drove to the hospital, I parked my car outside and stayed there because I knew the guys were going to kill me if I go in there I guess I will wait till they leave.

Narrated

As Gift waited outside everyone else was waiting inside, waiting for the doctor to come and tell them what was happening to Zane.

Sims: Do you guys think she is fine?

TJ: How are we suppose to think when you are busy pacing up and down.

Sims: Sorry guys I'm just stressed out.

Sbani: She is going to be fine.

Doctor: Zanele Mbatha.

Only Thando got up because the others didn't know Zane was Zanele.

Thando: Over here doc.

Sphe: Zane uZanele kanti?

Thando: Yes.

The doctor came to them.

Sims: So doc how is she?

Doc: She is fine just sleeping.

Isipho: The baby?

Doc: Uhmm is the father here?

They looked at each other.

TJ: Yes doc he is here.

He said pointing at Sims.

Sims: Yes I'm here doc so what about my child?

Doc: I'm sorry but she didn't survive.

Sims: She?

Doc: Yes you were going to have a girl.

Sbani: Okay doctor thank you.

Doc: I'm sorry once again man.

He said tapping Sims on the shoulder.

Sphe: Can we see her.

Doc: A Nurse will come get you guys after a few minutes.

He said leaving them.

Sims: I'm the father really TJ?

TJ: That was the only way for him to tell us about the baby besides it's not a big deal you guys are still going to have babies.

Isipho: I wonder how she will feel when she wakes up I know I would lose my mind.

She was already crying.

Sphe: Hey babe don't cry nothing is going to happen to our little princess.

He said wiping her tears.

Thando: She was so happy about it, this is going to break her.

Sbani: It's going to be hard but she will pull through.

Sphe: Are you just saying or you are prophesying now.

Sims: For real are you seeing something?

Sbani: No all I know is that she is going to need you bafo, it's not going to be easy she will push you away but please be there for her.

Sims: I will do my best.

Nurse: Zanele Mbatha.

Sphe: Yes.

Nurse: Please follow me.

They all followed the nurse to Zane's ward, she was facing the up with tears streaming down her face.

Thando: Friend hey I'm so sorry.

She said hugging her.

Zane: Is it true friend is she really gone?

Thando: I'm so sorry friend.

Zane just cried causing Isipho to cry more.

Sbani: Take her to the car Bafo.

He said to Sphe and he left with her.

TJ: Sorry skeem you will be fine.

Sbani: Yeah it's going to get better with time just know she is at a better place now.

Zane: You think so.

Sbani: I know so.

Sims was just quite and angry at Gift for hurting Zane like this.

Zane: Where is Gift? Did he come?

Sims: Seriously?

Sbani: Bafo calm down.

Thando: No friend he did not come I'm sorry.

Zane: I know he is still going to come.

They looked at each other.

Sbani: Just focus on getting better forget about Gift.

Zane: Forget about Gift? Easy for you to say I will never forget about him.

Thando: Friend let's not talk about him just get better

okay.

Zane: I just wanted my baby to live.

Thando: I know you did but God knew what He was doing we should no question his plans.

Zane nodded.

Sims: Guys can you please give us a moment.

Sbani: Sure let's go Thando.

Thando: I will see you tomorrow friend I love you and please be strong.

Zane: I will try.

They left leaving Zane and Sims together.

Sims: Uhmm I don't know what to say I'm sorry about everything.

Zane: It hurts Sims.

Sims: I can imagine ngiyaxolisa kakhulu.

Zane: How can he do that to me?

Sims: Who?

Sims was kind of confused because they were

talking about the baby.

Zane: Gift damnit.

Sims: Calm down.

Zane: I'm sorry I'm just I don't know.

She cried and Sims hugged her.

Sims: It's going to be fine don't worry we are all here for you.

Zane: I know this sounds crazy but I still love him.

That hurt Sims and he didn't say anything.

Zane: I never cheated on him, I loved him with all my heart and the sex was great what did I do huh tell me Sims what did I do wrong.

Sims: Nothing you did nothing wrong he just doesn't deserve you.

Zane: A whole wife and a son what did I do to deserve this.

Sims: Please don't cry you will become sick please just calm down.

Zane: Leave Sims I want to be alone.

Sims: No I can't leave you like this.

Zane: Please just leave.

Sims: Okay please try to sleep we will come see you tomorrow.

She sank in her bed and closed her eyes without saying anything, Sims went to the others and they left while Gift went inside to see Zane.

He asked the nurse about her ward and he went there.

Gift: Zane.

She looked at him.

Zane: What do you want? Are you here to finish me off because you have killed me Gift.

Gift: How are you?

Zane: Is that a trick question, what do you think our daughter is dead and you have a wife and a son so how do you think I feel huh?

Gift: I'm so sorry MaMbatha.

Zane: Don't you dare call me that.

Gift: Please calm down.

Zane: What did I ever do to you to hurt me like this was it a crime that I loved you and only you?

She asked in a low tone and you couldn't miss her brokenness.

Gift: I'm ashamed of what I did to you if I can take it all from you trust me I would.

Zane: There is nothing you can do to fix this so please leave.

Gift: Zane please hear me out I'm really sorry.

Zane: Sorry will never give me back my child and sorry will never give me back the years I wasted with you so please leave.

Gift: Zane please just listen.

Zane: Leave before I press this button and tell the nurses to call security.

Gift left not knowing what to do or say because it hurt him to see Zane like that.

Zane: God please give me strength to go on because I can't do it alone and please little angel watch over mommy I love you and I'm sorry I couldn't protect you.

She said this and cried out loud till the nurses came to sedate her.

Insert thirty three

Sbani

I went upstairs and I found Thando busy on her phone.

Me: Can we talk?

Thando: No.

Me: Come on I know you don't like the idea of me meeting Melissa but I know what I'm doing trust me.

Thando: He is your ex.

Me: Oh that's your problem and here I am thinking you are concerned about my safety.

Thando: Well I am.

Me: You look cute when you are jealous you know that.

She smiled.

Thando: I'm not jealous I'm just worried.

Me: Keep telling yourself that.

Thando: Be careful hubby please.

Me: Come here.

She came and sat on my lap.

Me: Listen just trust me.

Thando: Okay.

Me: I love you and only you.

Thando: I love you too.

We kissed.

Thando: So what's your plan.

Me: I know Melissa knows where Gift is so I will make her tell me.

Thando: You will make her?

She asked raising her eyes.

Me: No not like that come on Thando.

Thando: How will you make her then?

Me: Can I please make love to you?

Thando: You are ignoring my question.

I just kissed her and the rest is history, after we were done I went to shower.

Thando: There's a message on your phone from Melissa.

Me: What is she saying because I know you read it.

Thando: She wants you to meet her.

Me: Where?

Thando: Hotel...why did she choose the hotel Sbani?

Me: I don't know maybe she wants us to talk in private.

Thando: I thought you said she should come here.

Me: That's what I said sthandwa sam but if she

wants us to meet at the hotel then it's fine.

Thando: Fine by who kahle kahle Sbani?

Me: By me.

Thando: So what I think doesn't matter?

Me: Thandolwam you are being dramatic now.

Thando: Dramatic really?

Me: Please get dressed and walk me out.

I know I'm taking a huge risk about doing this but if I don't do it we may never find Gift.

Thando finished dressing and we went downstairs, the others were sitting on the couch.

TJ: Dressed up to where Bafo?

Me: I'm meeting with Melissa.

Sphe: I thought you told her to come here.

Me: Yes I did but I guess she is not comfortable.

Isipho: Where are you meeting her I hope it's somewhere public Bhuti.

Me: Uhm...

Thando: She wants them to meet at the hotel.

Them: Hotel?

Me: Come on guys if we need to find Gift I have to do this and I'm not going to sleep with her can you all just trust me.

Sane: I hope this is not a trap guys.

Sphe: We all hope so just be careful and call us if something goes wrong.

Me: I will, keep your phone's on and I will be back before you guys go to the hospital but if it gets late I will meet you guys there.

Thando: Gets late?

Me: I'm leaving now, babe walk me to the car please.

She folded her hands and sulked.

Me: Please.

Thando: Okay fine let's go.

We went to my car.

Me: Do you trust me?

She nodded.

Me: Words.

Thando: I trust you.

Me: Okay I love you okay.

Thando: I love you too hubby.

Me: Now give me a kiss.

She hugged and kissed me and I got into my car and left, I got to the hotel and went straight to Melissa's room.

Melissa: You came?

Me: Yes what's this about?

Melissa: Please sit down, wine?

Me: I don't drink wine and you know it just get straight to the point.

Melissa: I'm sorry about what Gift did to your brother and her girlfriend.

Me: Sorry won't wake Sims up Mel's.

Melissa: I'm sorry it's just that Gift can be a little

crazy sometimes.

Me: A little?

Melissa: It was just a mistake.

Me: Why am I here?

Melissa: Okay I need you to drop the charges on Gift.

I laughed.

Me: You must be joking?

Melissa: No I'm not.

Me: And then what he walks just like that.

Melissa: I can do anything please Sbani, we will move out of the country.

Me: That won't happen I don't even understand why you are with this guy because he is delusional.

Melissa: You don't understand I love him.

Me: Now you sound obsessed Melissa, what happened to you I mean you used to be so smart.

Melissa: People change so will you help me or not.

Me: Okay where is Gift?

Melissa: He is at the airport waiting for me to tell him to leave if you agree to drop the charges.

I looked around the room and saw Melissa's phone so that she may not call Gift.

Me: Don't you have beer?

Melissa: I will be back.

She said smiling and went out, I took my phone and called TJ.

TJ: Sho.

Me: Go to the airport Gift is there.

TJ: Should we deal with him or take him to the police?

Me: Take him to the police.

Melissa came in as I was about to drop the call.

Melissa: Who were you talking to.

Me: No one.

Melissa: Sbani don't tell me you called the police.

Me: No I didn't can I go now.

Melissa: Mlilo noo where is my phone.

Me: I don't know.

Her phone was in my pocket, I got up and went to the door but it was locked.

Me: Melissa don't fuck with me open this door.

I looked back but she was not there, she came out of the bathroom with her clothes torn.

Me: What kind of game are you planning.

She broke the bottle of wine and stabbed her stomach with a blink of an eye.

Me: Oh my God, Melissa stop what are you doing?

Melissa: Help help.

She screamed while I tried to hold her, I took the bottle out and tried to help her but she hit me with another bottle and ran to the door, she opened it and screamed help.

Security: What's going on mam.

Melissa: He...he tried to rape me when I fought him he stabbed me with a bottle of wine please help me.

Me: She is lying Melissa what is this?

Security: You are safe now I will call the police.

She looked at me and smiled while the security called the police.

Security: You will be okay mam did you call your family.

Melissa: No he took my phone and I couldn't take it back because I...I was scared he will kill me.

Security: Please don't cry he will not kill you.

Melissa: I just I don't know what would have happened if he had raped me or killed me.

She said crying, I was sitting down on the floor confused as fuck my mind was not functioning well, she set me up this bastard set me up.

The police and some paramedics came in.

Detective: Please take her statement so that they can rush her to the hospital I can't believe there are men who still try to kill women.

Me: I didn't do anything she is setting me up.

The detective laughed.

Detective: All abusers say that, sir you are under arrest you have a right to remain silent and everything you do or say will be used against you in a court of law, you have a right to get an attorney failure to do so the state will provide you with a states attorney.

I heard that he was talking but I didn't even hear what he was saying I was still shocked, I'm under arrest me arrest.

We got to the police station and they took my things and put me in a cell.

Detective: I hope you are sentenced to life for what you did, did you see how scared that lady was.

Me: Can I make a phone call.

Detective: Mxm one phone one siyezwana.

Me: Sho.

I dialed TJs number.

TJ: Khuluma (talk).

Me: It's me.

TJ: Oh Sbani we got Gift we just dropped me off at the police station we are headed home now.

Me: Make a U-turn and come to the police station now.

TJ: What's going on.

Me: Now.

I said and dropped the call, my mind drifted back to what happened how can I be so naive so Melissa set me up. She even stabbed herself so that everything can be solid.

Warden: Hey you, some people are here to see you come.

I walked to where TJ and Sphe were sitting.

Sphe: Sbani what happened?

TJ: Ufunani manje la(what are you doing here).

Me: It all happened so fast she set me up.

TJ: Who? Melissa?

Me: Yes she fucken set me up.

Sphe: Calm down tell us what really happened?

I told them what happened.

TJ: So that was her plan.

Me: I don't think so I think she did all that because she found me on the phone with you, she is obsessed with Gift.

Sphe: Where is she now?

Me: I think the hospital.

TJ: You didn't sleep with her right?

Me: Ofcos not I didn't touch her.

Sphe: Then they don't have any evidence.

Me: Uhmm actually that's not true.

TJ: What did you do?

Me: When she stabbed herself I took the bottle out so my fingerprints are on the weapon and her phone was in my pocket because I didn't want her to call Gift before I called you.

Sphe: This is messed up.

TJ: We need to get you a lawyer.

Me: I don't need a lawyer.

Sphe: Don't be stubborn.

Me: I said I don't need a lawyer.

Warden: Iskhathi siphelile ndoda (time is up).

Me: Please don't tell Isi and Thando about this.

TJ: What should we say.

Me: Figure it out.

The warden was already pushing me to my waiting cell, I don't know what I will do if they convict me but they can't do that because I'm innocent. I know I'm innocent and Melissa knows it too.

Narrated

TJ and Sphe got into the car and drove back home.

TJ: What should we do?

Sphe: We need to find him a good lawyer ngeke

sizwe ngaye he is in trouble.

TJ: I didn't see this one coming.

Sphe: Neither did I.

TJ: We need find this Melissa and force her to tell the truth.

Sphe: Let's play it by the books because we don't who she is working with or how dangerous she is.

TJ: Sbani is stubborn he will not want the lawyer even if we find him one.

Sphe: You can say that again, trouble seems to be following us around.

TJ: We are here it's going to be hard hiding the truth from Isi and Thando.

Sphe: Damn hard and Sane also.

TJ: Don't even mention it.

They got inside and the girls were busy dancing to some music and Mamzo was also around.

Mamzo: My boys.

TJ: We are not boys anymore mama.

Sphe: Yeah Mamzo.

Mamzo: You know that you will always be my boys.

TJ: Whatever.

Mamzo: What was that?

TJ: Nothing Mamzo.

Isipho: Did you catch Gift?

Sphe: Yes we did,he is behind bars as we speak.

Thando: I should call Sbani so that he can come back.

TJ& Sphe: No don't call him.

Everyone looked at them.

Thando: Why not?

TJ: Uhmm his battery died.

Sphe: Yeah yeah he will be back don't worry.

Thando: He is sleeping with her isn't he?

They kept quiet and looked at each other, Thando

stood up and went to the bedroom while Sane followed after her.

Mamzo: Sphe and TJ let's take a walk in the garden.

They went outside.

Mamzo: Talk.

TJ: Sbani is in jail.

Mamzo: What?

Sphe: Melissa set him up.

Mamzo: Who is Melissa?

They told her everything.

Mamzo: How bad is it?

TJ: Pretty bad mama.

Mamzo: Have you contacted a lawyer yet?

Sphe: No Sbani said he doesn't want one.

Mamzo: We can't listen to him you know how stubborn he is.

TJ: Yeah and please Mamzo don't tell the girls yet

Mamzo: Okay we need to make sure Sbani doesn't sleep there.

Sphe: We are still trying to get a good lawyer.

Mamzo: I know someone who can help I will call him.

Mamzo called her man to come to the house.

Mamzo: Let's go wait inside.

Isipho: Baba kaCebo is everything okay?

Sphe: Yes everything is good.

Isipho: Okay I will go check on her.

After a few minutes a man came to the house.

Mamzo: Let's go talk in the study.

They followed each other to the study.

Mamzo: I'm sorry that you all had to meet under these circumstances but this is bab uMbatha the one I have been seeing, Baba these are my boys.

Mbatha: Nice to finally meet you gent's.

TJ& Sphe: Likewise.

Mamzo: We need your help.

Mamzo narrated what happened to him.

Mbatha: I will contact my lawyer.

TJ: Is it possible that we get him out of there today.

Mbatha: Yes I trust my lawyer and he does a good job.

Sphe: I think we should just find Melissa and force the truth out of her.

Mbatha: I also like that idea.

Mamzo: Hay hay no.

Mbatha: We will meet at the police station let's go.

They all followed each other outside hoping that they bring Sbani home.

Isipho: What do you is going on?

Sane: I don't know but it looks serious.

Thando: Do you guys think maybe something happened to Sbani.

Isipho: No I don't think so they would have told us.

Sane: Maybe something happened to Sims.

Thando: No I don't even want to think of it.

Isipho: I wonder what's going on.

Sane: Whatever it is, it's not right I can feel it.

Thando: Yeah neh.

They kept quiet just wondering what may be wrong.

The others arrived at the police station and waited for the lawyer.

TJ: What's taking him so long?

Mbatha: He will be here don't worry oh here he is.

A man approached them.

Mbatha: Radebe.

Radebe:Mbatha.

Mbatha: I need your help.

He briefed him on what's going on.

Radebe: Let's go talk to him then.

Radebe requested to see his client.

Sbani: Why is Mamzo?

Mamzo: I'm here to see you Sbani.

He sat down.

Sphe: We know you said you don't want a lawyer but we brought you one.

Sbani just looked at them and kept quiet.

Radebe: So what happened.

Sbani: I didn't do it she set me up.

He said explaining what happened.

Radebe: That's easy don't worry I will prove your innocence I just need you to trust me and work with me.

Sbani: I really don't need a lawyer.

Mamzo: Sbani please.

Sbani: No Mamzo I know I'm innocent.

Mbatha: We all know you are innocent but please let us help you.

Sbani: I don't need your help.

TJ: Sbani just stop being stubborn for once.

Sbani: Warden take me back to my cell.

Mamzo: Sbani please don't do this.

He looked at them and the warden took him away.

Mbatha: He is stubborn.

Sphe: You haven't seen half of it.

Radebe: He is still in shock I will be on his bail hearing tomorrow.

Mbatha: Thanks Radebe we will meet you there.

They all left.

Sphe: We have no choice but to involve Isipho in this she is the only one who can get through him.

Mamzo: That's true but let's wait until tomorrow.

TJ: What he is denied bail.

Mbatha: He won't let's all just have faith.

Mamzo: Thank you for being here.

Mbatha: I'm glad I could help, can we pass by the hospital my daughter told me that she is there.

Mamzo: Okay my son and her girlfriend are there.

TJ: Let's go then.

They went to the hospital while Sbani stayed in a prison cell.

Warden: Someone is on the line for you.

Sbani: Helo.

Melissa: I hope you are settling well there.

Sbani: Stop this before you get hurt.

Melissa: I'm not scared Mlilo I will make sure you for in jail.

Sbani: Your plan will not work trust me.

He said dropping the call.

Warden: You look like a decent guy why are even here.

Sbani: It's just a set up.

Warden: Hope you get out tomorrow because if you are transferred you won't survive in there.

Sbani sat down and tried to calm down so he can communicate with his ancestors to avail themselves.

Insert thirty four

Three months later

Things have been good with me actually they have been great most women are coming to me for help if I'm unable to help I send them to my therapist she agreed to help me for free.

Zane is still not okay she lost it when she found out that Gift moved to Cape Town with his family, she has been stalking them on social media and I think she is just torturing herself. Sims has been there for her ever since she tried pushing him away but it didn't work, me and Sbani are still friends best friends if you ask me and it's great.

I'm going to Zane's house to see her she hasn't attended classes in a while and I'm starting to get really worried.

I take out my phone and call her.

Me: Friend I'm outside please open.

She tells me to come and I do.

Me: Friend hey.

Zane: Hey friend.

Me: Okay you sound excited what's going on.

Zane: Me? Excited I don't know what you talking about.

She asks with a huge smile on her face.

Me: Quit playing come on tell me.

Zane: Okaay I'm going on a date today.

Me: A date with who?

Zane: Who else Sims you dummy.

I get up and we do our special dance and I start tearing up.

Zane: Thando.

I wipe my tears.

Zane: Whats wrong mngani.

Me: I'm just happy to see you smiling again I'm happy you finally bounced back.

Zane: I'm happy too, the pain will always be there but I'm moving on with my life who knows maybe I will find someone who will love me.

Me: Mmmm.

Zane: What?

Me: Or maybe you have found him.

Zane: I will pretend like I didn't hear that.

Me: Why because you like him too?

Zane: Who said Sims likes me?

Me: So you like him but you are afraid he may not feel the same him.

Zane: I didn't say that.

Me: Why are you smiling then.

Zane: I hate you right now.

Me: I love you too.

She threw a cushion at me.

Zane: Besides it's still early for me to be dating.

Me: It's been four months friend please just be

happy and if Sims is willing to make you happy allow him too before it's too late.

Zane: Yeah yeah I hear you, so how is your project going?

Me: Very well and now that you are fine you will help me out.

Zane: Will love too and Sbani?

Me: What about him?

Zane: Are you guys still friends you seem too close.

Me: We are still friends.

Zane: Mmmmm.

Me: Hahaha I'm serious.

Zane: If he is not making his move, make it first I mean you love him.

Me: I just don't know friend I think maybe he has a girlfriend.

Zane: Just talk to him, Sbani is very handsome they will snatch him away from you.

Me: Okay enough about that what will you wear?

Zane: I don't know let's go to my room so you can help me choose.

We went to her room and she disappeared to her closet.

Zane: I can't find anything proper to wear.

Me: What do you mean you have to many clothes to say that.

A message came through her phone and she read it with a huge smile.

Me: It's just a text message friend.

Zane: I know.

Me: My girl is in love.

Zane: Mxm Sims will be here in an hour so help me out here.

Me: Wear that dress.

I said pointing to her long black dress.

Zane: You think so.

Me: I know you will be sexy and respectable in that dress trust me.

Zane: Okay let me put it on.

She put the dress on and gosh she looked so beautiful.

Me: Friend wow you look beautiful.

Zane: Thank you friend.

Another message came through her phone.

Me: Sims is here early I guess.

She was quite for a while.

Me: Friend what's wrong?

Zane: Ummm nothing.

Me: Zanele.

Zane: It's Gift he wants to see me.

Me: What no he must be crazy.

She looked down.

Me: No no Zane don't tell me you will go see him.

Zane: I just want answers and closure.

Me: I will go with you.

Zane: No please just go home I will send Sims a text to meet me at the mall.

Me: I don't like any of this.

Zane: Please trust me let's go.

We left Zane went to meet with Gift while I went home.

Me: Why are you guys so loud.

TJ: Sims is trying to find something to wear to his date today.

Sims: They are making me a fool wena Thando.

Me: I know what Zane will be wearing so let me help you out.

Sims: You saw her?

Me: Yes I'm coming from her place.

Sims: Okay help me out then.

I helped him out and he looked good they will look

really good together.

Sbani: You look good Bafo.

He said coming from his room rubbing his eyes I guess he was sleeping I can never get over how good he looks.

Sims: Thando.

He said waving his hand in my face.

Me: What did you say?

Sims: Stop staring at him.

Me: Uhmhhh yeah excuse me.

I went to the kitchen to drink some water, I felt his cologne behind me and I didn't turn he whispered to my ear.

Sbani: Are you okay?

I felt my heart beating fast and my palms sweating.

Me: Uhhh I..I'm fine.

Sbani: Are you sure?

He is doing this intentionally.

Me: Sbani please.

I turned and looked at him and I couldn't miss the smirk on his face.

Sbani: Ngenzeni mina(what did I do).

Me: Excuse me.

I went back to the lounge and TJ and Sims were laughing, Sphe and Isi went out.

TJ: Is everything okay Thando you look I don't know marn.

Me: Everything is okay TJ.

Sims: You seem frustrated.

They laughed and I ended up joining them.

Sbani: Just leave Thando alone guys.

He is enjoying this I can tell by his smile.

Sims: Zane just sent me a message that we will meet at the mall but I don't I will fetch her.

Sbani: How did she get to the mall.

TJ: Thando.

They all looked at me.

Me: What?

Sbani: Why did Zane leave Sims.

Me: Uhmm nothing.

TJ: We all know you are lying right now.

Me: Okay she got a text from Gift.

Them: What?

Sims: And you didn't say anything what if something happens to her.

Sbani: You should have told us the moment you walked into that door.

TJ: What if he harms her.

Okay I didn't think of it like that.

Me: Guys woaw he won't hurt or would he?

Sims: Ubuza bani?(Who are you asking).

Me: I'm sorry guys he said he wanted them to talk I didn't think much of it.

Sbani: Just go Sims if something is wrong or you

don't find her call us.

Sims ran outside and I sat down worried, I just pray to God Gift doesn't hurt her.

Narrated

Zane arrived at the mall and went to Mugg and Bean to meet Gift.

Gift: MaMbatha thank you for coming.

Zane: Why am I here Gift?

Gift: You look beautiful.

Zane smiled Gift still has an effect on her even after all that happened.

Zane: Thank you I'm sure you didn't call me out here to tell me that.

Gift: Ofcos not but I'm curious did you dress up for me.

Zane: For you? Come on Gift that ship sailed a long

time ago.

Gift: Okay I already ordered your favourite.

Zane: You are wasting my time I have a date in a few minutes.

Gift: A date with who?

Zane: I don't think that's any of your business.

Gift: Okay I called you here to apologise for everything that I put you through, I'm really sorry.

Zane: It's fine I'm way pass that now, but I want to know why didn't you tell me?

Gift: I wanted to marry you but I knew you weren't ready to be my wife and when I met Mel's I couldn't bring myself to ask you to be my second wife.

Zane: Because you knew I wouldn't agree.

Gift: Yes I knew you wouldn't.

Zane: Gift I loved you and I spent all my life showing you that I do and I would have agreed to anything if that meant you being in my life.

Gift: You would have?

Gift was shocked.

Zane: Yes Gift I would have but you didn't talk to me you just had to hurt me like that even if I wasn't going to agree you should have told me then I would decide for myself.

Gift: We can still make it work.

Zane laughed.

Zane: You must be crazy.

Gift: I'm serious mamakhe please.

Zane: Don't, don't you dare bring my child into your madness.

Gift: I'm not mad but I love you.

Zane: Well I don't I have moved on with my life.

Gift: Moved on with who?

Zane: I found someone who loves and respects me more than you ever did.

Gift: Zane no you are mine.

He said holding Zane's hand and that scared her

because she has never seen Gift like that.

Zane: Gift you are hurting me.

Gift: Okay I'm sorry I didn't mean to hurt you just tell me you love me.

Sims got inside and went straight to them.

Sims: Is everything okay here?

Zane: Oh babe you are here?

Gift: Babe?

Sims: Yes she called me babe is there a problem?

Gift: No so is this him?

Zane: Yes it's him I love him so please let me go and be happy for me.

Gift: Uhmm Ofcos congratulations take care I have to go now.

Sims: So you love me?

Zane: That's all you heard?

Sims: That's the important part and I love you too.

Zane: You do?

Sims: Ofcos I do sthandwa sam.

Zane was a blushing mess.

Sims: And she is blushing.

Zane: Stop it let's get out of here people are staring at us.

Sims: They are just jealous.

They went out to some restaurant and Gift was looking at them with bloodshot eyes he was breathing fire.

Gift: If I can't have Zane then no one will.

He said going to Sims car to fault the brakes while they were enjoying themselves.

Sims: Are you okay? You have been quite since we got here.

Zane: I have never seen Gift like that he looked dangerous I'm just scared.

Sims: Hey don't worry I'm here and I'm not going anywhere this means I will protect you.

Zane: Thank you.

Sims: You look beautiful by the way.

Zane: Thank you, you don't look bad yourself and how did you know I was going to wear something black.

Sims: I'm a man of many talents.

Zane: Argh it was Thando.

Sims: Thanks to her, I love you.

Zane: I..I love you too.

Sims: I promise I will never hurt you.

Zane: You have to teach me how to shoot so that when you hurt me I just shoot you.

Sims: You are dangerous Zanele.

Zane: Let's order I'm hungry.

They ordered, they were having a really good time the conversation was flowing and they were both happy not knowing what was awaiting them outside.

When they were done eating they walked to beach because it was near.

Zane: I think someone is following us.

Sims: Why are you saying this?

Zane: I have been seeing someone behind us but when I look back he is not there.

Sims: Who could it be.

Zane: It's Gift.

Sims: No I don't think he is dangerous.

Zane: You could have seen him he was very angry.

Sims: What did he say exactly?

Zane: He said if he can't have me then nobody will.

Sims: Okay let's go back to the car I will call Sbani.

They went to the car and Sims called Sbani.

Sbani: She stood you up didn't she?

Sims: Fuseg no I think Gift is following us.

Sbani: What but why?

Sims: He threatened Zane earlier on.

Sbani: Okay just drive back home we will try tracking

him down.

Sims: Sho Bafo.

Zane: And?

Sims: Put your seatbelt on let's go I love you okay.

Zane: I love you too.

They kissed and Sims drove.

At home they were busy tracking Gifts movements.

TJ: I think he is still at mall.

Thando: Sbani.

He shouted.

TJ: Bafo why are you zoning out.

Sbani: I think something is wrong.

Thando: Why?

Sbani: I don't know but something is wrong let me call Sims again.

Sbani called Sims but he was not picking up because the car had rolled out of the road, Sims could hear his phone ringing but he could not reach

to it because he was stuck.

Sbani became angry and he cried it frustrated him to feel that something was wrong but not see what it was.

Thando: Sbani what's wrong?

She was already crying.

TJ: I will just trace Sims phone because clearly something is wrong.

Thando went to the kitchen to get Sbani some water because he was shaking uncontrollable.

She came back with the water and sat down then put Sbani's head in her lap.

Sphe: Family we are home.

No one answered.

Isipho: What's going on?

TJ: Sims called us saying that Gift is following them?

Sphe: Them?

TJ: Yes him and Zane now we can't reach him on the

phone and Sbani is like that because he says something is wrong.

Sphe: Track his phone.

TJ: That's what I'm doing.

TJ did his thing.

TJ: I got it let's go.

Sbani: Let's go.

Thando: You are in no state to go.

Sbani: Are you guys coming or not.

They all followed after him while Sims and Zane were still stuck in the car.

Insert thirty four

Narrated

They all got to the hospital.

Mbatha: I'm going to ask for my daughter's ward in the reception.

Mamzo: Okay we will go check on my son and his girlfriend.

While Mbatha went to the reception the others went to the ward.

Mamzo: Thando when did you guys get here?

Thando: A couple of minutes ago I thought you were all here.

Sphe: No we needed to be somewhere else.

Isipho: Okay where is my brother?

TJ: Uhmm he is still busy with something.

Zane: Ohho.

The girls were not convinced at all.

Mamzo: How is Sims doing?

Thando: Still no change mama.

Sphe: Where is Zane?

Isipho: She went outside for some air.

Zane: This thing is really weighing on her.

Thando: And she was hoping Sbani would be here,

she said there's something they talked about.

Mamzo: She will talk to him don't worry.

Mbatha got into the ward.

Mbatha: There is no one in the reception so I will wait here until there's someone who will help me.

Mamzo: Okay girls this Baba Mbatha, Babe meet my girls Thando, Isipho and Sane.

Isipho: Babe aww Mamzo.

Mbatha: Nice meeting you girls.

Them: Likewise.

Mamzo: This is my son.

Mbatha: He is going to be fine don't worry.

Sphe: Zane.

Zane: Hey guys, Baba?

Mbatha: Zanele?

She rushed to her father's arms.

Mbatha: Oh my baby it's okay.

The others were looking at each other amazed.

Mbatha: I went to the reception to look for you but there was no one there to help me so where is your ward?

Zane: This is my ward Baba.

Mamzo: Okay let's all calm down, Baba is Zane your daughter?

Zane: Baba?

Mbatha: Yes she is my daughter how do you know her?

Mamzo: Okay Zane is Sims girlfriend they were in an accident together.

Mbatha: So it was your son who almost killed my daughter?

Zane: Daddy no please calm down.

Mbatha: So this is what you have been doing in Durban?

Mamzo: Mbatha please calm down.

Zane: Please excuse us I need to speak to my father.

Thando: You sure you going to be okay friend?

Zane: I will be fine don't worry.

Mbatha: Zanele khuluma.

Zane: Shandu listen the accident was not Sims fault the brakes were faulted.

Mbatha: Faulted? This means someone wanted to kill you was it one of his girlfriend's.

Zane: Uhmm no it was Gift.

She said looking down.

Mbatha: Gift? usho lomfana wakaZwane (you mean that Zwane boy?).

Zane: Yebo baba.

Mbatha: Why did he do that?

Zane: I found out he has a wife and when I tried to leave him he threatened that no one will have me if he doesn't.

Mbatha: Uphi lomfana manje (where is he now).

Zane: In prison.

Mbatha: I need to have a talk with him.

Zane: Baba no please just let this go.

Mbatha: Let it go? He almost got you killed and someone's son.

Zane: Shandu please.

Mbatha: Okay I will let it slide for now so tell me how are you doing?

Zane: I lost my baby Baba.

Mbatha: Oh baby come here.

He hugged her.

Zane: Gift took everything away from me,my daughter and my love.

Mbatha: It's going to be fine my girl don't worry.

Zane: I'm scared Baba what if he doesn't wake up? They will blame me because it's my fault.

Mbatha: It's not your fault and he will wake up just be there for him.

Zane: I hope so.

Mbatha: Do you even love him or you still hurt?

Zane: I love him a lot Baba.

Mbatha: Okay he will be fine.

Zane: So you and Mamzo?

Mbatha: What?

Zane: Do you know she is my boyfriend's mother?

Mbatha: So what?

Zane: Hayi Baba

Mbatha: Since you already know her what do you think of her?

Zane: She is a great woman and I love her.

Mbatha: That's the only thing that matters.

Zane: Are you happy though?

Mbatha: Since I lost your mother it is the first time I open myself up to love again and I'm happy.

Zane: That's good Baba so where did you guys meet?

Mbatha: Here in Durban.

Zane: So my dad has been coming to Durban but I don't know.

Mbatha: I was busy phela ngiyajola.

They both laughed.

Zane: Really Baba.

Mbatha: Did you hear that?

Zane: What?

Mbatha: Your boyfriend also laughed.

Zane: Are you sure?

Mbatha: Yes I'm sure call a doctor.

Zane: Doctor please come doctor.

The others also rushed inside except for TJ, Sphe and Thando.

Thando

TJ and Sphe asked to talk to me in the car even though I was so anxious to see if Sims is awake or

not but they seem to be sad so I guess something is wrong.

Me: Guys can we do this later maybe Sims is awake.

Sphe: We will check on him after this.

TJ: Uhmm Thando there is no other way to say this Sbani is in prison.

Me: Doing what? Is Gift out?

Sphe: No Sbani was arrested.

Me: Arrested but why?

TJ: Melissa set him up Thando.

Me: Set him up how? And why am I hearing this now?

Sphe: We thought we could handle it and he will get out today but we failed.

Me: So Sbani will be spending his night in jail.

TJ: Yes we are planning to get him out tomorrow but he doesn't want a lawyer.

Me: Is he crazy why?

Sphe: Because he is innocent.

Me: What happened exactly?

TJ: Melissa told Sbani where Gift was hoping he will help her but instead he called us and Melissa caught him and stabbed herself claiming Sbani tried to rape her.

Me: What? Sbani would never do that.

Sphe: We know it was all just a set up.

Me: So what do I do.

Sphe: We can go to the police station and you can try talking to him about getting a lawyer.

Me: Okay let's go.

TJ drove to the police station while my phone rang.

Me: Babe.

Isipho: Sims is awake.

Me: That's great news we will be there just now.

Isipho: Where did you guys go anyway.

Me: We went to get some food.

Isipho: Okay sho.

I dropped the phone I hate lying to her.

Me: That was Isi Sims is awake.

Sphe: Oh gosh that's great.

We arrived at the police station and got inside, Sbani came to see and I could tell he was pissed.

Me: Babe are you okay?

Sbani: Gents what is she doing here?

Sphe: We figured you might listen to her.

Me: Sbani please just let the lawyer help you.

TJ: Sims is awake please do it for him.

Sbani: He is awake?

TJ: He woke up a couple of minutes ago.

He wanted to cry but he prevented himself.

Sbani: That's good.

Me: So you will let the lawyer help you.

Sbani: Fine.

TJ: Why didn't you tell us that you needed Thando to

tell you because she didn't even convince you.

Sbani: It's not the same and I'm doing this for Sims I can't wait to see him.

Me: Oh babe are you sure you are going to be okay?

Sbani: I will be fine.

Me: Melissa is going to pay for this.

Sbani: Don't do something stupid tomorrow I will be out of here.

TJ: We should go now will see you at your bail hearing.

Sbani: Uhmhhh Melissa called.

Sphe: What? Where?

Sbani: Here she was just gloating about everything.

Me: That son of a bitch.

Sbani: Just go my time is over.

Me: I love you.

Sbani: I love you too sthandwa sam.

I tried to hug him but the warden refused and we left.

TJ: Don't cry Thando he is going to be out by tomorrow.

Me: I hope so.

Sphe: Do you guys think we should tell Isipho and Sane?

Me: I think we should because we all need to go support Sbani tomorrow.

TJ: Good luck on that.

Me: You should tell them.

TJ: No no.

Sphe: Isipho sent me a message that we should go straight home we will see Sims tomorrow the doctor said he needs to rest.

Me: Okay TJ just drive home.

TJ drove home and we got inside.

Sphe: Where is Mamzo?

Sane: She left with Baba Mbatha.

Sphe: Okay where is Isi?

Sane: She went to put Cebo to sleep I will dish up for you guys.

TJ: Thank you babe.

I went to help out Sane in the kitchen.

Sane: So where are you guys coming from?

Me: Uhmm how is Sims?

Sane: Really Thando? I thought you guys said you were going to get some food.

Me: Let's go sit down.

We gave the guys food and we ate.

Sphe: Mamakhe is she asleep?

Isipho: Yes finally.

Me: So guys we have something to tell you please Isi don't overreact.

Isipho: Oh okay.

TJ: Sbani is in jail.

Isipho: Jail? As in arrested or what?

TJ: Yes arrested.

Sane: But why?

Me: Melissa set him up.

We told them what happened.

Isipho: He is my brother why am I only finding out now?

Sphe: It happened today we were still trying to get him out.

Isipho: I guess that didn't turn out well because I don't see my brother anywhere.

Sphe: Babe calm down.

Isipho: Don't? Don't touch me.

Me: Isipho calm down he will be out by tomorrow.

Sane: Are you sure about that? I think we need to find this Melissa and make her pay for this.

TJ: Let's wait for tomorrow.

Isipho: I'm going to bed.

Sphe: Yes I think it's best we all go to bed.

We all went to bed and when I got there I cried

myself to sleep.

In the morning I woke up prepared for court, I went downstairs and everyone was ready.

Me: Isipho are you okay?

She just looked at me and kept quiet.

Sphe: Don't mind her she is still angry that we didn't tell her.

Me: Okay let's go.

We all got into the car and went to court, we got there and settled down while waiting for Sbani.

They brought him in and Radebe the lawyer was also there, I wiped a tear that fell from my eye I just couldn't stand seeing him like that.

Judge: Mr Radebe how does your client plead.

Sbani: Not guilty your honour.

The judge kept quiet for some time then he requested to speak with both lawyers in his chambers.

Me: Do you guys think he will get bail.

Mbatha: He will don't worry.

Isipho: This is scary what if he doesn't get bail.

Mamzo: Let's be positive please.

The guys were just quite I guess they were scared of the outcomes, I looked across the room and I saw Melissa sitting down with some ladies.

Sane: Is that Melissa?

Me: Yes that's her.

Sane: I will be back.

Me: No Sane please just sit down.

Sane: No I need to talk to her.

TJ: Sanelisiwe sit the fuck down.

Sane: Mxm.

TJ: What did you say?

Sane: Nothing.

Mamzo: Please stop this.

Judge: Order in court.

We all kept quiet.

Judge: Trying to kill someone especially a woman is disgusting and shouldn't even be allowed, to also to try and force yourself on someone is the worse thing ever so your bail Mr Khoza is denied.

Me: What? No.

I heard myself shouting.

Mr Radebe: Motion please judge.

Judge: No motion Mr Radebe.

I looked at Sbani and he was looking straight at Melissa with red eyes.

Isipho: Bhuti.

She said running to him and he hugged her briefly because the police were taking him away.

Mamzo: Oh my what do we do now.

Mbatha: Let's go talk to Radebe and asked about a way forward.

Me: I can't believe this.

Sane: I have a plan.

TJ: What the fuck will we do now.

Sphe: TJ let's go.

They both left Isi was a crying mess.

Me: Babe please calm down.

Sane: Let's go outside.

Isi gave Cebo to Mamzo.

Me: So what's your plan?

Sane: Let's follow Melissa and her friends.

Isipho: What do you want us to do.

Sane: I have already called an Uber let's go just trust me.

We all waited for an Uber I don't think there's anyone who was thinking straight.

Insert thirty five

We can never know when we will lose our loved ones that's why we need to spend each day cherishing

them because in a blink of an eye things change and there's no way to go back to showing someone how you feel, life is too short we should spend each day living it to the fullest and appreciating each other so that we won't have any regrets.

Sbani is driving like a maniac and no one is willing to say anything because they know there's no getting through him when he is like this, we are quite praying that they survive whatever that has happened to them.

We see paramedics passing us and police following behind them and we all look at each other, Sbani increases the speed and at this moment we all don't care we just want to arrive to the scene.

When we are near TJ looks at his phone.

TJ: This is it guys Sims phone is there.

Sphe: Are you sure?

TJ: Sbani pull over.

Sbani stops the car and they all get out rushing to Sims car which rolled out of the road and me and

Isipho follow behind them.

Police: Please don't go near the scene.

Sbani: That's our brother in there.

Police: Please calm down the paramedics are doing their job.

We all move back and allow them to do their job, one paramedic pass us and the guys stop him.

TJ: Sho mfethu how bad is it?

Paramedic: Are you family?

TJ: Yes that's our brother and his girlfriend.

He scratches his head and sigh.

Paramedic: Uhmm we are still trying to get them out but it seems like your brother is the one who is in danger excuse me.

Isipho: Please God don't let them die.

I hold her close.

Me: They won't.

I say trying to convince myself more than her.

They finally put them in stretchers and they are injured Sims face is not recognisable.

Sbani: You ladies stay here we will go and check.

We nod while they talk to the police and paramedics.

I look them with worry as I see that they are panicking, they are busy scratching their heads while talking, they return to us and we all get into the car following behind the paramedics.

Me and Isipho get in the back and I lay her head on my lap as she drifts off to sleep, I close my eyes trying to sleep but I hear the guys talking.

Sphe: Did you see how bad it was?

TJ: I didn't even see Sims face.

Sbani: Do you guys think he is going to make it.

They keep quiet for a while.

Sphe: To be honest I doubt atleast Zane is not as bad as Sims.

TJ: I don't want to bury my brother.

That makes me sad and I feel my tears streaming

down my face I don't even bother wiping them.

Sbani: Me too Bafo.

Sphe keeps quiet and I know he is crying he is the emotional one.

TJ: Sphe come on.

Sphe: I just.. I'm..

I finally gather the courage to open my eyes and TJ is holding Sphe while tears are also streaming down his face, I see Sbani wiping his face while driving.

We get to the hospital and we all rush inside even Isipho.

The doctor attend to them and they are rushed to the theatre, Shawn is also here.

Sbani: Shawn how bad is it?

Shawn: I promise to inform you guys when we are done please just wait.

He says while running to the theatre, the sad part is that Mamzo went overseas with her man kanti it would have been better if she was here we all need

her.

TJ: Should we call Mamzo?

Sbani: Already did man.

We all sit down and keep quiet.

Isipho: Ouch.

We all jump.

Sphe: Babe what's wrong?

Isipho: I think my water just broke.

Sbani: Oh no not now.

He rushes to the nurse and they take her with Sphe following after them.

TJ: Atleast now Sphe will think about something else.

Sbani: Yeah man.

We sit down and just wait, hours pass and we hear nothing not from Sphe and not from Shawn.

Me: Do you guys think something happened to the baby?

As they are about to answer Sphe appears looking

drained but smiling.

Me: And?

Sphe: They are fine.

Sbani: They?

Sphe: Isi and my daughter.

TJ: Daughter? Congratulations Bafo.

Me: Can we see them.

Sphe: Follow me.

We followed him and got into the room Isipho was asleep.

Sbani: He is cute.

TJ: She looks like me.

Me: That's very true she is so cute with Sbani's big eyes.

Sphe: I feel robbed.

We all chuckle.

Sbani: What's her name?

Sphe: We want you to name her.

Sbani: Cebolenkosi.

Sphe: Thank you Bafo.

They bro hugged.

Me: That's a cute name.

Nurse: Excuse me we need to take the baby now and she needs to rest.

We all got out and went back to being stressed.

Sphe: Have you guys heard anything?

Sbani: Nothing.

Me: I will go get you guys some coffee.

They nodded and I went to get some coffee and guess who I saw snooping around Gift and he just stood there and looked at me while smiling.

I think something is wrong with him maybe he is crazy, I went back to the others without buying that coffee.

TJ: Why are you running?

Me: I just saw Uhmmm.

Sbani: Saw who Thando?

Me: Gift.

Sphe: Where?

Me: By the door he was talking to some nurse and when he saw me he just smiled.

TJ: This Gift guy is asking for trouble.

Sbani: Let's go see if he is still there.

As they were about to leave Shawn came.

Sphe: So?

Shawn: The operations were a success but Sims is not out of the woods yet.

Sbani: What does that mean?

Shawn: The girl is out of danger.

TJ: Ehh Shawn stop beating around the bush how is Simbongile?

He said shouting.

Shawn: Uhmmm he almost made it Uhmm it's bad

guys I don't want to lie, we still waiting for another doctor who will perform another surgery later on.

Me: Can we see them?

Shawn: Ofcos and they are in the same ward please follow me.

While following after Shawn I pinched myself I wanted to confirm if this was reality or not because I felt like it was a movie maybe someone forgot to say cut, I have only seen this in movies where they tell families that the person almost made it but when I felt the pain when pinching myself I realised that this is reality our reality.

Shawn: I will give you guys ten minutes and you can talk to them they will hear you guys.

Zane had machines around her but it was better than Sims I have never seen something like that and never in my wildest dreams have I thought that I would see it. He had bandages around his head and face actually everywhere.

Sphe: Let's talk to Zane first.

We nodded and went around her bed.

Me: Hey friend it's me.

That's the only thing that came out of my mouth I tried talking but no words came out of my mouth.

Sbani: Hey you don't need to talk atleast she knows you are here.

TJ: Hey skeem we are all here please just get better and come back to us, Sims needs you we all do.

You see TJ and Sbani are the strongest one's in all of us or atleast they act like they are strong.

We all kissed her forehead and went to Sims.

Sphe: Is this real or maybe I'm just having a bad dream?

Sbani: I have been asking myself that ever since we got here.

I guess I'm not the only one who thinks this is not real.

Sphe: Bafo please pull through I know you are strong, stronger than all these machines Isipho gave birth

and it's a girl I want you to meet her please.

He said that and left.

TJ: Sims you know we all need you to survive, we have been through a lot together I know this is nothing just keep fighting I love you man.

He also left.

Me: In you I found a brother and there's no day that went by without you showing me that you care I just want you to know that I appreciate you and I care please just please don't die.

I wiped my tears and looked at Sbani who was holding Sims hand.

Me: Will you be okay?

Sbani: Yes I will be fine.

I tapped his shoulder and left.

Sbani

Have you ever seen or experienced something but convinced yourself that it was not real because you were in denial that's me right now, I know they are in hospital and it's bad but here I am trying to convince myself that this is just a dream. I feel bad because I had the power to stop all this but it was all vivid, I couldn't see anything and I can't help it but blame myself and those that gave me this gift.

If they had showed me this was going to happen I could have prevented it from happening but now here we are, I'm looking at my brother who may not survive all this.

Me: Simbongile there's no need to tell you this because you know that you need to fight, you need to fight for us, for Zane and most importantly for Mamzo. We don't want to lose you because I know we can never survive it and you know it so please fight. I love you Bafo and I know you will pull through.

The machine started beeping and he started shaking uncontrollable.

Shawn: You need to leave.

Me: No what's going on.

Shawn: Please get out Sbani.

I stood by the door as other doctors and nurses attended to him.

Shawn: He is coding and we are losing him.

He shouted to the nurses.

Me: No Sims fight, keep fighting you hear me fight.

I shouted while crying I felt like I was losing my mind.

Shawn: We need to rush him to theatre now.

I went and the others came running to me.

TJ: Is he...

Me: No they are rushing him to the theatre for another operation.

Sphe: What happened?

Me: I don't know he...he just started shaking and the machines started beeping they said he was coding.

Thando: That can't be good.

TJ: Let's just hope he will be fine.

Me: Let's go to the waiting room.

We all followed each other to the waiting room.

Me: We need to find him.

Sphe: Find who?

Me: Gift.

TJ: Let's go.

Me: Thando stay here and keep checking on Isipho and Zane.

Sphe: And call us when Sims comes out of surgery.

Thando: Okay please be safe.

I kissed her forehead and hugged her tight when we were about to leave Mamzo came rushing to us.

Thando: Mama.

She said throwing herself at her.

Mamzo: Oh ngane zam (my children).

She hugged us one by one.

Mamzo: How is he?

TJ: It's bad Mamzo.

Mamzo: He is a fighter I know him.

Sphe: Let's go.

Mamzo: Where are you guys going?

We just kept quiet and looked at her.

Mamzo: Sbani I know that look and you are not going anywhere.

Sbani: Mamzo we love you and you know we respect you but please don't try to stop us now.

Mamzo: Okay just please be careful.

Us: We will.

We left them and got into the car.

Sphe: Where do we start?

TJ: Stop don't drive out of the hospital yet let me try hacking into their cameras and see if he left or not.

We waited for him while he was doing his thing.

TJ: Seems like he talked to a nurse and asked her about Zane and Sims then he stayed for a few

minutes and left.

Sphe: Let's go then keep checking what he did next.

I drove out of the hospital at this moment I know my ancestors will not be able to communicate with me since I'm angry, In order to do so they need me to calm down and clear my head but they will have to forgive me because I can't do that now.

TJ: Seems like he bought a ticket to Cape Town.

Me: Where should we check the airport?

TJ: I'm trying to track down the car he was driving.

Sphe: How do you do that nawe you should be arrested nje.

Me: Really?

We all laughed.

TJ: Drive to this address.

I drove to the address he gave me and we saw the car Gift was driving at the hospital.

Me: You think he is here?

Sphe: Let's just go inside.

We went inside and they told us that Gift hired that car, he dropped it a few hours and took an Uber to the airport.

TJ: I don't think we will find him but drive.

Sphe: Drive fast Sbani.

I drove fast because the airport is kind of really far.

TJ: Do you guys think Sims will pull through.

Sphe: Reality is the chances are very slim.

Me: Yeah but we pray he does.

TJ: And wena Sbani when will you give Thando a chance I mean life is too short to be doing what you are doing.

Me: And we are here.

Sphe: You are just dodging the question.

Me: Can we just go.

We searched around but nothing I asked the security and he told me that the plane is about to take off.

We ran to it but we were too late.

TJ: Guys look there's is Gift.

He was looking at us with a huge smile on his face.

Me: Is it possible for you to stop this aeroplane.

Security: On what grounds.

Sphe: Just fuckin do it.

Security: I'm sorry but we can't.

Another person who works there came to us.

Lady: Someone told me to give you guys this paper.

We took it and she left.

TJ: "YOU WILL NEVER FIND ME AND THEY ARE GOING TO DIE".

Me: Son of bitch he will not get away with this.

Sphe: We need to hunt him down who knows he can come back and finish them up.

My phone ringed.

Me: Thando.

Thando: You need to come back to the hospital.

Me: What's going on.

Thando: Just come back now.

Me: Thando.

She already dropped the phone.

TJ: What's she saying?

Me: Let's go.

Sphe: What's going on?

Me: She said we need to drive back to the hospital.

TJ: Let's go then.

We ran to the car and TJ drove to the hospital, I pray to God Sims is still alive because if not I'm flying to Cape Town tonight.

Insert thirty five

We got into an Uber and asked the driver to follow Melissa and his friends, I didn't know what Sane's plan was but I was hoping it works out in our favour.

Sane: Please drop us here.

She said once Melissa's car stopped, the driver dropped us after we payed.

Isipho: What's the plan?

Sane: You shouldn't have come with us Isi you have a baby to worry about.

Isipho: It's not like you guys are here to die.

Sane: You may never know.

Me: What do you mean Sane?

Sane: Nothing let's wait for them to get drunk first.

Me: So we going to just sit by the gate.

Sane: Yes this is going to work trust me.

I just nodded my head in this case I will do anything for Sbani to get out of jail I can't seem to erase his face on my mind when the judge told him that his bail was denied. Sbani is strong I have seen him break a few times but I have never seen him that scared, he was really angry but he was also scared.

Isipho: Thando what's on your mind?

Me: I'm just thinking about Sbani I have never seen him that scared.

Isipho: He tried to act strong but he was scared.

Zane: I have known you guys for a shortest time but I have seen how strong he is he will be fine.

Isipho: I hope so never in my whole life have I thought that my brother can be arrested.

Me: It's not like he really did it Isi he was set up.

Sane: We are going to sort this out, this Melissa needs woman like us to sort her out.

Me: Im with you on that one I'm willing to do anything.

Isipho's phone rang.

Me: You should switch it off before the guys find us.

Isipho: Maybe it's about Cebo.

Sane: This is what I meant when I said you shouldn't have came.

Me: We know you love your brother Isi but Cebo needs just call a an Uber and leave please.

Isipho: Are you guys going to be okay?

Sane: We will trust I have got all the skills to protect the both of us.

Me: The skills?

She laughed.

Sane: Yes Thando, Isi have you called the Uber?

Isipho: Yes it's quite near.

We waited for a few minutes and then the Uber came and took Isipho.

Sane: Let the game begin.

Me: You need to fill me up on this plan of yours so I know what to expect.

Sane: Chill babe I think we should get inside now.

Me: Get inside and do what?

She kept quiet and I followed behind her, when we were at the door she took out a gun.

Me: Sane a gun? Where did you get a gun?

Sane: Keep it down.

Me: No we didn't talk about any gun.

Sane: Thando please keep it down.

Me: Promise me you won't hurt anyone.

Zane: I'm not promising you that please follow me or just stay here.

I sighed because she was damn serious.

Me: Okay let's go.

We got inside and there was smoke everywhere because they were smoking and drinking.

Sane: Ladies I see you are busy celebrating.

Melissa: Oh who do we have here Mlilo's supposedly wife and her friend.

They all laughed not seeing the gun in Sane's hand.

Sane: Oh so you find all this funny huh?

She asked pointing a gun on them.

Melissa: Thando please talk to your friend.

Me: Oh you know my name now? I thought I was Mlilo's supposedly wife.

Melissa: Please think about my son.

The other ladies were dead quiet maybe some of them had peed on themselves.

Sane: Think about your son? That's very ironic because you didn't think about Sbani's family when you set him up.

Melissa: I didn't set him up he tried to kill me.

I found myself slapping her.

Me: He will never do that I know him what I don't get is why you did it because Gift is in prison.

Sane: Tell us Melissa what were you hoping to gain.

Melissa: Ladies please call the police.

Sane: If any of you wants to die you can go ahead and call the police.

They looked at each other and kept quiet.

Me: So are you dropping the case or not?

Melissa: I will not do that he tried to rape me for god's sake.

Sane: Oh he tried to rape okay that's fine.

Same took out her phone and called someone.

Sane: Send the video.

She said and dropped the phone.

Me: What video Sane?

Sane: Just watch and learn dear friend.

A message came through her phone.

Sane: So Mel's when are you dropping the charges because all I know is that Sbani is not spending another day in prison.

Melissa: Fuck you.

Sane: Oh fuck me? That's cute is this not your son?

She showed her the video.

Melissa: No please don't hurt him.

Sane: Oh so uyakwazi ukuthi please?

Sane was on another mode.

Me: Well it's up to you, your son's life is now in your hands so what would it be.

Melissa: You are bluffing aren't you?

Sane: Thando she thinks we are joking.

Sane looked at me and we laughed.

Me: Just make that call and she will be responsible for her son's death.

Lady: Melissa we all know you lied and framed Mlilo now please do the right thing these people are not joking.

Me: Oh you lied.

She looked down.

Sane: So what's it gonna be Mel's because I just recorded your friend here saying that you framed Sbani.

Melissa: Okay I will drop the charges just please show me if my son is okay.

Sane made a video call and some guy was holding Melissa's son, wow I can't lie I'm impressed I never would have thought of doing something like this.

Melissa: Oh baby mommy is going to fix this I

promise.

The baby was just making baby sounds.

Sane: Time is up let's go.

Melissa: Can we do it maybe tomorrow.

Me: Oh we getting smart now.

Sane: You have only 1 hour to fix this if not your son dies so what's gonna be baby momma.

Melissa: Okay let's go.

When we got outside TJ and Sphe got out of the car.

TJ: Sanelisiwe we were worried sick about you guys.

Sane: As you can see we are fine.

Sphe: Why were you here? What's going on here?

Me: Melissa is going to the police station to drop the charges.

TJ: What? But how?

Sane: We don't have time to explain are you guys coming or not?

Sphe: Wait Sane is that a gun?

Me: Sane here is savage that's all I can say.

They looked at each other.

TJ: Okay let's go, how did you get here because we don't see any car.

Me: Uber.

We got into the car and TJ drove to the police station.

When we got there Sane told Melissa to get out.

Sane: Go in there and drop those charges tell them that you lied I don't know why but you will figure it out, uwumaster angithi wena.

Melissa: How do I know that you won't hurt my son?

Sane: You don't know sweetheart but if you dare try and cross us just know that your son will die.

She got out of the car and ran inside.

Sphe: Her son? What is she talking about.

Sane: I kidnapped her son.

TJ: You did what?

Sane: You heard me.

Sphe: How did you do that?

Sane: My friend helped me out.

TJ: What if she tells them that you kidnapped her son?

Sane: Then she will never see her son.

Sphe: Are you serious?

Sane: Do you think this is a joke? Sbani is out there probably scared as fuck and you are here asking me questions.

Me: Babe calm down we are in this together.

TJ: I must say though I'm impressed.

Sphe: You can say that again.

Me: When we went to Melissa's house I didn't even know what the plan was but I'm also impressed.

TJ: So baby tell me are some kind of a gangster?

We laughed.

Sane: Maybe.

We kept on talking I was telling them about what happened in that house, I can't lie I'm happy that I will sleep in Sbani's arms.

Sane: What's taking her so long?

Just as we were still wondering she came out running to the car.

Me: So?

Melissa: They told me they already transferred Mlilo to westville so I need to go with them.

Me: Why are you here?

Melissa: I just want to plead with you guys not kill my son.

Sane: We won't kill your son if you do what's right so now go.

She ran inside.

Sphe: This is bad westville is the worst.

Sane: He will be out don't worry.

We waited a bit for the police to leave with Melissa.

Sane: Let's go home we will wait there.

Sphe: Why don't we follow them?

TJ: No they will think we put Melissa to this when they see us.

Me: Yes let's just go home.

I can't lie I was a bit scared you may never with Melissa, she has proven to be crazy what if she tells them we forced her I don't even think that she cares about her son.

When we got home they all ran outside I guess they thought Sbani was with us.

Isipho: And where is my brother?

Me: He will be here later.

TJ: Let's get inside.

We all got inside even Zane was here.

Me: Friend.

Zane: Hey I missed you.

We hugged.

Me: How are you feeling?

Zane: I'm okay Uhmm I'm great actually since Sims is awake.

Me: That's great news I should go see him.

Zane: I'm sorry about Sbani.

Me: It's fine friend he is coming home tonight.

Mamzo: Do you guys trust this Melissa.

Sane: She will not cross us I have her son.

Mamzo: What?

Mbatha: High five job well done my girl.

We laughed.

Zane: Really Baba.

Mbatha: That's what I was gonna do.

Isipho: I hope he comes home.

Sbani

I was in a cell with one guy atleast that's a relief but I'm sure they still going to move me to another cell I swear I'm going to die, I can't wrap my head around all this it still feels like a dream. I may spend the rest of life in jail for something I didn't do, I have been trying to stay calm so I can connect with my ancestors but they keep telling me the same thing that " it's going to be okay" I don't know how but I guess it will.

I'm worried about everyone but most importantly I'm worried about my sister I know she is not strong enough for this, I trust Thando but I know she's also worried.

Guy: What's on your mind?

Me: Nothing.

Guy: I'm Zakhele.

Me: Sbani.

Zakhele: So why are you here?

Me: Some girl set me up man.

Zakhele: I know how you feel.

Me: You are also here for something you didn't do?

Zakhele: No but I killed my stepfather because he killed my mother right Infront of me.

Me: That's hectic man.

Zakhele: Yeah but atleast I get to be in this cell alone.

Me: So they still going to move me.

Zakhele: I think so but if you pay them they will allow you to stay here.

Me: I just want to get out of here but then I don't think I will.

Zakhele: Was she your girlfriend?

Me: Who?

Zakhele: I mean the girl who set you up.

Me: No it's a long story but I will tell you one day because we still going to be here.

Zakhele: Yeah man you will be fine.

Me: I hope so.

Warden: Sbani Khoza.

Me: Yes.

Warden: Come you are going home.

Me: Home.

Warden: Just come.

Zakhele: I guess that's a goodbye then.

Me: Sho mfethu.

My heart was actually paining for him I mean he was just defending his mother, I think I need to help him.

Zakhele: Sorry Khoza.

Me: Sho.

He gave me a paper.

Zakhele: That's my address please check on my little brother for me.

Me: Okay will do.

I felt sorry for him more now.

Warden: Take those off and wear your clothes.

Me: If I may ask what happened.

Warden: The lady agreed that she set you up then she dropped the charges.

Me: What will happen to her.

Warden: She is outside with the police you can ask them.

I nodded and went outside.

Police: I knew you didn't do it.

Me: Oh is that it now.

They laughed I looked at Melissa and my anger came back.

Me: What will happen to her?

Police: We were actually waiting for you to open a case against her.

Melissa: Mlilo please I have a son to look after.

Me: It's fine I'm not opening any case.

Police: Are you sure?

Me: Yes I'm sure.

Police: We will take you home.

I nodded and got into the car, Melissa called a cab.

Police: Take care.

Me: Are you flirting with me miss?

She smiled.

Police: Is that a wrong thing?

Me: Yes that's why you arrest people who are innocent instead of investigating you are busy flirting nxaana.

I looked at her and she had her mouth open, I got out of the car and stood by the gate. I know I was not in jail for a long time but it feels like it I can't lie I was scared.

I got inside and knocked at the door.

Isipho: Come in.

I got inside and they all ran to me.

Me: Woaw you guys are going to kill me.

They laughed between the tears.

Mamzo: God is great.

Isipho: Oh bhuti I'm so happy you are back, did they hurt you? Are you hungry?

Me: Angel just calm do I'm fine let's sit down.

As we sat down there was a knock on the door.

Sane went to get the door.

Me: What is she doing here?

Melissa: I'm here for my son.

Sane: Just wait someone is bringing him.

Me: What's going on here?

Sane: I kidnapped her son so she can talk the truth.

I looked at her and she was damn serious.

Me: You did what? What if she arrested you? This woman is crazy.

TJ: Just calm down Sbani what's important is that you are home now.

Me: Okay thank you Sane I owe you my life.

Sane: You owe me nothing we are family, did you open a case against this one.

She asked pointing at Melissa.

Me: No I didn't and please don't ask me why.

They all just looked at me like I'm crazy.

Sphe: What's important is that you are home.

Thando: Yeah that's true.

She was looking at me like she doesn't believe that I'm back.

Me: Are you okay?

Thando: I should be asking you that.

Me: I'm fine let's go shower.

She nodded and I took her hand then we went upstairs.

Me: So what did you and Sane do?

She told me everything and just like everyone else I was impressed with Sane.

Me: She is good.

Thando: Really good babe.

Me: Join me in the shower.

Thando: Okay did they hurt you?

Me: No they didn't, they put me with only one guy which I actually want to help.

Thando: You are too kind Khoza why are you not pressing charges against Melissa.

Me: I'm just thinking about her son.

Thando: Hayi no.

Me; I know but I don't want her son to grow up without both parents I mean Gift is already in prison.

Thando: Okay I can't say I would have done the same but I understand.

We continued to bath till we were done.

Me: Marry me Thando.

She looked at me.

Thando: What?

Me: Marry me I'm not getting any younger and neither are you, life has showed us too many times that it is short. I almost spent my life in prison, we have been through a lot together and I'm now sure

that I want to spend the rest of my life with you.

Thando: Ummm I don't..

Me: I'm giving you two days to think about it okay.

Thando: Okay.

Me: I love you.

Thando: I love you too.

I got dressed and went back downstairs leaving Thando in our bedroom I guess I surprised her.

Me: Where is Melissa?

TJ: She left, she said thank you.

Me: Oh well it's fine.

Mbatha: You did good son by not pressing charges against she is crazy she just needs help.

Sphe: You would have spent the rest of your life in prison but you all think Melissa is crazy.

Mamzo: Calm down Sphehlehle.

Sphe: No mama people always do what they please with Sbani because he is kind and that pisses me off.

He said going outside.

Isipho: Sphe.

Me: No leave him to calm down first, angel get me some food I need to go and see Sims.

Mamzo: It's kind of late now you will go tomorrow.

Me: No I can't mama there's something I need to do to him.

Mamzo: Okay then Zane is also there.

I nodded and Isi brought my food.

I think it's time God gives us a break and allow us to be happy again, I mean it's been problem after problem we also deserve some happiness. I need to wait for Thando to give me an answer so we can celebrate something good for a change.

Insert thirty six

Sbani

I didn't even wait for TJ to park the car when we got to the hospital I just got out.

Sphe: Sbani marn you want to die.

I didn't mind him I just ran inside the hospital they were not in the waiting room so I ran to his ward.

Me: What's going on?

Mamzo: Can you just breathe for a moment.

Me: You not serious right?

Mamzo: Sbanisamakhoza I'm still your mother.

I took a deep breath.

Me: I'm sorry mama I'm just worried.

Mamzo: Where are the others?

Me: They are coming.

They got inside.

Sphe: How is he?

Mamzo: The surgery was successful but it's still bad.

TJ: But he is going to be okay right?

Mamzo: The doctor said we will know that after maybe three days.

Sbani: Three days?

Mamzo: I know how you all feel but let's be strong for him.

TJ: Where is Thando?

Mamzo: She is with Isipho.

Sphe: Is she awake?

Mamzo: Yes she is and congratulations I saw my granddaughter she is so cute.

Sphe: Thank you mama I will go check on them.

He left.

Sbani: How is she?

I said pointing at Zane.

Mamzo: She is going to be fine.

TJ: This is so hard.

Sbani: You can say that again.

Mamzo: I have never met any of Sims girlfriends

when he finally finds the one this happens.

Sbani: He will pull through I know him.

TJ: Yeah don't worry Mamzo he is going to be fine.

Mamzo: So nimtholile (did you find him).

We looked at each other.

Me: Ubani(who?).

Mamzo: Don't even start Thando told me everything.

TJ: We didn't find him.

Mamzo: Do you think he is still a danger?

Me: Ey we don't know.

TJ: But we will put some people to keep them safe while they are still here.

Mamzo: Please make sure they are safe I need to go now.

Me: When is he marrying you?

Mamzo: Endabeni zami wezingane (In my business).

TJ: We are serious he can't keep you away from us without telling us.

Me: And when are we meeting him because asimazi.

Mamzo: You will meet him soon bye now I love you all.

She kissed Sims and left saying she will first say goodbye to the others.

TJ: You are the one who told us that Mamzo has a man do you know who he is?

Me: No I don't.

TJ: Ofcos you do.

Me: But I'm not going to tell you.

TJ: Mxm.

We both laughed.

Me: I miss him he could be laughing very hard now.

TJ: I know Bafo but let's have hope.

Me: Yeah that's the only thing we have now "hope".

TJ: Do you think Gift is going to come back?

Me: I hope not because I don't want blood in my hands.

TJ: Let's go check on the others.

We went to the others and they were busy talking to their daughter and Thando was sleeping on the other bed.

Me: Angel.

Isipho: Bhuti.

I hugged her.

Me: How are you feeling?

Isipho: Tired and in pain a bit though.

Me: You will be fine.

Isipho: Thank you for giving our daughter such a beautiful name.

Me: You welcome.

TJ: When did Thando sleep?

Sphe: Just after Mamzo left she looked drained so Shawn told her to rest a bit.

Me: Shawn?

They laughed.

Sphe: Yes Shawn they were actually talking and laughing I think they kind of click.

Me: Okay.

TJ: Are you jealous?

Isipho: Bhuti you are jealous.

Me: Just leave me alone I'm not jealous, when will the doctor discharge you?

Isipho: Tomorrow.

Me: Okay we will have to find some people to watch Zane and Sims.

TJ: Yeah it's already late let's go now we will call them tomorrow.

Sphe: I will stay with Isipho and the baby and I will keep on checking them.

Me: Okay let me wake Thando up.

TJ: Just carry her hawu be a gentleman for once.

Me: Carry her haibo.

Isipho: Hawu Bhuti.

Me: Okay okay.

TJ: Bye guys we will see you tomorrow.

I carried Thando and she was fast asleep, the thing I have noticed with Thando is that she is a heavy sleeper.

I put her in the car and we went home, we passed by TJs girlfriend.

When we got home Thando was already awake, they got inside with TJs girlfriend which I didn't even know.

Me: Okay who is that?

TJ: My girlfriend.

Me: You have a girlfriend since when?

TJ: It's been a while now I just didn't want to rush it till I'm sure what we are.

Me: So now you know?

TJ: Yes I know she's all I need.

Me: I'm happy for you man, what's her name?

TJ: Sanelisiwe.

Me: Okay let's get inside.

Thando: We made some food.

TJ: Thank you so this is my girlfriend Sanelisiwe,
Sane this is my brother Sbani and I see you have met
Thando.

Sane: Yes I have met her nice meeting you too Sbani.

Me: Great meeting you too makoti.

We ate and then they went to sleep.

Thando: I'm going to sleep too goodnight.

Me: Uhmm Thando.

Thando: Yes.

Me: Can you please sleep with me tonight.

Thando: Sleep with you?

Me: I don't mean it like that we will just cuddle
please.

Thando: Okay let's go then.

We went to my room, I want to tell Thando that I love

her and we should try again but I still don't trust what if she disappoints me again?

I'm a lover and I love hard so I want someone who is going to give me what I give.

Thando: I'm going to take a shower.

Me: Can I join you?

Thando: What are we doing Sbani?

Me: I don't know.

Thando: Okay join me but it will be innocent.

Me: Okay innocent it is.

We went to shower and it was really innocent even though I didn't want it to be.

Me: Let's sleep Goodnight.

Thando: Can we talk?

Me: Okay what's on your mind?

Thando: Uhmm listen all the things that have happened over the past few days made me realise that life is too short so I took this decision to tell you

how I feel about you.

Me: Thando.

Thando: Please just listen, I'm sorry about how I behaved the last time but I learnt my lesson and I'm willing to make us work. I love you and everyday I wish we are together please just give me a chance that's if you don't have a girlfriend.

I keep quiet for a while.

Thando: Please say something.

Me: I love you too but please Thando don't disappoint me again just put your studies and project first then us and our family.

Thando: I promise I will do.

Me: Now come give me a kiss I missed those lips.

Thando: But you were kissing your PA.

Me: Thando were you spying on me?

She chuckled.

Thando: No.

Me: Was it you who told Mahle to stop seeing me.

Thando: I don't know what you talking about.

Me: Okay come now.

She came and sat on my lap then we kissed.

Me: I missed this.

Thando: Not more than I did.

Me: Okay let's sleep now.

We got into bed and she slept on top of me.

In the middle of the night Thando was moving mind you on top of me and our groins kept on touching each other.

Me: Thando wangahlaliseka nje?

Thando: Your phone has been ringing but when I move you know.

Me: Yes I know because you are tempting me.

I moved her then took my phone I had ten missed calls from Luthando.

Thando: Who was it?

Me: This is strange it was Luthando I think something is wrong.

Thando: Call her back.

Me: It's 1:30 in the morning.

Thando: Just call her please.

I dial her number and she picks up on the first ring.

Luthando: You all are busy sleeping while there's danger in your way.

Me: What danger?

Luthando: Sbani you are suppose to know everything and you are suppose to help everyone especially your family but you just become too angry and that blocks your visions.

Me: I know I just don't know how to control my anger.

Luthando: You need to work on that please now get up and rush to the hospital before that nurse finishes them off.

Me: What nurse?

Luthando: The one Gift hired now go and tell TJ I

said congratulations on that baby they just made with Sane.

Me: What?

She already dropped the call.

Me: Get dressed we need to go.

Thando: What's going on?

Me: I will explain on the way.

I got dressed and went to wake TJ up.

Me: Knock knock.

TJ: What?

Me: Get dressed we need to go now.

TJ: Okay.

I went to check on Thando and she was done.

Thando: I'm done let's go.

We met TJ and Sane in the lounge then we left.

TJ: What's going on?

Me: Luthando told me to tell you that

congratulations on the baby you guys made tonight.

I said whispering.

TJ: What?

Me: Yes.

TJ: You mean?

Me: Yes I mean just that.

He looked at Sane then smiled.

Me: So Gift hired a nurse to finish off Zane and Sims.

TJ: What?

Me: That's what Luthando said.

Sane: They are going to be okay though?

Me: Yes if we get there fast enough.

Sane: Yoh.

Thando: Welcome to our family babe.

We got to the hospital and ran to the ward and guess what? The nurse was standing by Zane's bed

side with a needle in her hands.

TJ: What do you think you are doing?

Nurse: Uhmm I was..uhm the doctor told me to do this.

Me: Which doctor?

Nurse: He went home and I don't think you know her.

Thando: Okay give me that needle.

Sphe was also here he said he was sleeping and the nurse told him to rest.

Nurse: What?

Thando: I said give me the fuckin needle.

She gave her reluctantly.

Thando: So if I inject you with this needle nothing is going to happen.

Nurse: No please don't.

Thando: Why? I mean it's harmless right.

I have never seen this side of Thando and I'm loving it.

Nurse: No please I don't want to die.

Thando: And you think they want to die?

She slapped her.

Nurse: I was paid to this please I needed the money.

Me: Thando wait, who paid you.

Nurse: I don't know his name.

TJ showed her Gifts picture.

TJ: Was it him?

Nurse: Yes yes it was him.

Sphe: I called the police I think it's best they find Gift because we are not suppose to kill anyone.

Thando: So you were willing to kill two people just because you were paid?

Nurse: I'm sorry.

The police came and took the nurse who told them about Gift and they promised to find him.

TJ: They better find him because if they don't trust me I will kill him with my bare hands.

Me: Thando were you really going to inject her.

Thando: For them, yes.

Me: That was sexy by the way.

Thando: You are crazy.

Sphe: Who is this beautiful lady.

Sane: I'm Sanelisiwe TJ's girlfriend.

Sphe: Nice meeting you I'm Sphe his brother.

Sane: Nice meeting you too.

Me: I need some sleep I'm tired do you think it's safe for us to leave.

Shawn: You can sleep in the other beds I have organised for you guys, I just heard what happened.

TJ: Thanks man.

Shawn: You can share beds if that's fine by you.

Sane: It's fine thanks doc.

I guess Sane will fit just fine in this family.

Sphe: You can come sleep with me Sbani.

Me: No I will sleep with Thando.

TJ: What? You guys are back together aren't you?

Thando: Yes we are.

Sphe: Just keep it real this time.

Me: We will man lets sleep.

We all went to our beds and slept.

Insert thirty six

I sat in the bedroom and digested what just happened, did Sbani propose? it was just surreal to me I don't know why. I know I love him a lot and I want to spend the rest of my life with him but I don't know I'm just scared of disappointing him again not that I don't trust myself believe me I do, I just ayy I don't know. I should be happy in fact over the moon but my emotions are all over the place I guess I'm just overwhelmed, I think I need to see my therapist.

As I was still in deep thoughts the ladies came into my room.

Sane: Babe are you okay?

Me: I'm fine.

Isipho: But you don't look fine Thando did you and my brother fight?

Me: No we didn't fight he proposed.

They screamed.

Sane: You don't sound excited though.

Isipho: And you don't even look happy why?

Me: I don't know.

Sane: You said yes right?

I looked down.

Them: Thando!

Me: He gave me time to think about it.

Isipho: What's there to think about is this not what you want?

Me: Ofcos it is.

Sane: So?

Me: I guess he caught me off guard.

Isipho: I don't understand.

Sane: How do you think he is feeling right now that you said you will think about it because I'm sure he expected you to say yes right away.

Me: Sometimes I feel like Sbani doesn't deserve me like he is too good for me.

Isipho: Obviously.

She said leaving the room.

Sane: What's really going on Thando because what you are saying doesn't make sense.

Me: Don't get me wrong I love Sbani but sometimes I wonder if he loves me too or he still feels sorry for me.

Sane: Sibadala (we are old) Thando to be having this conversation but why would Sbani be with you if he doesn't want you, Sbani knows what he wants if he was feeling sorry for you he wouldn't have mended things with you.

Me: I just don't know.

Sane: I'm a very straightforward person mina Thando and I'm part of this family now so I'm not going to try and understand what you are saying because it doesn't make sense all I can say is uzolahlekelwa okukhona ngokungekho, Sbani has proven his love to you even after all that you did.

Me: I'm just scared I'm not used to being around people who love me like this I always feel like they will want something in return.

Sane: But this time it's not like that you get to have a family, a man who loves you, just appreciate what you have and enjoy every moment because life is not promised to anyone, after all that happened you should know that life is short so you have to make the best of it. Live in the moment if someone is willing to make you happy then allow them to. Sbani is handsome he can get any girl he wants but he chose you, he found you broken and decided to heal you and mend your heart.

Me: You sound like my therapist now.

We laughed.

Sane: I'm just good with words, if you want to be happy let go of your past completely and don't compare people you have now with people you used to know, we all carry our baggage we all have our own stories to tell but we smile and live happy because life goes on.

Me: You know I used to be a prostitute and everytime Sbani touches me I wonder if he is not disgusted of my body or maybe if he doesn't think about all the men that have been between my legs.

Sane: Have you talked to him about any of this?

Me: No.

Sane: Then talk to him babe make him understand your fears, get assurance from him about how he sees you and how he feels about your body and your past.

Me: Thank you I guess there is no need to talk to my therapist now, you are really good.

Sane: That's why I studied psychology.

Me: It makes sense now.

Sane: I have also have made my own mistakes been through a lot but you can never say.

She took off her shirt and exposed her back and I couldn't believe my eyes she had so many scars.

Me: Oh my God Sane what happened?

Sane: My mother used to beat me up from the age of six if I remember correctly, her parents disowned her and throw her out of the house when she was pregnant with me. They were disappointed at her for falling pregnant while she was still in high school mostly because she was in matric, she left home and came to Durban. She told me she tried aborting me but it was never successful so I had to pay for causing her so much trouble, I started having sex when I was ten years old because I have to bring food at home.

I was a crying mess but Sane was not crying at all I applaud her she is very strong.

Me: Why didn't you run away?

Sane: I know this may sound stupid but I didn't want to leave my mother alone because she had managed

to make me believe that it was all my fault so I was trying to make up for all the pain I caused her.

Me: I don't even know what to say.

Sane: I stayed with her and made sure I did well in school just to make her proud regardless of what she was doing to me but all I did was always wrong in her eyes but I stayed anyway. After some years she finally apologised and then died, still I blamed myself for all that.

Me: How did you finally let go.

Sane: I found help, somebody to talk to who managed to change my mindset and told me that it was never my fault.

Me: I'm so sorry about all that Sane I'm glad you are okay now.

Sane: It took time but I'm fine and I'm happy so be happy and know that everything happens for a reason and that you should not let anything break you, just allow it to make you strong.

Me: Thank you I love you okay.

Sane: I love you too.

We hugged for a while.

Me: Does TJ know?

Sane: He knows but not about the beatings.

Me: He has not seen your back?

Sane: Yes that's what we fight about most times because I always wear a vest and I don't bath with him in the bathroom.

Me: You should tell him you can't hide them forever.

Sane: I'm not ready for him to know yet.

TJ: Well I know now.

We jumped and he was standing by the door with his arms folded.

Sane: Baby.

TJ: Don't.

He said and left.

Me: How long has he been standing there?

Sane: I don't know Thando I'm in trouble.

Me: Just go talk to him.

Sane: I'm pregnant.

Me: What? No so Luthando was right.

Sane: I haven't told him that I took the test.

Me: Congratulations mommy just go tell him everything.

Sane: Okay please talk to Sbani.

Me: I'm going to him just now.

Sane: Wish me luck.

Me: Good luck babe.

She ran outside while I thought about all that she said, it all makes sense I shouldn't let my past hold me back because I was lose the man I love over some bad memories and my insecurities about my body. I was about to go downstairs when Sbani entered the room.

Me: Are you still going to see Sims?

Sbani: No I will go tomorrow I don't want to disturb him maybe he is already sleeping.

He was not even looking at me God what is wrong with me why do I keep on disappointing this man.

Me: Yes.

I said and he turned and looked at me.

Sbani: Yes what?

Me: You know.

Sbani: No I don't know Thando.

Me: Yes I will marry you Sbani.

Sbani: And then what changed your mind?.

Me: It's not like I said no when you asked me I just said I will think about it.

Sbani: Well I guess that sounded like a no to me I mean I thought we are on the same page but when I propose uthi you will think about it.

Me: I'm...

Sbani: Don't say you are sorry please.

Me: Can you atleast sit down so we can talk.

I thought he was not angry but now he is pissed.

Me: Listen I just realised I was wrong I had thoughts in my mind that maybe you don't love me enough you just feel sorry me, everytime you touch me I wonder if you are not disgusted of my body because of the job I used to do.

Sbani: Baby I understand your worries but I think I have proven enough to you that I love you, I chose you knowing what you do. I'm the one who decided to love you even though you felt like you didn't deserve my love. The first time I saw you were a prostitute but I saw beyond that and fell in love with you and no your body does not disgust me I mean I love being buried inside you.

He winked and I chuckled.

Sbani: I mean it I love you, your past doesn't define you and you should stop feeding your mind all these negative thoughts. No one forced me to be in this relationship I'm with you because I want to and please talk to me whenever you feel like you are not enough for me, I will remind you that you are enough.

Me: I love you Mr Khoza.

Sbani: I love you too Mrs Khoza and musa ukutetema (stop crying).

I laughed between my tears.

Me: So where is the ring?

He laughed.

Sbani: I will buy it tomorrow.

Me: Can't wait.

Sbani: Please don't ever look at any of us in this family and think that you are here because we feel sorry for you because that's not the case.

I nodded.

Sbani: Now wipe those tears and give me what's mine.

Me: No not until we are married.

Sbani: Tell me you are joking I mean you have been screaming my name all this while but now usho kanje.

Me: I mean it babe.

Sbani: Sthandwa sam no.

I ran to the bathroom while he ran after me, Dear God thank you I said in my mind.

Sims

Facing death makes you realise so many things, being around people and don't tell them how you love and appreciate them is the worst thing ever. When I was in a coma I heard everything each one of my family said I knew they loved me but I never knew it was that deep, I heard every weep, every cry and every word. I wanted so much to tell them how much I love them but I couldn't and that made me very sad because I thought I will never get the chance to tell them. That is why I say it's very important to appreciate people while they are still alive because when they are gone it doesn't matter that much, I'm grateful to be alive today to be given a second chance to be with my family especially Zane. Some people would blame her for what happened

but I don't she had no control over Gift and she totally didn't know that he was that crazy, I know she also blames herself but there is no time for that all I want is for us to be happy and appreciate each second we live because we were both given a second chance.

Zane: What's on your mind you have been awfully quiet?

Me: I love you.

Zane: I love you and I'm glad you are back.

Me: It's good to be back.

Zane: Don't ever sleep for that long please.

Me: Never baby I promise.

Zane: I'm so sorry about what happened.

Me: It was not your fault so stop apologising.

Zane: It's just that...

Me: I'm not going to say this again stop apologising if I ever hear you say you are sorry again sizoxabana.

Zane: Okay okay fine.

Me: I want us to forget about what happened and move on.

Zane: Okay it's just that I don't want you to blame me one day.

Me: My love I will never blame you because I know it was not your fault so please lets drop it.

Zane: Okay goodnight.

Me: Goodnight.

I kissed her then she layed on my chest, this has became her home she has been sleeping here everyday since I was still in a coma even if I doubted her love for me I now know she is my soulmate. I still want to see Gift I know he is in prison but I need to see him and look him in the eye, if I had a chance I would kill him but Sbani would see that before I arrange it. I hold Zane tight and drift to sleep.

I hear people talking when I open my eyes it's Zane and Sbani and it's already the next day.

Me: Is it morning already?

Sbani: Yes Bafo.

Me: Hay I think they kind of manipulate the time here.

We laughed before he hugged me.

Sbani: How are you feeling Bafo?

Me: Pains there and there but I will be fine.

Zane: Babe I'm going now I will see you later.

Me: Okay bye I love you.

Zane: I love you too.

She left.

Me: Why are you looking at me like that?

Sbani: I'm so happy you are back.

Me: Don't cry on me now.

Sbani: Fuseg.

Me: You cried everyday when I was in a coma I didn't know you loved me that much, I love you too man.

Sbani: Mxm you are talking too much now maybe you should go back to sleep.

Me: No I'm never sleeping that long ever again.

Sbani: I'm glad Bafo.

Me: I heard you were arrested.

Sbani: Ahh who told you?

Me: I'm not revealing my source.

We laughed.

Sbani: Mxm source yoknuka I already know.

He told me what happened.

Me: I didn't know Melissa was that crazy.

Sbani: Neither did I man but Gift manipulated her a lot.

Me: Still man what she did was crazy I'm glad she will be joining her man in prison.

He looked down.

Me: Don't tell me you let her go.

Sbani: I did man she has a son.

Me: So what? You also have a family.

Sbani: I know but it's something I had to do she needs help that's all.

Me: She doesn't even think that she is sick how will she get help.

He cleared his throat.

Me: No no Sbani don't tell me you getting help for her?

Sbani: Don't lecture me.

Me: Don't tell me not to lecture you, you almost spent the rest of your life in prison because of her.

Sbani: I know but this is my task I was told to let her go and help her.

Me: Your ancestors told you that?

Sbani: Yes.

Me: Hay hay angiyizwa ke le(I don't get any of this) does Thando know.

Sbani: No she doesn't and keep it that way.

Me: She is not going to be happy about this I mean things have a way of coming out, what if Melissa is still plotting against you.

Sbani: She is not I know.

Me: I don't like this, she is your ex and now you are busy helping her.

Sbani: I'm just helping her besides I proposed to Thando.

Me: You did what? Wow I'm happy for you Bafo.

Sbani: Dankie Bafo.

Me: Did she say yes?

Sbani: Yes she did.

Me: That's great I can't wait to get out of here.

Sbani: One day at a time.

Me: Stay away from Melissa.

Sbani: I thought we were way pass that now.

Me: It's just that I don't trust her, who else knows about this?

Sbani: Just you everybody still resents her so I won't tell them.

Me: Okay I know you are stubborn so just be careful.

Sbani: I will I'm not doing this because I like but

because I have to.

Me: Don't fall in love with her.

We laughed.

Sbani: I just told you I'm getting married so no time for that.

Me: Good.

Sbani: There are some things I have to do to you, it will be painful but it will make you go home sooner.

Me: Hay don't kill me Sbani.

Sbani: Just trust me.

We laughed.

Me: Let's eat first, thanks for the food.

Sbani: You welcome.

Even though I don't trust Melissa what's important is that I trust Sbani and I know that his ancestors will never lead him astray, I just don't understand why they are bringing him closer to Melissa. We continued eating while talking and laughing I really missed his stubborn ass.

Insert thirty seven

Zane

It's been three days since I woke up and the doctor said he will not discharge me yet, everyday I wake up and sit next to Sims bedside I don't believe this happened the worse part is that Gift did it. I can't help but blame myself if I just gave him another chance this wouldn't have happened, I risked Sims life for love and now he is sleeping here and may never wake up. I pray for him more than I pray for myself because he saved me from my misery, he brought back hope and love in my life if it wasn't for him I know I would have went back to Gift but his love convinced me that I deserve better, that I deserve everything he was offering me.

I spent most of my time giving Gift my all and he hurt me beyond measures when Sims comes and put the pieces together Gift takes him away from me, I need to find him and make him pay for this.

You all may be asking yourselves where I come from, well I'm originally from Escourt and I'm an only child my parents were married but my mother passed away when I was 16 years old due to a heart problem. My father adored my mother so much that he promised never to take another wife but I think he needs someone because he is lonely since I also moved to Durban. My father knew that I was in a relationship with Gift but he was never fond him he just tolerated him to make me happy, I wish I listened to him when he told me that Gift is not right for me, he used to say "Nele you are still going to find the one not lomfana wakaZwane" I thought he was just being a parent but his instincts were telling him that something was wrong with Gift.

Parents may be over protective but they know best I now believe that, I need to call my father and talk to him but I don't know whether he is back from overseas or not.

It breaks my heart to see Sims like this I don't know whether he will wake up or not but we are praying he does mostly me because I will never forgive myself

if something happens to him.

Me: Sthandwa sam please wake up I'm so sorry that this happened to you but you need to wake up and come back to me, I believe we still have a long way to go I still need you to love me and me to love you back wholeheartedly. I promise to make Gift pay for what he did I love you so much.

I wanted to cry so much but I was very angry at Gift.

Sbani: Zane can I come in?

Me: Uhmm yeah sure.

Sbani: How are you?

Me: Not good I want him to wake up.

Sbani: He will don't worry, you know you also have to rest right.

Me: I know but I just can't help it.

Sbani: Stop holding your tears just cry.

I sighed and let all the pain out while Sbani comforted me.

Me: It's all my fault if I just went back to Gift this

wouldn't have happened.

Sbani: Hey it's not your fault you also deserve better, if you went back to Gift maybe he would have killed you or treated you bad, you would always come second because he has a wife.

Me: But...

Sbani: No buts Zanele, Sims is going to wake up and you two are still going to love each other just stop telling yourself that it was your fault because it wasn't.

Me: Thank you.

Sbani: For what?

Me: The talk.

Sbani: You are welcome and you should rest.

Me: Yes doctor.

Sbani: You should call your father he is worried.

Me: How do you know that?

He raised his hand showing the bracelets on his wrists.

Me: Oh sorry I always forget.

Sbani: I have to go now.

Me: Ummm can you please do me a favour.

Sbani: Shoot.

Me: I haven't dreamt of my mother for a very long time and I no longer feel connected to her can you throw your bone's for me.

He laughed.

Sbani: I will when you get back home but she is with you.

Me: Okay thank you.

Sbani: Sho see you later.

Me: Later.

He left and I went back to my bed, this thing of not feeling connected to my mother has been bothering me a lot I'm just glad that she is with me. I didn't ask Sbani about Gift because I'm planning on finding him myself without telling them I just hope he is not in prison yet.

Sbani

I left the hospital and decided to pass by McDonald and get some food, I'm back at home now and everyone is home except for Sims.

The police haven't arrested Gift yet they say that he is on the run, I know Zane is planning to find him without telling us but that will not happen. His father seems to be Mamzo's man but I'm still not sure yet, I don't know how that will work out if it's true.

I get to McDonald and place my order, I feel someone tapping my shoulder and the only person I think off is Gift.

Me: What?

I turn and see someone I used to go to varsity with.

Me: Thobani Dladla.

Thobani: Mlilo.

Me: My man how have you been?

Thobani: I have been around mfana kithi, eww anisaziwa madoda.

Me: Ukuba matasa ndoda but I'm glad you still doing well.

Thobani: It's really good to see you again.

Me: Same here Dladla so what do you do?

Thobani: I'm a lecturer at UKZN.

Me: Oh okay that's great man.

Thobani: No ring I see you still not married.

Me: Not yet man but soon you will be getting an invitation.

Thobani: Me too but I think I found someone even though she doesn't know it yet.

Me: Let's sit down while we are still waiting, so who is the lucky lady.

Thobani: No man I don't want to jinx it she is a student there and she asked me to help her out with something so I told her to meet me here.

Me: Best of luck Bafo.

Thobani: Asbonge Mlilo.

As I was about to stand up and go collect my order Thando came through the door.

Thobani: There she is man.

I wanted to laugh at him because Thando is mine and mine alone.

Thando: Hello.

She was not seeing me.

Thobani: Thando hey.

I looked at her.

Thando: Babe what are you doing here?

Thobani: Babe?

Me: I passed by to get some food and I bumped into Thobani my old friend.

Thando: Oh okay you can stay and wait for me I'm sure it won't be long right Mr Dladla?

Thobani: Actually uhhmm I need to go some other time, it was nice seeing you Khoza.

Me: Nice seeing you too Dladla.

Thando: And then.

Me: He was busy telling me about a girl he likes kanti he means you.

Thando: Shame let's go then.

I took our food and we left.

Me: When are you learning to drive?

Thando: When you find time to teach me.

Me: Okay every weekend then.

Thando: Thank you did the police find Gift.

Me: Not yet and Zane is not handling it well.

Thando: It's a good thing that she is still in hospital she will not do anything stupid.

If only she knew what Zane is planning.

Me: Yeah that's good.

My phone rings and it's an unknowns number.

Me: Answer it.

Thando: Hello, oh okay I will give him.

I look at her.

Thando: It's Melissa.

What does she want now.

Me: Hello.

Melissa: Mlilo I need your help.

Me: What's going on?

Melissa: Can we meet in person.

Me: What's this about Melissa? Gift almost killed my brother and you want us to meet.

Melissa: Please.

Me: How will I know that you are not setting me up, Gift is your husband after all.

Melissa: Please we can meet at your house.

Me: Okay fine come by later.

Melissa: Thanks bye.

Thando: What does she want?

Me: To meet.

Thando: And you agreed?

Me: Yes.

Thando: Wow.

Me: Babe come on.

Thando: Don't tell me to come on, you are putting our lives at danger.

We got home and I parked the car, Thando got out and rushed inside.

TJ: What did you do?

Me: Me? Nothing.

TJ: Come on.

Me: Okay I got a call from Melissa she wants us to meet.

TJ: You said no right?

Me: Well.

TJ: Wtf Sbani what if its a set up.

Me: I know it's not.

TJ: I hope you know what you are doing.

Me: Trust me I know.

TJ: How is Sims and Zane?

Me: Sims is the same, Zane is fine but she blames herself for everything and she is planning to get Gift.

TJ: She told you that?

Me: No but she is thinking about it I know.

TJ: We need to find Gift soon man.

Me: Trust me we will and guess what?

TJ: What?

Me: I think Mamzo is in a relationship with Zane's father.

TJ: What? That's some messed up shit.

Me: Yeah man let me go talk to Thando.

TJ: Okay I'm also waiting for Sane.

Me: So is she pregnant?

TJ: I don't know she doesn't want to take the test.

Me: Okay man I will be upstairs.

TJ: Sho Bafo.

I went upstairs I know Thando is angry now I need to soften her up because I have got a plan about meeting Mel's.

Akhona Qampi and Charmaine Nkosi thank you so much

Insert thirty seven

One month later

Life has been great, Sims was discharged from the hospital and everything is going very well now. I'm busy with school, my project and the wedding but Sbani has been behaving a little strange these past few days I don't know whether I'm seeing things or what. Isipho is graduating tomorrow so we are busy planning something special for her, we are having

lunch with the girls.

Sane: I hate being pregnant guys yoh.

Isipho: That's exactly how I felt but once you hold your baby it changes everything.

Sane: I can't wait to pop up this kid.

Me: You still have a long way to go babe, Zane you have been awfully quiet are you okay?

Zane: I think Sims is cheating on me.

We look at each other Sims is planning to propose to Zane today and it's a surprise I think that's why she is complaining.

Sane: No babe Sims loves you.

Zane: But he is acting very strange ladies he even put a password in his phone.

Isipho: I'm sure it's nothing babe.

Me: Yeah let's order.

We ordered and waited while having a bottle of wine besides Sane Ofcos.

Our order came and we started eating.

Zane: So Thando have you guys set a date yet?

Me: No but I think September would do I'm still not sure about a date though.

Sane: You guys should wait for me to give birth I can't be looking like a hippo on your special day.

We heard someone laughing and we looked up only to be met by Melissa.

Melissa: Oh sorry guys I didn't mean to be rude.

Zane: Why are you even standing here?

Melissa: I just wanted to say hi.

Isipho: Don't even start Melissa just get lost.

Melissa: No need to fight just tell Mlilo I said thank you for taking my son out yesterday and for our grocery.

I choked on my drink.

Me: What did you just say?

Sane: Don't mind her Thando I'm sure she is just

lying.

Melissa: Me lying?

She took out her phone.

Melissa: Is this not his number?

She showed me while smiling, there were calls and messages from Sbani.

I'm not going to cry, I said to myself.

Isipho: What are you trying to achieve?

Melissa: Nothing bye ladies.

Sane: Yet wena Melissa.

Zane: Just leave her babe.

They looked at me.

Sane: Please don't cry Thando.

Me: So this why Sbani has been acting strange lately, do you guys think they are having an affair?

Zane: I don't know but I know Sbani loves you so you should talk to him.

Isipho: Yeah talk to him but I hope he is not messing

around.

Sane: He better not because I will kill him I swear.

Me: I don't know let's go.

We went to a hotel to get ready for Zane's surprise, she doesn't know anything when we get to a hotel I order two bottles of wine.

Isipho: Hay Thando don't tell me you will drink these bottles.

Me: Ofcos I will.

Sane: Sbani is going to kill you.

Me: I will kill him first.

I can't lie I may act like I'm okay but I'm not, what will I do if Sbani is cheating on me? Why is he always calling Melissa? Why would he take them out? No he can never do that to me or would he?

Zane: Friend no you are drinking wine from the bottle atleast pour in your glass.

Me: No.

Zane: You are hurting I know but drinking won't

resolve anything.

Me: I'm okay please just get dressed I will dress when I finish this bottle.

She looked at me then went to get dressed, I drank the whole bottle I know it's a lot but I don't want to think about what Melissa said.

Sane: Thando let's go.

Isipho: Thando you are not dressed yet.

Me: Please try helping me out.

I tried getting up but I fell Sane came to kneel next to me.

Sane: I know you are hurt about what Melissa did but you are not going to ruin Zane's day by what you are doing, let me help you get up and you get dressed.

Trust Sane not to beat around the bush, they helped me get dressed and I'm drunk ngidakiwe bakwethu.

A driver came to fetch us and we went to the restaurant the guys booked, we looked really sexy in our dresses I don't know about me though because I'm just drunk, I can't even walk properly.

Isipho text Sphe that we are here and they tell us to get inside.

Isipho: Hold on to me please because you are going to fall.

We get inside and Sims is on his knees with a box of the ring and there are balloons written will you marry me?

Sims: Babe these couple of days have been hell but they made me realise that I want to spend the rest of my life with you, I want you to wake next to me everyday, I want to love you the way you deserve.
Ngicela ube umkami maMbatha.

Us: Ncooah.

Zane: Oh babe I will marry you.

The guys whistled while Mamzo was uluating.

We hugged and congratulated her, Sbani came to stand next to me.

Sbani: Babe how are you?

I kept quiet.

Sbani: Thandolwam.

Me: Just leave me alone.

He came close to my mouth.

Sbani: Say haaah.

Me: Angifuni.

Sbani: So you have been drinking?

Me: No.

Sbani: Buka you can't even stand properly Thando.

Me: Don't shout out at me.

People were busy celebrating not minding us

Sbani: Uthini?

Me: I said don't shout at me Sbani atleast I have been drinking not unfaithful.

Sbani: Who has been unfaithful?

Me: You Sbani.

Sbani: What are you talking about?

Me: Nothing.

Sbani: I see there's a problem can we atleast go talk outside.

Me: Fine.

He held me then we went in his car.

Sbani: So what's going on?

Me: Have you been seeing Melissa?

Sbani: Ummm seeing her how?

Me: Don't act dumb with me Sbani, I saw Melissa at the mall today and she said I should thank you for taking them out yesterday.

Sbani: Ummm look Thando...

Me: Don't tell me you are cheating on me, with her?

Sbani: Ofcos not I'm just...

Me: I don't want to hear it.

Sbani: Please let's just talk about this.

Me: I don't Ummm.

I vomited all over him.

Sbani: What the hell.

Me: I'm sorry I'm...

I vomited again.

Sbani: Shit I'm taking you home.

Me: No I want to celebrate with my friends.

Sbani: How will you celebrate when you are like this.

Me: It's all your fault.

Sbani: Did I make you drink?

Me: Ofcos you did.

Sbani: Okay I'm sorry let's go home.

He took out his shirt and wiped my vomit off him and drove topless, I couldn't help myself but stare at his body.

Sbani: Stop staring at me.

Me: I'm not.

I adjusted the car seat and slept.

Sbani

I looked at her as she was sleeping with her mouth pouted, I didn't think Melissa was going to be this stupid I told her not to tell Thando about this because they don't know and they hate her now she is ruining everything. I guess it's time I stop helping her because she is stupid I wonder what happened to her or maybe she was always stupid just that I didn't notice.

I hate lying to myself but I don't have any feelings for Melissa what's so ever it's just that I was assigned to help her so I don't have a choice.

I drive inside the house and when I try to carry Thando inside she wakes up.

Thando: Don't carry me.

Me: But babe you can't walk properly.

Thando: Leave me alone Sbani just because I'm drunk doesn't mean I'm stupid, you are busy fucking Melissa behind my back.

Me: I'm not fucking her I promise.

She gets inside and I follow her.

Thando: Stop following me around, I have been asking you if there's something wrong since you have been acting strange lately but you said it's nothing. I know how much you hate being lied to that's why I don't expect you to lie.

Me: Thando.

Thando: I need to shower and sleep.

She said leaving me in the lounge.

I know I shouldn't have lied but I had no choice they would be angry at me too, I just hope Thando doesn't tell the others because I know they will chow me alive.

I check on Thando and she is fast asleep, I grab my keys and leave I need to talk to Melissa before she ruins everything for me, I hope I have been giving her false signals.

I drive to her place and park outside maybe it's best if she just goes back to Cape Town.

I knock and she opens for me.

Melissa: Mlilo.

Me: Melissa hey.

Melissa: Please come in.

Me: I'm not staying let's sit down we need to talk.

Melissa: Oh okay sounds serious.

Me: It is actually.

Melissa: Let me wake my son up so he will see that you are here.

Me: No it's fine don't wake him up.

I don't think Melissa is going to use her senses anytime soon she is busy acting like her son is our son damn.

Melissa: Okay what's up.

Me: What did you say to my fiancée today?

Melissa: Ummm nothing.

Me: I don't even care what you said but let me be clear with you Melissa I'm helping you because I have to not because I want to. I don't understand

how you think because you always do stupid things, I don't like spending time with you but I know what I'm doing so stop trying to cause trouble for me.

Melissa: I...

Me: Just shut the fuck up and listen after what you did to me I hate you but this is my job I have to do it, whatever ideas you have in your head are not true I don't like you and I will never do. After I'm done with all this I'm moving on and I expect you to do the same and stop being stupid. I see you are busy playing happy family with me always wanting me to play with your son.

Melissa: But I thought...

Me: You thought wrong and if you don't change I will stop helping you sdidi.

I said that and left her there with tears in her eyes.

If she thought I was helping her because I want her then she is crazier than I thought, I have been willing to check out on Zakhele's younger brother but I have been busy so I check out the address and I drive there, it's quite far and it's in the slums.

I get out of the car and look around some people really stay in unhealthy areas this really shows how we differ in this country, when you live in the suburbs you don't even think that there are people who live like this.

I walk around looking for the number of this shack until I see it, I knock on the door it just looks like a door but it's not a door.

Lady: Just open the door Bhuti that boy doesn't lock.

Me: Ngiyabonga sisi.

I open the door slowly and he jumps from something that looks like a bed.

Me: Hey don't be scared.

Boy: Anginalutho ungangilimazi (I don't have anything please don't hurt me).

That stabbed my heart.

Me: Ngeke ngiklimaze boy ubhuti wakho ongithumile (I'm not going to hurt you, your brother sent me).

He kept quiet and took his t-shirt to wipe a chair for me so I can sit down, I sat down.

Me: I'm Sbani and I was arrested with your brother so when I got out he told me to come check up on you.

Mpendulo: I'm Mpendulo when will he get out of jail.

Me: I don't know boy but you are young who do you stay with.

Mpendulo: I stay alone.

I looked around and there was a small cupboard, a small table and a two chairs and what he was sitting on I assume was a bed.

Me: How do you survive?

Mpendulo: I help people around here so they give me food sometimes money and on weekends I work at the car wash by the road.

Me: How old are you?

Mpendulo: Eleven.

Me: What? Don't you guys have relatives?

Mpendulo: When my brother was arrested I went to stay with my uncle but one day he tried raping me so

I ran away.

Me: What?

My palms were actually sweating from anger.

Mpendulo: Here drink some water Bhuti.

I took the cup and drank.

Me: Thanks boy.

Mpendulo: Manje ubhuti usezophuma ejele(So now my brother will now be out of prison).

Me: I will do my best to help him okay.

Mpendulo: Okay.

Me: Do you go to school?

Mpendulo: Yes I promised my mother and my brother to finish school.

Me: That's great boy so would love staying somewhere else.

Mpendulo: I prefer staying here than with people who will treat me bad just because I'm an orphan.

I looked up because I didn't want him to see me cry.

Mpendulo: Indoda ayikhali Bhuti (A man doesn't cry).

He said laughing and I joined him.

Me: Let's go.

Mpendulo: To where?

Me: Let's just go, is there anything you want to pack?

He took his backpack and put some envelopes there.

Mpendulo: Should I also take my uniform?

Me: No.

He closed the door and then followed me to the car, I don't know what I'm doing but all I know is that I'm going to help him.

Mpendulo: Is this your car?

Me: Yes.

He nodded and just admired the car while smiling, I drive away and the lady I saw earlier stops the car.

Lady: Thank you for taking him please take care of him, he is smart.

Me: I will surely do sisi.

I took out R500 from my wallet.

Me: Please take this.

Lady: Oh God will surely bless you thank you.

Me: You are welcome.

I drove out of the slums and got into the road.

Mpendulo: Are you taking me to your home?

Me: Yes.

Mpendulo: Do you stay alone?

Me: No I stay with my family.

Mpendulo: Won't they hate me?

Me: No they are good people.

Mpendulo: Okay but if I don't like it there promise me you will take me back home.

Me: I promise, are you hungry?

Mpendulo: No I ate uphuthu with sugar water.

Haibo this kid has been through a lot.

Me: Okay it's already late so I will take you to town

tomorrow.

Mpendulo: What about school?

Me: Don't worry yourself about that.

I drove home and when I got there I saw cars meaning they were all back from the party except for Sims and Zane they booked a hotel room.

Me: Let's go inside.

Mpendulo: Is this your house?

Me: Yes boy.

Mpendulo: I have never been to a big house before.

I opened the door and everyone was in the lounge even Thando I guess she is sober now.

Mamzo: Sbani where are you coming from?

Me: I went to fetch Mpendulo, family this is Mpendulo a new member of this family.

Mpendulo: Sanibona.

They looked at him and kept quiet until I looked at them.

Mamzo: Come here boy.

He walked to Mamzo who hugged her, she took his hand and they went upstairs.

Sphe: Don't tell us he is your long lost son.

Me: Ofcos not remember Zakhele?

TJ: The one you were in a cell with?

Me: Yes and he asked to check out on his younger brother so I just came with him here because he has nowhere to stay.

Sphe: Okay Thando told about Melissa, why are you doing this?

Me: You won't understand.

TJ: Sure we won't so tell us.

Thando: I'm going to sleep I'm not interested in this.

Me: Thando.

She kept quiet and left.

Isipho: Bhuti are you having an affair with Melissa.

Me: No I will never do that to Thando.

I don't know what I will do because I have to help Melissa but it's causing tension between us so I'm confused on what to do now.

Insert thirty eight

I went upstairs while Sbani was trying to explain to the family about his involvement with Melissa, I'm not being dramatic or unfair I know that he has a calling and he is bound to help people. He doesn't owe any explanation when doing what he is suppose to do but this time it's different so he should have told us, Melissa put him in jail and we still don't trust her I think she still has an agenda if not she wouldn't have gloated to us about how Sbani helped her and her son maybe she thinks there's a possibility for them to be some happy family.

Sbani is kind and I can never take that away from him and I'm not planning to but for all this to work I need Melissa out of our lives because I know she is still going to cause a lot of troubles for us and the fact that she is his ex makes me more sick what if

they fall in love again oh God no I don't even want to think about it.

And then there is a kid he was with what if he is his son maybe Melissa is his mother no no it can't be.

I hear the door opening and Mpendulo just stands there.

Mpendulo: Are you okay sisi?

Me: Yes I'm fine.

Mpendulo: But you don't look fine are you sure?

Me: I said I'm fine.

I shouted and regretted myself after that.

Me: I'm sorry boy.

Mpendulo: No kulungile (it's fine) you don't like me and I get it most people don't like me.

That made me feel more bad so I got up and stood next to him.

Me: No boy it's not like that I'm just not feeling well I'm sorry for shouting at you.

Mpendulo: Talking helps.

I chuckled.

Me: And how do you know that.

Mpendulo: I just know.

Me: Let's sit down.

I sat on my bed and he sat on the floor.

Me: No don't sit on the floor.

Mpendulo: Are you sure?

Me: Yes boy.

Mpendulo: So why are you not okay?

This boy seems smart and he is cute.

Me: I will be fine don't worry.

Mpendulo: My teacher always told me that bottling things causes more damage inside.

Me: How old are you again?

Mpendulo: Eleven.

Me: You are too smart.

Mpendulo: I know.

Me: So where are your parents?

Mpendulo: Dead.

I looked at him and felt bad.

Me: I'm so sorry.

Mpendulo: No don't be.

Me: What happened to them if you don't mind me asking?

Mpendulo: My father killed my mother and my brother killed my father for killing our mother.

Me: Uhmm I'm so sorry.

This boy has been through a lot I don't know whether he is strong or maybe he is used to bad things happening to him so he pretends to be strong.

Mpendulo: It's fine can I sleep on your bed I'm a bit tired and Bhuti Sbani promised to take me to the mall tomorrow.

Me: It's fine you can sleep.

He had showered and was wearing Sbani's shorts and t-shirt.

Sbani got into the room looking drained I guess they gave him a hard time, I got up and attempted to leave.

Sbani: Can you sit down and let me explain.

Me: No I don't want to listen to you.

Sbani: Can you please stop shouting I'm trying to speak to you like an adult but you are busy shouting.

Me: Don't tell me to stop shouting I'm angry Sbani.

Sbani: I know you are angry and I'm not saying don't be but please be reasonable.

Mpendulo: Can you both please stop fighting and talk like adults.

Me: You don't get to tell us what to do, who do you think you are?

Sbani: Don't Thando don't you dare talk to Mpendulo like that.

Mpendulo: I told you, you don't like me but you said

you do.

He said getting out of our room, I looked down because of being ashamed of what I just said to the poor kid.

Me: I didn't mean what I said.

Sbani: I wanted to explain to you why I helped Melissa out.

He said ignoring what I was saying.

Sbani: I was assigned to help Melissa and her son and I know I should have told you guys especially you since you are my fiancée but I knew you wouldn't understand and I'm sorry about that but I don't get to choose who I help. I want all of you to trust me Melissa fooled me once she will never do it again so I'm sorry for what she said I promise to go with you next time I go see her.

Me: Okay just talk to us please.

Sbani: I will I promise, do you remember Zakhele?

Me: Yes.

Sbani: Mpendulo is his younger brother he will be

staying with us from now on, I hate the way you spoke to him Thando it was rude.

Me: I know I'm sorry.

Sbani: I'm not the one you should be apologising to.

He said getting up.

Me: Where are you going?

Sbani: I need some air.

Me: Are we okay?

Sbani: Yes we are fine.

He was not even looking at me, Sbani gets pissed off easily but he tries so hard to calm down because Luthando told him to stay calm at all times. I get why he is angry though I shouldn't have talked to Mpendulo like that I mean they also took me in like they are doing to him.

I followed Sbani out and went to look for Mpendulo I mean I need to apologize I don't want him to feel unwelcome because of me.

Sane: Are you okay babe?

Me: I'm fine have you seen Mpendulo?

Sane: He is in the garden with Sbani they seem pretty close.

Me: Yeah I guess.

Sane: Are you sure you okay? Did you and Sbani talk?

Me: Yes we talked babe and we are fine not fine fine.

Sane: What happened now? you guys are always fighting kanti you shouldn't be doing that I mean you are about to get married for heaven's sake.

Me: We will be fine I just need to talk to Mpendulo there's something I said so I want to apologize.

Sane: Okay fine.

Me: Is Mamzo and Baba still here?

Sane: No they left and I'm also going to bed now.

Me: Okay babe goodnight.

I went to the kitchen to eat, I picked through the window and saw Sbani and Mpendulo laughing, I guess he really likes him I hope he doesn't replace me, well I'm being insecure now and I don't like it.

They got inside while I was eating.

Me: Did you guys eat I can dish up for you.

Sbani: We already ate thank you.

Me: Mpendulo can we talk.

Mpendulo: No sisi Thando I'm tired I'm going to sleep.

Me: Oh okay we will talk tomorrow then goodnight.

Sbani: I will show him his room, you will find me upstairs.

Me: Okay babe.

They went upstairs and I just lost my appetite, I don't even know if Sbani is fine or maybe he is pretending to be because I was really rude to Mpendulo, I think I have a degree of disappointing people and myself for that matter.

I took Sbani's car keys and went outside, I know how to drive and I have a driver's license thanks to Sbani. I got into the car and drove to Melissa's place I hope

I'm not making a mistake.

I parked by her gate and debated whether to go inside or not, what I get into trouble but I just want to talk to her about this whole thing, I want her to understand that I don't have a problem with Sbani helping her but she should know that I'm Sbani's fiancée and she must not get any ideas.

I got out of the car and went inside, I knocked and no one answered. I opened the door and it was not locked so I got inside, she was not in the lounge so I walked to the bedroom. I found her removing a pillow from her baby.

I guess she heard footsteps.

Melissa: Mlilo is that you? I knew you were going to come back, I figured maybe my son was a problem so I killed him. I killed him so we can be together.

She was saying all this not looking at me.

Me: Melissa you did what?

She looked at and dropped the pillow on the floor.

Melissa: Ummm what are you doing here?

Me: You killed your son?

Melissa: Thando Ummm I...

Me: Just shut up how cruel are you?

I said taking out my phone.

Melissa: Drop that phone.

Me: Or what?

I asked unlocking it when I looked at her she was pointing a gun at me.

Melissa: Give me that phone or I will shoot you.

Me: Melissa you are crazy so you suffocated your son because you thought Sbani wants you.

Melissa: Shut up I know Mlilo loves me.

She came closer and my phone fell.

Me: You need to be locked up you are crazy I don't even know what Sbani saw in you.

Melissa: Mlilo loves me I'm not crazy.

Me: If you are not crazy then why did you kill your son?

She laughed I felt like I was in the same room with the devil, do you know those laughs where you feel like the devil is laughing at you? I usually hear them from the movies especially those Nigerian movies.

Melissa: Oh my son he was disturbance between me and Mlilo so I figured why not?

Me: Sbani is mine Melissa and mine alone.

I wish I didn't say that because she shot my leg and I fell down.

Me: Melissa please let's talk about this.

Melissa: Talk about what?

Me: Why are you doing all this because you will never get Sbani you are just destroying your life.

She kneeled down next to me.

Melissa: If I will not have Mlilo then that means you will not have him either.

She said putting a gun in my head, I tried grabbing it and fought mind you I'm shot in my leg. We kept on fighting and I heard the gun goes off.

Me: God no.

Sbani

I got out of the shower and ran to the room because of the vision I just had, I wrapped a towel around my waist and ran to the kitchen shouting Thando's name. I don't know what's going on but I saw a lot of blood then Thando and Melissa.

Me: Thando, Thando.

I saw her plate on the kitchen table and panicked, where did she go.

TJ: What's going on?

Sphe: Why are you shouting?

Me: Has anyone seen Thando?

Sphe: No I thought she was in the bedroom.

Me: No we left her here eating and went upstairs.

TJ: Maybe she went to get some air.

Me: No something is wrong I had a vision.

Sphe: What could it be now?

I searched for my car keys in the lounge but they were not where I put them, Isipho and Sane were also awake now.

Me: My car keys are not here.

Sane: What did you see exactly?

Me: Thando, Melissa and a lot of blood.

Isipho: No maybe she went to see Melissa.

Sane: I thought you guys spoke about this Melissa thing.

Me: We did and I thought we were fine but I guess I was wrong.

Isipho: Let's go to Melissa's house.

Sphe: We will go there but you ladies stay here and look after Cebo I mean we can't go with her.

Sane: Yeah you are right.

TJ: Bafo go get dressed while I bring the car around.

I ran upstairs and wore my tracksuits.

Mpendulo: Is everything okay Bhuti?

I forgot he was even in this house.

Me: Yes everything is fine boy go back to your room.

Mpendulo: Okay Bhuti.

He left and I finished dressing then went to the car
Sphe and TJ were already waiting for me.

Sphe: What do you think happened?

Me: I don't know Bafo I just hope Thando is okay.

Sphe: She is fine don't worry.

I really hope she is fine and that she didn't do
anything stupid I'm tired of all this drama around my
family.

We got there and ran inside, we were not ready for
what we saw.

TJ: No Thando what have you done?

She was sitting on the floor with Melissa next to her.

Thando: I didn't do anything she...she just attacked

me.

We all just stood there and no one moved.

Thando: She is dead but I didn't kill her I swear you have to believe me.

We looked at each other, what do we believe when things are like this.

Insert thirty nine

Sbani

We all just stood there I think no one was willing to ask what happened because we were all afraid of what Thando might have done I mean what do we do if she is the one who killed Melissa, the worst thing is that she is dead so we will never know if Thando did or not. I know I will know because they have to show me something if not then it means Thando is guilty, what do we do now?

TJ: Ummm Thando where is the baby?

She pointed to the bed and TJ went there he felt his pulse and nodded that he was dead, Sphe went to the bathroom to puke I don't whether out of shock or maybe he was just disgusted.

Me: What happened exactly Thando did you kill them?

Thando: No I did not I came here just to talk to Melissa but when I got here she was not in the lounge so I went to her bedroom, she was holding a pillow removing it from her son. When she heard footsteps she said "Mlilo I killed him so we can be together because he was the reason why you didn't want me" I was shocked and I asked her what she had done but then when he realised it was me she was shocked.

She flinched I guess because of the gun wound on her leg.

Thando: I took out my phone to call you but when I looked at her she was holding a gun I asked her to drop it and talk instead she said you were hers, I told her what she was doing was crazy and that she needs to be locked up because she never have you

since you are mine but instead she shot my leg. She then came next to me and put a gun in my head telling me that if she can't have you then neither will I that's when we fought then I heard gunshots and she was the one who was shot.

I looked at her and saw that she was telling the truth no way she had planned for this to happen and the way she explains makes sense because if she is lying then it means that she planned this a long time ago.

Me: Okay.

Sphe: Gents can we talk outside.

We followed each other outside.

TJ: I believe her.

Me: Me too man.

Sphe: I don't know what to believe.

TJ: There is no way Thando planned all this I mean the way she narrated it, it's just how it happened remember Melissa was a psychopath.

Sphe: Even so what was she doing here in the first

place.

Me: That's what I don't get I mean we talked about this and we had an understanding I even told her that next time when I come here I will come with her.

TJ: I don't see how asking our selves this will help us what we need to discuss is what do we do now?

Me: I don't know because if we call the police Thando will be arrested for murder of a child and his mother.

Sphe: I hear you guys but I don't trust Thando she has been doing things to disappoint us for a very long time now what if she is the one who is a psychopath in all this?

TJ: Hay Sphe Thando may be many things but not a murderer.

TJ was standing by Thando in all this he was having non of it and I was with him on that one as much as Thando can be a handful she is no killer.

Me: I with you TJ she did not do it I mean what would she gain because she already has me and she

knows that I love her and I would have never chosen to be with Melissa.

Sphe: Hayi I don't know.

TJ: Iscefe ke lesi osenzayo Sphesihle (You are being nauseous now).

Me: Let's not argue please.

Sphe: So what do we do?

TJ: I think I have a plan.

We looked at him.

Sphe: Seems like Thando planned this with you why are you so chilled.

TJ: Don't you dare fuck with me Sphesihle are you saying I'm a murderer huh? Do I look like I'm calm to you? Seing an innocent child dead do you think I'm that heartless?

Me: Guys wooaw please stop this.

TJ: Uyangidakelwa lo.

My phone ringed.

Me: It's Luthando.

Sphe: Pick up maybe she will tell us what really happened here.

Me: Hello.

I put the phone on loud speaker.

Luthando: She did not do it.

Me: Are you sure?

She had already dropped the call, we looked at each other and Sphe looked at TJ with regret.

Sphe: Bafo I'm...

TJ: Save it.

He said going inside.

Me: He will calm down.

Sphe: What I said was really harsh.

Me: I'm also disappointed Sphe I get that you don't trust Thando but TJ is your twin you should know better.

I said leaving him there going inside TJ was busy

assisting Thando to sit on the bed.

TJ: This is just a flesh wound I will find something to wrap around your leg maybe some bandages.

He said looking around the wardrobe.

Me: Hey are you okay?

Thando: Do you believe me?

Me: Yes baby I believe you, you would never do something like that.

Thando: What will happen now? Maybe I should go to the police station to explain what happened.

Me: Police station? No Thando they won't believe you considering all the drama that has happened involving Melissa.

Thando: I shouldn't have come here all I wanted was just to talk to her that's all.

Me: Don't beat yourself up what's important is that we know you didn't kill them so don't blame yourself, even if you didn't come here Melissa had already killed her son.

She nodded while crying in my arms, we all wanted Melissa out of our lives but we did not want her to die. I think it's good that she is out of our lives forever I know that sounds heartless but who knows what other troubles she would have caused.

Sphe came inside the house.

Sphe: So what is the plan.

He asked looking at TJ but TJ looked at me.

TJ: I say we take Melissa's car put them inside and park it outside the gate then burn this place down because there is no way we can clean up all this mess.

Me: Then we take the gun with us that's a great plan atleast her family will get to bury her.

TJ: Yeah we planned this whole thing right Thando?

He said looking at Sphe and Thando was so confused, it's not easy to piss TJ off but I think the hormones are just playing with him.

Thando: What?

Me: Don't mind him Thando it's the hormones.

TJ: Mxm let's get to work.

Sphe: Let's change Melissa's clothes and burn these ones because they fought so there could be Thando's fingerprints in them.

TJ: Kanti uyayikhuluma into eyenza isense nawe twin brother.

Me: Can you both just stop this please.

Sphe took the clothes off and wore some gloves to put the others on while I brought the car around. We put them inside then parked the car outside the gate.

Sphe: It's already midnight so let's burn this place down and leave please.

TJ went to take petrol from our car while I carried Thando to the car we then burnt the place down and left, when we were at the gate my phone ringed it was Luthando again.

Me: Luthando.

Luthando: Go to the nearest river and cleanse yourselves before getting into that house.

Me: It's the middle of the night and we stay in

suburbs there are no rivers here.

Luthando: I know the time go to the ocean then.

Me: What should we do when we get there?

Luthando: You will know what to do when you get there.

Me: Okay thank you.

Luthando: And be calm Sbani.

She said that laughing.

Me: I have been doing a good job with that one.

Luthando: I see bye.

Me: TJ don't drive in just drive to the beach.

TJ: It's in the middle of the night.

Me: I know but Luthando said we must cleanse ourselves before getting inside the house.

Sphe: So we have to bath in the ocean.

Me: Yes let's just go guys.

TJ drove there we were all just silent I don't know what was going in their heads but on my mine I

hoped that this was the last time we handle something like this, I mean we can't keep doing this because if though none of us killed Melissa and her son we still hold ourselves accountable.

We have so many if only we did not that, if only we did not do this but here we are now and I know Thando will always think it's her fault somehow.

TJ: We are here.

I got out first and went near the ocean, there was a plate with an incense and matches I looked around and I knew that I had to use them. I lit it up and then talked to my ancestors after I was done everything was clear on what I was suppose to do. I cleansed them all then myself.

Sphe: I never want to do this I hate getting getting into the ocean.

Me: Makes the two of us but then we had no choice let's go.

We got into the car and drove home.

TJ: I'm going to sleep.

Sphe: Me too.

They disappeared into the passage.

Me: I will get the first aid kit so that I will fix your leg.

She nodded, I wish I knew what was going through her head I just hope she doesn't blame herself that much.

I came back with the first aid kit and told her that we should go upstairs, I fixed her wound then put a bandage on it.

Me: Let's sleep.

She nodded and then we got into bed.

Me: You are so quite whats in your mind?

Thando: Do you blame me for what happened?

Me: Baby...

Thando: Be honest please.

Me: No I don't blame you as you said when you got there Melissa had already killed her son sooner or later she would have died also because she was not going to get me. We don't know what her plan was

but it was not your fault she was a crazy psychopath.

Thando: I shouldn't have gone there.

Me: I agree with you there you shouldn't gone there Thando because we spoke about this but there's no use now what's done is done, you need to forgive yourself and forget about this.

Thando: What if they find out I was there?

Me: You should have thought about that before you went there instead you didn't not that I blame you but all the time you don't think before you act, I thought what happened with Chad would have taught you a lesson but clearly it didn't but I hope you learnt your lesson this I really hope you did for your sake Thando because we will not always be there to bail you out.

Thando: But I didn't do it.

Me: I know you didn't do it but what the police found you there huh? Do you think they would have believed you, no they would have not I know because Melissa once set me up.

Thando: I know I'm sorry I will do my best from now on I promise.

Me: Make that promise to yourself so that you won't be disappointed if you do things without thinking ever again.

She nodded.

Me: Let's sleep I love you.

Thando: Goodnight I love you too.

We kissed.

I know most of the time I say this when Thando doesn't listen but sometimes I really doubt that she is my soulmate, what Luthando said about not being sure that she is the one for me or not always comes to mind in times like this but I'm old now I don't think I'm still going to meet someone who can be the one for me. I can't shake the feeling that we are not good for each other, our love is just argh I don't know but it's like we always attract trouble.

I closed my eyes and tried to sleep it was really a hectic night now it's 2am in the morning.

Thando

I woke up in the morning Sbani was still sleeping next to me, I didn't get much sleep I kept thinking about what happened last night, what would have happened if I didn't go to Melissa's house. Maybe, maybe all this wouldn't have happened yeah I know Melissa had already killed her son and I don't believe that she deserves to live after what she did but maybe she also deserved another chance who knows I'm not God after all I can't judge people.

Sbani: Penny for your thoughts?

Me: Morning no I'm fine.

I did want him to worry about the fact that I blame myself for Melissa's death because what he said yesterday night made sense what happened happened there's no use in blaming myself.

Sbani: I hate it when you are like this Melissa wouldn't have hesitated to kill you but you feel bad

because a gun went off please don't torture yourself sthandwa sam, she was the one who was holding the gun so she killed herself. Let's go take a shower I'm taking you out.

Me: On a date?

I asked raising my eyes.

Sbani: Yes.

Me: Come to think of it you have never taken me out on a date.

Sbani: I guess it's your lucky day then.

Me: I love you Sbanisamakhoza.

Sbani: Nam ngiyakuthanda Thandolwam.

We went to the bathroom to take a shower then when we were done we went downstairs the others were already there.

Us: Morning.

They kept quiet and we realised they were all staring to the television.

"In today's news a mother and her son were found

outside her yard dead, the mother was shot and her son suffocated to death. The police are still investigating and they promise to find who ever did this so that the family of this young beautiful lady and her cute little son will find justice" I didn't even know what to say Sbani went to the TV and switched it off.

Isipho: Bhuti we were still watching.

Sane was looking straight into my eyes and I felt guilty even though I didn't kill them.

Sbani: Baby sit down.

I sat down and looked down but I felt their stares on me.

TJ: There's no need to feel guilty Thando I for one am glad that Melissa is dead.

They all looked at him.

TJ: What? I know you are all glad that she is dead.

Isipho: What happened seems like you know?

Sane: Thando?

Sbani: What? Can you all just leave Thando alone.

Isipho: Why? Did she kill them.

Sbani: How could you even ask her that?

Sane: Thando?

Me: I did not kill them.

Zane and Sims got in running.

Sims: Did you guys watch the news.

Sphe: Morning to you too Sims.

Zane: Morning guys so do you know what happened.

TJ, Sbani and Sphe: No.

Me: Yes.

Sims: Okay which is which?

Me: I know what happened because I was there?

Zane: Friend I know you didn't kill them so what happened?

I narrated what happened to them and I was surprised to see Isipho's face because it showed that she believes me, I expected her to be the least

to believe me.

Isipho: Thando I'm so sorry.

Sims: Did you guys make sure that nothing led to Thando being there?

Sphe: Yes we did.

Sane: Good riddance.

We looked at her.

Sane: What? I feel sorry for her son but I can't pretend like I'm not happy that Melissa is dead because I was still going to kill her myself.

Zane: I'm also happy I mean it's clear that she was going to do anything to get Sbani.

TJ: We should all just forget about this and focus on Isipho's graduation.

Sims: Yeah that's what important right now.

There was a knock at the door.

Us: Come in.

Two officers came in and my heart skipped a beat

but Sbani held my hand.

Sbani: What did we do to get a visit from abantu bomthetho.

The lady detective looked at him.

Detective: We are here on regard of Melissa's death.

Sims: Thina singenaphi lapho?

Detective: We want to ask you some questions.

TJ: Ask.

Detective: Where were you guys between midnight?

Us: Here.

They looked at each other.

Zane: Me and my fiance spend our night at botanic garden you can pass by there and ask.

Everyone was chilled I also kept a straight face even though I was a bit scared.

Detective: Okay so Mr Khoza when last did you see Melissa?

Sbani: Yesterday around twelve midday.

Detective: Can you perhaps elaborate why you were there.

Sbani: I don't think that's any of your business detective.

Detective: Melissa set you up right? Did you perhaps hate her for that.

Sbani: Yes I hated her for that.

Detective: Can it be that the reason you did you want to open a case against her was so you can kill her?

Sbani: I don't know what you are insinuating but I did not kill her.

TJ: I think that's enough now detective unless you are charging us with something.

Detective: Thank you for your time we will be back if something else comes up.

Sphe: Good luck officers I hope you find whoever did this.

The lady detective looked at Sbani.

Sbani: Don't look at me like that like I told you the

last time I don't want you, angikufuni.

He said opening a door for them.

Sims: That was fun.

TJ: Tell me about it.

Sane: You guys are crazy.

Zane: It seems like you are their main suspect Sbani.

Sbani: That's what I see but I'm not worried.

Isipho: Thando chill no one is going to know that you were there.

Sphe: Can we have breakfast now I'm hungry.

Me: You guys were so chilled I was damn scared.

TJ: We planned this very well Thando.

He said looking at Sphe I wonder what happened between them, Sbani looked at Sphe then laughed.

Sphe: Look I'm sorry bafo I shouldn't have said what I said I was just shocked and confused.

TJ: Okay.

Sbani laughed again.

Sbani: Come on TJ.

Sims: What happened kanti?

Sbani narrated to us what happened.

Sphe: But I have been apologising since last night.

Sbani: I told it's the hormones we all know TJ doesn't get pissed off this easily.

Mamzo and Mbatha got inside the house.

Mamzo: Guys.

Us: "guys".

Mamzo: What's wrong with me saying that phumani kimi please.

Sims: You look happy Mama.

Mbatha: I'm giving it to her the right way.

Us: Haibo.

Mbatha: What it's true you boys should come to me for some lessons so that your women will always be happy.

We all just laughed.

Mamzo: I hope you didn't kill Melissa and her son.

Sbani: No we didn't.

He then told them what happened.

Mbatha: Good.

Zane: Haw Baba.

Mbatha: What?

This man is heartless but you can never know or predict because he is always smiling, I was also comfortable because no one was blaming me for what happened.

Mamzo: I want to talk to you guys about this cohabiting you are doing here.

We laughed.

TJ: I don't like where this conversation is going.

Sims: Me neither.

Mamzo: Girls nikipitile vele (are you cohabiting).

Sane: Uhmm we...

Mbatha: You are what baby?

We looked at each we just didn't know what to say.

Mamzo: The girls are moving out to the other house until you all get married.

Sbani: Hay Mamzo where is that coming from?

Mamzo: From me Sbani is there anyone who has a problem with that.

The guys were busy mumbling something but no one spoke.

Mbatha: Good I'm glad we understand each other.

Sphe: But we are used to staying together I don't see a need to all of this because we will to the other house and they will come here.

Mamzo: I will be staying with them there.

Us: What?

TJ: We are too old for this.

Mbatha: We will be staying with them.

Mamzo: No you will stay this side with the boys.

We laughed at him.

Mbatha: What hay mamabo ngeke.

Mamzo: I'm glad we understand each other, girls pack your bags I want to find you at the house later now I'm going on a date.

She said leaving with Mbatha following after him.

Me: What just happened?

Sbani: Hay guys sibadala for this.

Sphe: And Mamzo will give a hard time we have to ask her now if we want you guys to come here.

Sane: Babe let's go to our bedroom and do our thing before I leave.

TJ: Right after you.

We all laughed.

Me: Babe and that date?

Sbani: Let's go get ready.

Isipho and Sphe went to the kitchen to prepare their breakfast, I hope those detectives won't come back here. Mamzo is trying to make our lives difficult I better start preparing for my wedding because I can't

stand being away from Sbani.

Insert forty

Sbani

We went upstairs to prepare for our date we were both kind of excited I guess it's because we have never went on a date before.

Thando: Do you like this dress?

I just stared at her she looked hot she was wearing a body hugging black dress.

Thando: Babe stop staring how do I look?

Me: You look beautiful sthandwa sam I kind want to rip that dress off right now.

Thando: Behave yourself Mr.

I went to her and we kissed until we heard someone clearing their throat.

Mpendulo: Sorry to interrupt.

I'm still not used to having him around I totally forgot he was here.

Me: I still forget you are here boy how did you sleep?

Mpendulo: I slept well Bhuti the bed was comfortable.

Me: That's great.

Thando: Uhmm I'm sorry boy about what I said the other day.

Mpendulo: It's fine sis Thando.

Thando: No it's not fine I don't want you to think that I don't like you because I do and what I said was uncalled for.

Mpendulo: Okay I forgive you.

He looked at me.

Me: What?

Mpendulo: You promised to take me to the mall today.

Me: Okay boy go take a shower and get dressed.

He ran out.

Thando: Really?

Me: Don't start Thando you know I promised him and I don't want to let him down.

Thando: I thought we were going on a date just the two of us.

Me: I know and I'm sorry but it will have to be the three of us.

Thando: I want to go on a date with you and not this boy I mean you hardly know him but now you are putting him before me.

Me: Really Thando? You think this is a competition, I'm the one who brought Mpendulo here and I promised him a better life. You saw that he has nothing what is he suppose to wear huh?

Thando: I just wanted us to have some quality time together that's all.

Me: Okay I will go get Mpendulo and you will explain to him why we can't go with him.

Thando: No it's fine we can go with him.

Me: You better start working on your attitude towards him because he is here to stay, I don't like the way you treat him and if you don't change we will have a big problem I mean I don't get what your problem is you just apologised to him just now but here you are calling him "this boy".

Thando: Babe I'm...

Me: You are what? Sorry? I don't want to hear your sorry anymore.

Everytime when I think we are moving forward with Thando she takes ten steps backwards and I'm really tired now, I don't get what her problem is. She is starting to become very insecure I mean Mpendulo is just a kid why would she be jealous of him.

Me: I will go check up on Mpendulo.

I bumped into Sphe.

Me: Watch where you are going.

Sphe: Woaw why are you pissed?

Me: Nothing.

Sphe: I thought you and Thando were going on a date?

Me: Yes we are but I forgot that I promised Mpendulo we would go to the mall.

Sphe: Isipho, Cebo and I are going to the mall we can take Mpendulo with us.

Me: Are you sure?

Sphe: Yes Bafo you and Thando need your time so you can sort your issues out even though I still think she doesn't deserve you.

Sphe has really stopped liking Thando and he can't even pretend anymore.

Me: Thanks man I will go talk to Mpendulo.

I went to Mpendulo's room.

Me: Hey chap are you done?

Mpendulo: Yes I'm done Bhuti Sphe gave me these clothes to wear.

Me: Okay listen I'm taking sis Thando on a date so Bhuti Sphe will go with you to the mall and get you

everything you need.

Mpendulo: Okay no problem but you will go with me next time when you are not taking sis Thando on a date.

Me: Definitely boy.

I gave him my black card and told him that Sphe knows the pin.

Me: With this card you can buy everything you need.

Mpendulo: Ngiyabonga Bhuti.

He hugged me, this boy sure knows how to make me feel emotional and what I like about him is that he is respectful and he appreciates everything.

Me: See you later then.

We first bumped and I went to my room.

Me: We can go.

Thando: Is Mpendulo ready?

Me: Yes.

We went downstairs and the guys were there.

Me: Siyavaya manje gents (We are leaving now).

Sphe: Sure.

Me: I gave Mpendulo my black card Sphe please don't finish my money.

TJ: I'm also going to the mall.

Sims: Me too.

Me: Don't start with me please.

They just laughed while we went to the car.

Thando: I thought Mpendulo was going with us.

Me: You wanted to go on a date with me alone right?

Thando: Right but...

Me: But nothing Thando.

I drove us to a fancy restaurant to be honest I was no longer in the mood for all this.

Thando: This looks fancy.

Me: That's because it is, can we order?

Thando: Okay.

Me: Waiter.

The waiter came and we both ordered while waiting for our order they brought our drinks.

Thando: Thank you for this.

Me: Anything to make you happy.

Thando: I know you don't want me to apologize but I'm sorry about earlier.

Me: It's fine so have you thought about a date for our wedding.

Thando: Not really I thought we would do that together.

Me: Whatever you decide is fine with me.

Thando: Okay you should give me your black card so I can plan our wedding instead of giving it to Mpendulo.

Me: Lalela Thando I'm going to say this for the last time, you are not in a competition with Mpendulo the fact that you don't like him I mean it's clear now that you don't like him should not affect our relationship and your opinions about how you feel about him

should stay with you because I don't need to hear them. I'm not going to force you to like Mpendulo because it came natural to me but I don't think I need someone like you in my life, this means this is how you will treat Cebo and TJs coming baby because they are not your own? So this is how you were going to treat Mpendulo if he was my son but not yours? I told you to stop disappointing yourself because it will have bad consequences. I admit I'm not perfect I have also made my own mistakes but I don't think you know what you want Thando and this is not about Mpendulo this is about you and your attitude, I may not be perfect but I sure know that I deserve way better than what you are giving me. I love you God knows I do but I will never settle for less than I deserve never.

I felt a lot better after saying that I looked at Thando and she was crying, when you say something that makes sense to Thando she starts crying like she understands the depth of what you are saying but then she does something worse.

Thando: What are you saying? Please don't break up

with me.

The waiter came with our food and Thando excused herself and went to the ladies room.

I started eating then she came back and joined me.

Thando: This is nice.

Me: Sure is.

We ate and when we were done we just sat there.

Me: Are you ready to leave.

Thando: Sure.

Me: Is there anything else you need?

Thando: We can take a walk to the beach if you don't mind.

I nodded.

We took a walk around the beach, the waves sure know how to make me calm they bring peace to my mind and heart.

We sat down and faced the beach, Thando sat between my legs and we both watched the waves

while not looking at each other.

Thando: I know there's nothing I can say that can make you trust me because I turn to say something and do the complete opposite so I promise to let my actions speak from now on. I know you don't deserve me but I want this to work, I'm a fool and I'm stupid I know but I need you by my side you have proven how much you love me. From now on I will show you how much I appreciate and love you but please don't give up on me, I'm grateful to have someone like you in my life.

I bent her head towards me and wiped her tears, no matter how much I may doubt Thando but something draws me to her it's a like a magnet and I know I will never be able to let her go even if I want to.

Thando: I love you hubby.

Me: I love you too wifey.

I love her ngempela but my heart is missing something I hope Thando can be able to fill it before it's too late.

Mpendulo

I'm Mpendulo as you all know I'm an orphan well I have been an orphan almost all my life. My life used to be sweet and normal like everyone else once but things change I hear people saying that's how life is right? I'm almost eleven but half of the things I have done or I have been through made my mind grow up faster than my age, I had to learn how to be strong and how to survive on my own soon after my brother got arrested. We were never really poor but I had everything I wanted because my mother and my brother made sure of it, my brother was my everything we were so close and he always protected me. When my brother was not around I used to witness my father abuse her in all certain ways but I would just watch and do nothing because I was afraid and young, I told my brother everything and he decided to drop out of varsity and come back home to protect my mother and I. Some days I wish I didn't tell him maybe he would still be here, I know

my father would have killed my mother eventually but it would have been better that way because my brother would still be here with me.

My father once abused my brother sexually but I know he thinks I don't know and I think that's one of the reasons he killed him, he was afraid that he will do it to me too not knowing that he had done it already. Yeah my father once raped me and I never told anyone about it, he is not the only person who has sexually assaulted me the lady that Bhuti Sbani gave money to that day he came to fetch me watched her husband rape me along with his friends, she tried to protect me by all cost and they never did it again. I'm sweet and respectful because that's how I was raised but the pain and hate I carry inside is poisonous. I want to get my revenge one day and I know I will no matter how long it takes.

My mother was a great woman who sacrificed everything to see us happy even her own happiness and she didn't deserve to die in the hands of a man who once claimed to love her but that's how the world is nowadays.

I'm grateful for Bhuti Sbani he rescued me from my misery and I felt connected to him somehow but I don't know how it's going to be since sis Thando doesn't like me, I heard her talking to Bhuti Sbani about me going with them today and I feel like I'm intruding. I thought about running away but I can't go back to that life, God has finally answered my prayers and gave me a family what more can I ask for.

Sphe: Boy are sure that's all you need?

Me: Yes I'm sure Bhuti.

Sphe: We should also get you a phone.

Me: A phone?

Sphe: Yes a phone don't you have a girlfriend to call.

We laughed.

Me: Hayi Bhuti I don't have a girlfriend.

I really don't want to go back to my old school all the children there don't like me, some of them come from backgrounds just like mine but they laugh at me because I don't have a family and because I work

at their homes sometimes just to have something to eat.

Sphe: Hay hay Mpendulo you should get a girlfriend.

Isipho: But babe Mpendulo is still young, don't listen to him boy.

I just laughed then we went to Edgar's connect to get a cellphone for me.

Sphe: Choose boy.

Me: I want a cheap one I don't want to finish Bhuti Sbani's money.

Isipho: You can never finish the money that is in that card so choose whichever phone you like.

I looked around the store and chose Samsung A10.

Sphe: No no I say take this one.

He said pointing at a phone that cost more than five thousand.

Me: Hayi Bhuti Sphe.

Isipho: Just take it boy.

I nodded and took it.

Sphe: Let's get some takeaways.

Isipho: Don't forget me and the girls are moving out today.

Sphe: I totally forgot Mamzo is being hard on us for no reason.

We had already ate so we went back home it sounded foreign to hear myself saying home but that's how it is now, I have a home.

Me: Thank you for today.

Sphe: Who taught you how to be this appreciative?

Me: My mother and my brother.

Isipho: You were raised right boy your mother may not be hear but surely she is proud of the man you are becoming.

Me: Thank you sis Isipho.

We got home and Bhuti Sbani's car was parked outside, I felt my heart beating fast what if he will be mad that I bought all these things.

We got inside and he was watching TV alone in the lounge.

Isipho: Bhuti where are the others.

Sbani: Upstairs packing.

Sphe: Babe you should also go pack before Mamzo comes here and drag you all to the other house.

They laughed and left me with this kind yet scary man.

Sbani: What did you buy boy?

Me: Everything I needed.

Sbani: Let's go to your room so you can show me.

He helped me carry my shopping bags upstairs.

Sbani: Is this all you bought?

Me: Yes Bhuti I'm sorry I didn't mean to finish your money Bhuti Sphe...

Sbani: Wooaw Mpendulo calm down zincane kabi lezimpahla.

Me: Really?

Sbani: Yes but we will add next time when we go to the mall.

Me: I thought you were going to be mad I also bought a cellphone.

I took it out and showed him.

Sbani: Good I'm happy as long as you are happy boy.

Me: Thank you Bhuti Sbani God will bless you.

Sbani: Why do you always want me to cry when I'm around you.

We laughed.

Me: Okay sorry.

He blanked out and his eyes became white.

Me: Bhuti.

I shook him and he jumped.

Me: Are you okay? Your eyes were I don't know?

Sbani: I'm fine boy that's how I become most of the time.

Me: Why? Are you sick?

He showed me his wrists and there were bangles around them.

Me: Are you a sangoma?

Sbani: Something like that, let's go see your brother.

Me: Really?

Sbani: Yes and we still have a lot to talk about I didn't like the vision I just had.

He said getting up, I changed my clothes and wore some of the new ones. If he is a sangoma then there's a possibility that he may see that I was once sexually assaulted oh no what will happen then.

I followed after him when I was done changing.

Sbani: Go wait for me in the car I will go say goodbye to the ladies.

Me: Okay Bhuti.

I went to his car and waited, he came after some few minutes then drove. I once went to see my brother but it was a long time ago, they let me see him for a few seconds because I was a kid.

He parked outside then we got in he talked to some man then we were told to go wait inside.

Sbani: Are you ready?

I nodded I'm scared I haven't seen my brother in a long time, I wonder how they treat him here because the stories I hear about prison are bad.

I saw him walking slow to our direction and I ran to hug him.

Me: Bhuti.

Zakhele: Boy don't cry Shhh.

We went to sit down my brother had tears in his eyes.

Zakhele: Thank you man thank you.

Sbani: It's nothing I will give you guys some space.

He left.

Me: Are you okay? Are they treating you well?

Zakhele: Calm down I'm the one who is suppose to be worried about you not the other way around.

Me: Bhuti I'm fine Bhuti Sbani is treating me well.

Zakhele: I'm glad boy where do you stay now?

Me: He took me in.

Zakhele: Are they treating you well?

Me: Yes Bhuti they bought me these clothes, a cellphone and they have a very beautiful big house.

Zakhele: I'm glad boy and Mpendulo please be a good boy.

Me: I will never embarrass you or let you down Bhuti, uzo phuma nini lana.

He sighed.

Zakhele: Angazi boy but don't worry yourself about that okay.

Me: I miss you.

Zakhele: I know boy boy I know.

Me: I know what Baba did to you.

He looked at me shocked.

Zakhele: Mpendulo what are you talking about?

Me: He raped you I know.

Zakhele: What? Don't tell me he did it to you too?

He was angry really angry.

I looked down.

Zakhele: Mpendulo no nooo.

He banged the table.

Warden: Hlisa umsindo sboshwa.

Zakhele: Why didn't you tell me?

Me: I was afraid he said he would kill mama.

Zakhele: I'm sorry you had to go through that boy I'm so sorry.

Me: It's fine he is dead now.

I wanted to tell him that some man did it too but I was afraid of how he would react.

Zakhele: I love you okay and I will be out of here one day.

Me: I know I love you too Bhuti and I will visit you everyday now.

Zakhele: Okay go call Bhuti Sbani for me I need to

talk to him okay?

Me: Okay bye Bhuti.

I hugged him and left.

Me: Bhuti Sbani Bhuti wants to talk to you.

Sbani: Okay boy go wait for me in the car.

I went to the car I can't describe how happy I am to finally see my brother I pray to God one day he comes out of that hell hole atleast to see me graduate.

Insert forty one

Isipho

Today is my graduation day inorder to wake up ecstatic I woke up very emotional because my parents are not here to witness their little girl graduate, I know they are looking down on me but it's not the same. Mama would have made my dress yes she used to sew clothes but she was a business

woman she just did that on the side, Baba would probably say nothing he was more like my brother he didn't like or maybe know how to express his feelings. I'm grateful to God that this day had finally come after everything we have been through I had lost hope but here I am, I thought after giving birth to my daughter I would struggle with school but I didn't thanks to all my family members for helping me out. I miss Khoza so much he would have been so proud after our parents died he made sure to love us like his own.

I lay on my bed and look up the ceiling just thinking about everything.

Mamzo: Isipho usalele? (You are still sleeping).

Me: I don't want to go mama.

Mamzo: Nonsense why?

Me: I wish my parents were here.

Mamzo: Oh baby I know how you feel but do this for them you need to celebrate this day for them, you may not believe it sometimes but they are looking down on you.

Me: I miss them mama everyday.

Mamzo: I know you do sweetheart but we are all for you, I may not be your mother biologically but I will always be your mother.

Me: I know mama thank you.

Mamzo: Now wake up and go take a shower.

I nodded, I really don't feel like celebrating today but I don't want to let my family down I know they are looking forward to today. All I want right now is to see my brother nothing else but I know him, he will not come here.

I wake up and make my bed after that I go take a quick shower before they kill me in this house.

When I get out of the shower I find the girls sitting on my bed.

Sane: Morning babe.

Me: Morning girls.

Zane: I'm here to do your makeup.

Me: You are guys are being extra now it's not like I'm

getting married.

Thando: Hay Isi this is big especially after everything we have faced over the last few months.

Sane: She is right baby.

Me: Okay fine.

Thando: This is your dress Sbani delivered it.

I opened it and there was a note.

"Morning Angel I hope you are happy about today, this a dress mama made for you when she was still alive, she knew one day you were going to graduate so I kept it for you. Wear it with pride and I know you will look beautiful, I love you".

I was already crying this is something I wanted to make me look forward to this day.

Zane: Ah babe you are making us cry now.

Me: I'm happy.

Sane: Okay sit down before Mamzo come drag us out of here.

Thando: Don't even mention it guys Mamzo is so

extra.

Me: She even locks the gate and sleeps with the key.

We all laughed.

Zane: Imagine she is just punishing us for what I don't know.

Zane did my makeup and Thando my hair, Sane was busy eating she eats a lot and I swear it seems like she is carrying twins.

Thando: Okay we are done you can put your dress on while we go get dressed.

Me: Thank you guys.

I admired my dress before putting it on it fit like a glove it's that mothers know best even in her grave my mother still makes me happy.

There was a knock on the door.

Me: Come in.

Mpendulo: Morning sis Isipho.

I have never met a boy as respectful as this one.

Me: Morning boy when did you get here.

Mpendulo: Just now Bhuti Sphe dropped me off and left.

I laughed.

Me: Mamzo didn't allow him to come in right?

Mpendulo: Yes she said he will make you late.

He was carrying flowers and a box.

Mpendulo: He said I should give you this.

I took the flowers and inside the small box there was a beautiful neck piece.

Me: Thanks for delivering boy.

Mpendulo: I can help you put it on.

Me: Yes please.

Mpendulo: You look beautiful sis Isipho, why do you look a lot like Bhuti Sbani are you twins?

I chuckled.

Me: No baby he is my older brother.

Mpendulo: Okay I see bye I'm going to the kitchen

before mama kills me.

We both laugh, I'm also inlove with this little guy.

Me: Okay boy.

He left and I finished dressing and everything.

Mamzo: Isipho Khoza ngiyakushiya mina(I'm leaving you behind).

I laughed kanti who is graduating when she will leave me behind, I got out of my room and went downstairs wearing this dress is the only thing that makes me look forward to this day.

Mamzo: Oh my baby you look beautiful.

Wasn't she shouting at me just now, if growing old is like this then count me out please.

Me: Thank you mama you also look good.

The girls decided not to go since I have six tickets only, it will be Mamzo, Baba Mbatha and the guys.

Mamzo: Let's go please Baba is waiting.

We all looked at her.

Mamzo: What?

Sane: So the only reason you want to go is because you want to see Baba.

Mamzo: Angisiye umngani wenu njalo.

She said taking her purse, when we got outside Baba was already waiting for us. He said the guys were already gone.

We arrived there and as I had anticipated my brother didn't even say anything, everything went well we then went to take pictures after that we went back home.

As I thought there was a tent and the girls were busy running around, this family can be extra I told them to do something small.

Me: I told you guys that I want something small.

Sims: This is very small angel come.

I rolled my eyes.

Sims: Roll those eyes once again and I will take that tent out myself and we all go to sleep.

I laughed.

Me: Okay sorry Bhuti Simbongile.

Sims: Good.

We got inside the tent before eating people said their speeches after they were done we all started eating, I was still hoping my brother would speak but he was busy eating. I push my plate aside and look at my brother, he takes his plate and come sit next to me.

Sbani: Eat Isipho.

Me: I'm not hungry.

Sbani: Ufuna ukukhala (You want to cry?).

Me: You know I'm not a little girl anymore.

Sbani: You still my Angel so eat.

I smile and start eating, after we are he takes my hand and we stand Infront.

Sbani: I have never been really good at expressing my feelings not that I'm not good with words because I am you can all ask Thando if you don't

believe me.

We all laugh, he holds my hands and look straight into my eyes and I start crying. I don't know why but everytime my brother looks deep in my eyes I just cry that's how connected I feel to him.

Sbani: Sisi omncane you are growing so fast and I don't think I'm ready for whats next from now on, I'm proud of you after we lost Khoza I was afraid that you will lose focus but you didn't. Congratulations my love keep on doing me and everyone else around us proud, I wasn't sure how we were going to grow up after our parents died but God gave us a family that we will always be thankful for. I love you so much Angel whatever you do remember that you are a mother now you need to be a good example to her always.

I was a crying mess I have never really heard my brother pour his heart out for me like this.

Sbani: Now stop crying and follow me I got you a present.

He wiped my tears and everyone else followed after

us.

I saw my dream car and looked at him.

Me: No you didn't?

Sbani: Yes I did it.

Me: Bhuti.

Sbani: Here are the car keys.

I throw myself on his arms.

Me: Ngiyabonga Bhovungane.

I ran to the car and opened it, I can't believe my brother got me a car.

I got back to the others and they congratulated me.

Mamzo: We are leaving, girls make sure that you are home before ten.

Sims: Hayingek mama we are over thirty for god's sake.

Mamzo: Are you talking back at me Simbongile huh uthini.

Sims: Nothing.

Mamzo: Okay bye then.

Sphe: Babe can we go for a ride.

Me: Sure Babakhe.

We left the others drinking.

Mpendulo

We all slept late last night it was such a wonderful day I can't wait to graduate, Mamzo came to fetch osisi yesterday and they were so drunk beside sis Sane because she is pregnant.

I wake up and go outside I see Bhuti Sbani cleaning the yard, I take a black plastic bag and join him.

Me: Morning Bhuti.

Sbani: Mjita ogrend?

Me: I'm okay you?

Sbani: I'm good just tired and hungry.

Me: You can go rest I will clean the yard.

Sbani: No it's fine, go take my phone and order breakfast for everyone.

Me: You all didn't eat the meat we braiid so I can warm it up.

Sbani: Okay do that boy.

I grew up poor and I don't like people who spend money a lot even if they have it, life is unpredictable you can have money today and wake up tomorrow with nothing.

I went to the kitchen warmed up the meat took bread for me and Bhuti then went outside.

Sbani: Uyidlalile ntwana thanks.

We ate silently, I looked at him since I got here he is the one I feel connected to nobhuti TJ kind of gets me but for with Bhuti Sbani its different I don't know maybe it's because he is the one who took me in.

Sbani: You should be eating instead of looking at me.

I chuckled.

Me: Will I be returning to my old school?

Sbani: Unfortunately yes boy it's the third term already I can't just keep you here.

Me: I don't want to go back there.

Sbani: Why?

Me: The kids there treat me bad.

Sbani: Sorry boy but I don't want you to drop out of school please just be patient.

Me: Can't I drop out of school?

Sbani: Unfortunately no Mpendulo school is important I promise you next year I will find you a very good school.

Me: Okay.

Sbani: I will you drop you there myself and fetch you after school everyday I promise.

I fake smiled.

Me: Thank you Bhuti.

Sbani: Is there anything else you want to tell me.

I knew exactly what he wanted me to say but I'm just

not ready yet.

Me: No.

Sbani: Your brother told me what happened to you.

I looked down.

Sbani: There is no need to be ashamed it was never your fault, was he the only one who molested you?

I debated whether to tell him or not.

Me: No.

He clenched his jaws.

Sbani: Are they still alive?

Me: No Bhuti.

I was lying I know if I tell him he will want to make them pay or maybe tell me about forgiveness, I'm not ready for that lecture I want to make them pay myself.

Sbani: I hope you are not lying to me Mpendulo.

Me: No I'm not trust me.

I know he is a seer he will maybe know that I'm lying

but I will cross that bridge when I get there.

Sbani: I will find you some help you know someone to talk to.

Me: I don't want to talk to a stranger.

Sbani: She will not tell anyone not even me.

Me: No I prefer talking to you but not now I will let you know when I'm ready.

Sbani: Okay fair enough I will never be able to bring your mother back or maybe turn back the hands of time but I promise to be here for you always.

Me: And I'm grateful.

Sbani: You sure sound like you are twenty Mpendulo are you you are almost eleven.

I laughed.

Me: The hardships we face makes us grow.

Sbani: Okay boy but in this house you are a child so be free and enjoy your life you are still young.

I nodded, I pray he doesn't find out that I'm lying about those people being dead.

Me: Will my brother ever come out of jail?

Sbani: Leave that to me.

Me: Okay.

I trust him but I doubt my brother will ever be out I just pray to God he does so he can be here to see me grow and become a better man than our father was.

Sbani: Let's continue.

We continued cleaning until all the guys were awake.

Narrated

Lady: I don't know where they took him I swear.

Man1: You will have to find out because I'm not going to jail.

Lady: I'm not going to do that.

Man1: You want him to tell everyone what I did?

Lady: I don't care.

Man1: If I were you I was going to start carrying.

Lady: Just kill me.

Man1: You know I can burn this shack down with these bastards you call my children.

The woman just kept on crying.

Man1: I'm giving you two days to find that boy before they find out that his mother was their mothers sister.

Lady: Okay please don't kill my children I will find him.

Man1: Two days siyezwana?

Lady: Yes two days.

The man got out to meet with his friends.

Man2: How can you be this careless I thought you said you will watch that boy?

Man1: Was I suppose to be his security guard?

Man2: Yes you were, we don't stay in this stinking place so we were not going to watch his every move.

Man1: It was nice and all when you were busy raping

him in this stinking place.

Man3: Can you all just stop fighting and relax.

Man2: Udakiwe wena and relax? Relax how? How will I explain raping a child to my family.

The others looked at him.

Man3: It's not like it was your first time doing it come on who are you kidding you also sleep with your own children.

Man2: Fuck you.

Man1: My question is how do we solve this?

Man3: I think we should just forget about this.

Man1: Forget about it? You are crazy my wife told me that the person who took that boy was a Khoza so that means his mother was the sister of that boy.

Man2: You are not even sure about that.

Man1: I'm not going to jail so since you all stay in the suburbs you should look for him before it's too late.

He said leaving them there.

Man3: What if he is the one who hid the boy and now he wants to set us up.

Man2: Maybe he found out that I slept with his wife.

Man3: You did what?

Man2: Come on that lady is hot ukuthi nje uyahlupheka.

Man3: You are sick let's go find the boy.

Man2: Okay did you finally find your niece.

Man3: Who? Thandolwethu no but I wish to find her that girl was sweet.

His friend licked his mouth and they left.

Insert forty two

We are now approaching December life has been good, really good if you ask me we decided to get married next year after my graduation because I still need to focus on school. Everyone is happy and I'm also happy if someone told me a few years back that I would be this happy I would have just laughed

because I had convinced myself that happiness was never made for me but look at me now. I never really prayed for this life but God saw me through anyway now I have a very good reason to worship him, I was starting to become very insecure and selfish because I'm now living a good life but I realised what I was

doing was very wrong because God can still take all this away from me.

My parents died when I was young but I still think of them, I don't even want to talk about how I miss sis Sindi that woman saved me, she died for me and for that I will always be grateful. I need to make time and visit her but it's hard because where we buried her is where I don't wish to go because it all just bring back all my past but I need to do that no matter what just for her so she can know that I will never forget her and what she did for me.

Mpendulo has been doing well at school and I have no doubt that he will pass, the guys have been trying to work out his brothers case it's hard but it's promising and knowing Sbani he will not give up.

I turn so I can get back to sleep but there's knock at the door I ignore the person but she doesn't stop.

Mamzo: Thando wake up I know you are not sleeping.

Mamzo has been treating us like teenagers she just became those strict mother's out of the blue, we even sneak out when we want to see the guys. It's bad guys can someone come and take her please.

I keep quiet and listen whether she is going or not but she knocks again.

Me: Mama I'm not attending today.

Mamzo: But your timetable says something else Thandolwethu.

Oh God she even has our timetables this woman.

Me: Okay I'm up now.

Mamzo: Open this door I want to see that you are up.

I get up yawning and open the door.

Mamzo: Did you see the time? You girls love sleeping but you say you want to get married hah.

Me: Good morning to you too mama.

She chuckles.

Mamzo: Hayi good morning yani make that bed and go take a shower I already made breakfast.

I laugh and she gets out, I love her so much she is the mother I never had she was made for this motherhood thing I mean who can mother so many grown up children.

I make my bed and go take a bath I relax in the bathtub until the water becomes cold, I get out and finish my daily routine before going to the kitchen.

I find Zane eating while yawning.

Me: Morning friend.

Zane: There's nothing good about this morning mngani.

I laugh.

Me: Did she wake you up too?

Zane: Kmele simuse ekhaya labadala (We should send her to an adults home).

We both laugh.

Me: They can bring her back within a few days I'm telling you.

Zane: Few days? Few minutes Thando.

Me: Do you know she even has our timetables?

Zane: I know I told her I wasn't attending today but she had my timetable in her hand.

Me: Me too friend.

Mamzo: Nibusy niyangihleba la(You are busy gossiping about me here).

Zane: Who? Us? Never mama.

Me: We would never do that.

Mamzo: Oho.

Zane: Why didn't you wake Sane up mama?

Mamzo: She is pregnant.

Me: I can't wait to get pregnant.

Mamzo: Not until you graduate.

Me: But...

Mamzo: No but you are already late now go.

Zane: Mama you are the best and I love you can I please...

Mamzo: No.

We laughed, this woman is dramatic lapho she is not even that old.

Zane: But you didn't even hear what I wanted to say.

Mamzo: Whatever you want to say must not include Sims.

I looked at Zane I wanted to laugh at her because I knew she wanted to talk about Sims.

Zane: Can I spend the night at the other house today?

Mamzo: No.

Zane: I miss my dad.

She pretended to cry but Mamzo just laughed.

Mamzo: I will tell him to come here tonight.

She said leaving us there.

Me: Friend you are just being dramatic like your

mother now.

Zane: Let's go I will drive.

We took our things and left.

Me: After class I'm meeting up with Sbani.

Zane: I also want to see Sims it's been a month since we spent the night together.

Me: Mama is impossible I'm telling you.

Mamzo says that if we spend all our time with the guys they will find us less attractive when we get married, I agree that makes sense but we are used to being them so all this is just impossible for us.

We got to campus and attended our class after that we called the guys to come using one car because Sims was going to drive with Zane.

Zane: What should we do, do you think we should tell the guys to go and ask Mamzo to let us spend the night with them.

Me: I know Sbani will not do that.

We walked to the parking lot and found them already

waiting for us.

Sims: Prisoners.

They both laughed.

Zane: It's not funny yazi.

Sbani: Babe.

We kissed.

Sims: You guys will spend the night right?

Me: No you know Mamzo would kill us.

Sbani: It's not up for discussion sibatadala kabi for all this shit.

Sims: See you later man.

They fist bumped and then Sims left with Zane.

Sbani: You good?

He asked while we got into the car.

Me: I'm good sthandwa sam you?

Sbani: I'm okay.

Me: Aren't you suppose to be at work?

Sbani: No I took a day off.

Me: Okay.

Sbani: I thought you said you were not going to attend today.

Me: Babe you are not going to believe this, Mamzo has our timetables so she woke us up.

Sbani: I think taima should move back in with her she is bored.

They call Baba Mbatha taima he is also doing well in this fatherhood thing.

Me: You are right we should talk to Baba about this.

Sbani: Do you want to eat out or I should just drive home?

Me: Just drive home babe.

He drove home, we found Baba sitting in the lounge with Mpendulo.

Mpendulo: Sis Thando.

Me: Hey boy aren't you suppose to be at school?

Mpendulo: They told us not to come today.

Me: Okay, Baba unjani?(how are you).

Mbatha: I'm okay baby and yourself?

Me: I'm all good.

Mbatha: Does Mamzo know you are here?

Me: No she doesn't.

He laughed and whistled.

Me: Please don't tell her.

Sbani: Taima won't do that sthandwa sam let's go upstairs.

I looked at Baba and he was still laughing, I decided to follow after Sbani.

Sbani: So?

He asked while kissing me then the rest is history.

Sbani

Thando and Zane spent the night here I'm not even ready for Mamzo's lecture today, Sane is allowed to come here anytime she likes because she has "needs" that's what Mamzo said. It must be good being pregnant I think most of the time she just cries saying it's hormones but I know it's not she just wants to see TJ.

Anyway I'm not there we kind of got some things to worry about, you see everytime when we start being happy something just drags us back to the past. Few days ago we find out that someone has been following Thando and that someone has been watching Mpendulo but it's not easy to get him because I drop him to school and fetch him.

Yesterday I told him that his teacher said they must not go to school but we want to fix this first so I just lied but I explained everything to his teacher. I'm not really ready to have any of my family members leaving in fear because of some scumbags we need these people fast.

I wake up and go to the bathroom to wash my face and brush my teeth, Thando is still sleeping and I

understand because I know she is tired after all the things we did yesterday. I know you guys must be curious but that's not for you to know.

I get out of my room and bumped into TJ.

Me: Morning.

TJ: Have you seen the papers?

Me: TJ I just woke up obviously no.

TJ: Look.

I take the paper and read through.

Me: What is this? Do you think maybe it's one of his family members?

TJ: I don't know but if it's them why were they quiet all this while.

Me: To my knowledge he doesn't have any family members left besides his brother.

TJ: I think we should talk to him.

Me: Something is not right.

TJ: I'm with you on that one.

We wake up Sphe and Sims and we all go to Mpendulo's room.

Me: Mjita you are awake?

Mpendulo: Yes what did I do?

TJ: Nothing boy.

Sims: Then why are we holding a meeting here?

I pass him the paper he reads and pass it to Sphe.

Me: Boy do you have any family members besides Zakhele.

Mpendulo: No one who cares why?

Sphe: When you say no one who cares you mean they are there but they don't care?

Mpendulo: After my brother got arrested I went to stay with my uncle but I ran away when he tried to rape me.

Sphe gave him the paper.

Me: Someone posted your photo there and said you were missing do you have any idea who it would be?

Mpendulo: Definitely not my uncle.

Sims: Maybe it's him.

TJ: I don't think so I mean Mpendulo has been staying alone all this while this doesn't make sense.

Me: Something is not adding up here.

Sphe: Maybe this is the same who has been watching Mpendulo.

Mpendulo: Someone has been watching me?

Me: Yea boy but you are safe okay.

He nodded.

Sims: This means the police may come here since some people have seen Mpendulo here.

Mpendulo: Please don't let them take me away.

TJ: We won't boy don't worry.

Me: Gents let's talk outside, boy sleep you are not going to school.

He nodded and I hated to see the fear I was seeing in his eyes.

We left his room and went to the study.

Sphe: What do we do? TJ did you find out who has been following Thando?

TJ: Not yet but I'm still trying.

Me: This time I'm lost what do we do?

Sims: How about we call these people and tell them that we have Mpendulo.

TJ: I say let's wait.

He said busy with his computer the door opened and taima got in.

Mbatha: The police were here.

Me: What did they want?

Mbatha: They asked me if I know any Mpendulo.

Sims: Shit.

Mbatha: Relax I told them that I don't any Mpendulo.

Sphe: You did.

Mbatha: Yes do I know any Mpendulo?

We all laughed.

Us: No you don't.

Mbatha: So what's going on?

We filled him in on what's going on.

Mbatha: Whoever put Mpendulo's photo in that newspaper is desperate and is totally not a family member, if he/she was a family member they would have took Mpendulo a long time ago.

Me: Yea we also think so.

Mbatha: So what do you have?

Sims: Nothing so far.

TJ: Hold that thought I think I found something.

Sphe: I don't see anything.

Me: Me too.

TJ: This picture is blur but if Mpendulo or Thando know this person they can identify him.

Sims: Wait why would the both of them know him.

TJ: Because the same person who has been watching Mpendulo is the same person who has

been following Thando.

Sphe: This sounds complicated why would the same person be interested in both of them?

Me: I don't know but let me get them maybe they have the answer to all this.

I went to wake Thando and Mpendulo up.

Thando: Babe I hope this is important I was still enjoying my sleep.

Me: Don't worry I will make sleepy again.

Thando: No thank you last night you did a number on me.

We both chuckled, I looked at Mpendulo and he still looked scared.

We got inside and they sat down.

Mbatha: Thando you look tired.

Me: Taima don't.

The guys looked at Thando and laughed.

TJ: Can you both please come and look at this photo

it's kind of blur but maybe you will both recognise him.

They both concentrated on the screen, I was crossing my fingers that they identify him so we can deal with him once and for all.

Thando: I can never forget him even if I wanted it's him.

Sphe: Who?

Thando: He used to be my aunt's husband they used to abuse me, he would touch me and do all bad things to me.

Sims: Is he the one you once shouted at the mall?

Thando: Yes it's him.

Mpendulo was just quite but all the fear I saw in his eyes was replaced with hate and anger.

Thando: I hate him he would make me do all the bad things to him I was still young but I knew what he wanted me to do was not right?

Mpendulo: He did it to you too?

We all looked at him even Thando was shocked.

TJ: What do you mean to you too Mpendulo?

He looked at us like he was regretting saying what he said.

Me: Boy what do you mean?

He just got up and ran out.

I attempted to run after him but taima stopped me.

Mbatha: Let him calm down first.

Thando was sitting on the floor everyone else was just shocked, I sat down next to Thando and hugged her.

We need to find this man and make him pay for all this.

Insert forty three

Sbani

I'm not even shocked I don't know how I feel actually

we are still sitting down we don't know how all this fits together, why would Thando's uncle be looking for Mpendulo? Are they maybe related or what?

Thando: Do you think this man also raped Mpendulo?

I clenched my jaws on that question because I don't want it to be true.

TJ: I hope it's not because I won't be held responsible for what I will do to him.

Sims: I really hope so too.

Mbatha: Sbani I think you should go talk to him now maybe he will tell you what's going on so we can get to the bottom of this one way or the other.

Sphe: He trusts you just go Bafo.

I drag my feet outside with my heart on my knees because I know exactly what Mpendulo is going to say, I may have been through a lot myself but I would have never survived being molested.

I stand by his door debating whether to go in or not.

Mpendulo: Bhuti get in I can hear your heart beating from here.

He says while inside his room, I have really mastered how to stay calm but today I feel like I'm going to lose my mind.

I master enough courage and open the door, Mpendulo is laying on his bed.

Me: Boy are you ready to tell me what happened, how do you know that man?

He gets up from his bed and stand by the window.

Mpendulo: It was Tuesday afternoon I just came back from school and I was about to go to the car wash because I was helping out there but when I was on my way there, that lady you saw that day you came to fetch me was standing by her door while her husband was outside she raised her hand and whispered run but I laughed because I thought she was joking and I didn't know why I should run. When I had passed by the husband called me and told me to get inside he will give me some money so I don't have to go to the car wash because I was really tired and I thought he was being sincere I listened to him. I got inside and his children were not there and the

lady was already crying begging his husband not to do this, I was feeling sorry for her because I thought something bad was going to happen to her not knowing it was the beginning of my many sorrows.

He was now sitting down on the floor and I was sitting beside him what hurt me the most is that Mpendulo was not crying and I wanted him to cry just so he can let go of the pain.

Me: You don't have to continue boy it's fine.

Mpendulo: No I want to I haven't talked about this to anyone... I sat on the chair waiting for the husband to give me the money he promised so I can go and buy some bread for supper but to my surprise two other gentleman came inside his shack the other one was the one you just showed me, what made me scared is the way the lady was crying and pleading with her husband I thought maybe they were going to sell me to those man because I have heard about human trafficking. I stood up and told them that I'm going because they are not giving me the money but the husband tied her wife and told her to watch what they are about to do, never in my

whole life have I thought that I would be hurt like that they all raped taking turns.

He paused and looked at me I don't want to lie I was crying my head felt like it was going to blast because of anger.

Mpendulo: I want everyone to hear this so let's go to the study.

Me: Are you sure?

He nodded and led the way, when we got inside they were looking at me.

Me: You all need to hear this so please sit down.

Mpendulo: They all took turns until I felt like my back was being torn apart I knew they were raping me but I didn't understand why they were making noise like cows, when they were done they gave R10 but I left it there and went home. I took a bath and cried myself to sleep, I was in so much pain that even crying hurt I just wanted to forget about all that happened but I could smell their colognes I could hear their laughter. I wanted to kill myself and till this day know why I didn't, the next day I was woken up

by the lady and he gave me a small camera and told me that if next time they try to rape I must show them the video. Indeed it worked in my favour because after I showed them the video they never came back, here you can watch.

He said giving TJ a small camera and TJ put it in I don't think anyone was ready for what we all saw.

Sphe: Switch that thing off.

He said shouting at TJ and he switched it off.

Thando: I'm so sorry Mpendulo I should have just killed that man once and for all.

Sims: It's not your fault Thando.

Mbatha: Mpendulo crying doesn't make you weak please atleast cry.

He looked at me and I nodded.

Wasisho iskhalo that everyone couldn't stand.

TJ: Excuse me.

I let Mpendulo cry in my arms until he fell asleep, I

didn't want put him to sleep because I felt like something was going to happen to him.

Mbatha: Son take him to his bed nothing will happen we are all here now.

I nodded and went to his room then I left him there and took Thando to Sane's bedroom.

Sane: Sbani what's going on?

Zane was also in the room.

Me: Please just be here for her she needs you.

Zane: Absolutely.

Me: Babe try sleeping I love you okay.

Thando: I love you too.

I leave them and went back to the study.

Sims: What now?

Sphe: My gun is ready.

We all look at him.

Sphe: If you all are not ready to kill I can do this by myself because I'm not letting those man go scott

free.

TJ: I'm with you but I think we should take this matter to the police station.

Me: That's not enough.

We all turned and looked at taima we needed him to tell us what to do.

Mbatha: Those man are already in prison as we speak.

Sphe: Taima that's not fair I want them dead I don't think I will wipe away what I saw in that video.

He sat butt down and cried Sims joined him and they cried, I went to TJ and looked at him.

Me: Are you okay?

TJ: I'm angry Sbani.

Me: I know me too but getting our hands dirty won't help anyone.

TJ: I'm fucken angry damn.

He said hitting the table and everyone looked at him I was also shocked.

Mbatha: If I can react and show you how I feel you can be surprised but please calm down those man will feel like they are in hell, I have my people on them what they did to Mpendulo will be done to then 100× I promise you.

We all nodded I wonder how Mpendulo really feels seing my brother's broken like this because of all this makes me wonder how broken Mpendulo is.

Sims: Can we go get some drinks I called mama she will be here soon.

Mbatha: I will stay behind just to make sure everyone is safe.

Sims took the car key and drove straight to prison we all looked at each other and kept quiet I think because we all wanted to go there.

If taima thought we were going to drop this then he was wrong, my phone ringed and it was Luthando I looked at it and ignored her call.

TJ: Are you not going to answer that.

Me: It's Luthando Bafo what if she is going to tell us to just let them go.

TJ: I'm also not ready for that.

We were all angry but Sphe was livid he is the most emotional one but I know this side of him and I don't like it one bit.

My phone rings again and it's Luthando I decide to pick it up.

Luthando: Check your pocket and do what you have to do.

Me: What do you mean?

She just dropped the call, okay that was strange.

Sphe: What did she say?

Me: She told me to check my pocket and do what I have to do.

TJ: Check your pocket then.

I hesitated but then checked my pocket I couldn't believe my eyes there was a small bottle written poison.

Me: Guys check this out.

TJ: Is this what I think it is?

Me: Talk about witchcraft how did it even land in my pocket.

Sphe: It doesn't matter we all know what to do.

We were sitting at the backseat so Sims didn't know any of this because he was driving when he pulled up by the prison he looked at us.

Sims: We are here I don't know what we will do but we have to do something.

I told him what Luthando said and I showed him the bottle.

Sims: This just made our job much easier because I was going to shoot them right Infront of the wardens.

Me: I'm sure you were going to do that ngempela.

We all laughed.

Sphe: I have never been this angry I can't imagine how Mpendulo is feeling.

TJ: I don't want to lie I would have killed myself if it

happened to me.

Me: Me neither man that shit is deep and I'm sure it messes you up for real.

Sims: So what do we do now.

Sphe: We need to find someone inside to pour this poison in their food.

Me: Let's go inside and talk to Zakhele I'm sure he knows some people who are easily bought.

We all agreed when we got inside we asked to see Zakhele.

We sat down and waited for him to come to us.

Sims: Is it me or Zakhele looks like Isipho.

TJ: My thoughts exactly.

I was about to talk when Zakhele sat down.

Zakhele: Makita.

Sphe: Bafo ogrend?

Zakhele: What can I say ukukhala aksizi.

I was just looking at him and to my surprise he does

look like my mother, what could that mean because I know my mother had no other children besides me and Isipho.

Sims: We need your help man?

Zakhele: What kind of help can you possible need from me I mean I'm in prison.

Them: Sbani.

Me: Oh sorry guys.

I told him what happened and he chuckled from being angry.

Zakhele: Why the hell would you guys send them here instead of killing them yazi I trusted you.

TJ: We wanted to but we were too late.

Me: We want to kill them that's why we need your help.

Zakhele: Is Mpendulo okay? Being here made me fail to protect my little brother I should have been there to protect him.

Me: He is fine and it's not your fault.

He chuckled again that's what Isipho does when she is angry but it can't be.

Zakhele: Ofcos it's my fault I should have protected him.

Sphe: Blaming yourself will not help please just hear us out.

We told him what our plan was.

Zakhele: I feel like that's too easy though especially since they have money, money talks in this place.

TJ: Please just get us someone you trust can do this and we will pay him.

Zakhele: Do you guys have enough money?

Sphe: Money is not a problem.

Sims: Yeah don't worry yourself about that.

Zakhele: Okay I need to get some man to rape them and beat them before they die please.

Me: That is fine by us.

Zakhele: Give me that poison.

We all looked at each other.

Zakhele: I'm going to make sure they die trust me after what they did to my little brother they don't deserve to live.

Sims: So how will we give you the money.

He told the warden to give him a paper and a pen, Zakhele seems to be respected around here and I don't why.

Zakhele: Write your number here I will send you account numbers of the people I will work with then you can transfer the money.

Sphe: This needs to be done today please.

Zakhele: Consider it done.

We wrote down our numbers.

TJ: We will hear from you then.

Zakhele: Sure and thank you for everything especially for taking care of my brother.

Me: No problem we will be waiting then.

He got up and left and we all did the same.

Sphe: Ngifuna ubeer obandayo (I want cold beer).

TJ: I'm still unsettled about this thing of him looking like Isipho.

Sims: The way he chuckled when he is angry is the same way Isipho chuckles.

Me: He looks a lot like my mother and I really don't know why?

Sphe: We will have to look into it but now let's go have some drinks.

We all agreed and left I hope Zakhele does this sooner so we can focus on getting Mpendulo some help because I know he is damaged more than he thinks.

Zakhele

I get to my cell and hit the wall until my knuckles bleed, I sit on my bed and cry. If only I was there to protect my brother all this wouldn't have happened, I look at the bottle in my hand and attempt to drink it

but I quickly close it.

I think I have disappointed and let my brother down too many times to try and add to the hurt he is feeling, I mean if I kill myself then Mpendulo will be more broken than he already is.

My mother used to tell me how she regrets running away from home, she told me she had a twin sister and they were so close but when she fell in love with my father nothing else mattered to her.

When she was pregnant with me she was afraid to tell her parents because they were strict, she told her sister who begged her to tell their parents but she didn't listen. She told my father and he convinced her to run away with him because she was deeply in love with him she believed every tale he told her not knowing she was selling her soul to the devil. She used to cry a lot when she talks about her twin sister "when I told my sister I was running away with your father she cried and I can never forget the pain in her eyes" that's what my mother used to say.

Times went by and she was happy with my father

everything was going well until he changed.

She said she called her sister and her sister told her how shattered their parents were about her leaving home and she begged her to come back, "I wanted to go home because I missed my parents but mostly I miss my other half, I talked to my parents on the phone and they said they forgive me and that I should go home but your father never allowed me too" that was what she also told me.

They tried looking for her but she no longer had a phone and they changed where they were staying.

"Why didn't you run away" I asked her, "I tried a couple of times but all that I believed was love had turned into abuse and hate that's why I never ever saw my family again" she said. Till this day I don't know who her twin was and where her family came from, that uncle Mpendulo went to stay with was not family I guess that's why he tried to rape him. If maybe we knew my mother's family it would be better because she always told me they were good people but enough about that.

I call the warden that works with me here and tell him to come to my cell, you may be wondering why I'm well known here but that's a story for another day.

Warden: Zakes what's up?

Me: I need a favour.

Warden: You and favours what now?

Me: I hear there are three man who were arrested for rape.

Warden: Yeah they seem like high profile people because they share the same cell.

Me: I don't care if they are high profile people or not I need them dead.

Warden: Ahh Zakes that's impossible.

Me: I will pay you and the man you will work with.

Warden: What do I need to do?

Me: Get some man to rough them up and rape them all day then when they get supper pour them this.

Warden: That will cost you.

Me: I know so don't worry.

Warden: But I heard they eat their own food.

Me: Do they cook the food themselves?

Warden: No.

Me: Then stop being stupid that actually makes your job much easier so organise those man now and make sure you pay whoever works for them because you don't want any trouble.

Warden: Sure Zakes.

Me: You will come get this bottle later for now organise this.

Warden: You still have my account number just send the money there and I will withdraw it then give them their cut.

Me: I will do that.

Warden: Do it now because you know those man won't work without cash.

I take my phone and send the guys the account number, the wardens phone beeps.

Warden: Haa haa Zakes uyindoda R100000 yonke.

These people are crazy why would they send hundred thousand.

Me: Let me see.

He shows me and I'm shocked.

Me: Take your cut and do what I ask you to do, take R10000 there and get me my merchandise.

Warden: Uyibhoza Zakes.

He says and leave, I call Sbani.

Me: Are you crazy why would you send so much money?

Sbani: We don't want any mistakes Zakes.

Me: Still.

Sbani: Make sure those people do their job and stop worrying about money.

He says and drops the call, I wonder how rich are they.

I sit in my cell and think about my life maybe I would

be married by now with atleast one child but who am I kidding I would still be a player I don't want commitment or maybe I should say I fear commitment because of the environment I grow up in. I was always afraid that I would treat someone's child like my mother was treated so I never really committed myself to anyone.

I lay in my bed and before I know it it's already supper time, I give the warden the poison and went for him to come back.

I eat my food while impatiently waiting for him to come back, I hear footsteps and shouting people running around.

Warden: Zakes it's done they are all dead.

He says giving me the poison that is left.

Me: Sure.

He leaves and I look at the bottle and smile I think I will keep it because I know I'm still going to need.

The warden told me that they were all beaten up and assaulted, I smile between the tears I'm happy they

are dead but they can never take away the pain they inflicted on my brother.

I send the guys messages telling them it's done and then I continue to eat before retiring to bed.

I can say I know my mother's twin because she always visits me in my dreams, she looks a lot like my mother but I know it's not my mother that's why I'm saying it's her twin maybe one day we will find her family and maybe one day I will leave this place ngibone ukukhanya.

Insert forty four

After all I heard and saw yesterday I don't know how I feel today I knew that man was cruel but to hurt a kid like that especially a boy is beyond cruel, I know rape is traumatic but I always feel like it's worse for males. The ladies and I slept together we don't even know when the guys came back and what they did with all the information they had, I wish they killed them I know that's harsh but people like that don't deserve to live who knows how many kids they hurt,

they should all just go to hell and I know their seats are already waiting for them there.

I decide to wake up and wash my face also rinse my mouth then go to the kitchen to make breakfast.

I get there and no one is awake so I prepare breakfast with my mind all over the place, I haven't recovered from all the things that happened to me while I stayed with my aunt and that man I wonder how Mpendulo feels. I feel sorry for him I just hope with time he will be fine I need to talk to Sbani so he can find some help for him.

Zane: Thando are you trying to burn this house down?

I jump and realise that the eggs are burning.

Me: I'm sorry it's just that my mind is all over the place.

Zane: I know let me help you with that.

Me: Seems like my past has a way of catching up with me.

Zane: I'm sorry friend but atleast that man is in prison now.

Me: How do you know that?

Zane: Baba told me.

Me: That's not enough kodwa mngani I wanted them to die.

Zane: Being in prison is not easy Thando surely they will pay for what they did.

Me: It's not the same and those people have money so they will probably be out by tomorrow.

Zane: Let's hope not and let's stop talking about this we are writing tomorrow I don't want you to lose focus sekuseduze phambili.

I nod my head, she is right I need to focus on the important things because I can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel.

We make breakfast while discussing what we will be writing tomorrow by the time we are done everyone is up.

Mamzo: You girls didn't have to.

Zane: We wanted to mama so please sit down.

We sit down and Sbani sits next to me, they all look tired you can tell they were drinking yesterday.

Sbani: Morning sthandwa sam are you okay?

Me: I'm okay babe, you look tired.

Sbani: We had a couple of drinks yesterday.

Me: A couple of drinks yeah right.

I say raising my eyes.

Sbani: You look beautiful.

He is such a charmer I find myself blushing.

Sbani: And she is blushing.

Me: Babe stop.

Sims: Thando and Sbani when you are done can we please eat.

We all laugh.

Mbatha: Sbani please bless the food.

Sbani: Hay taima why me?

Sphe: Ewu silambile bakwethu (we are hungry).

Sbani blesses the food while complaining.

Sbani: Amen.

We all laugh that's the only thing we heard.

Mamzo: Did you even pray Sbani because you were only whispering and when it's time to say amen you shout.

Sbani: God heard me Mamzo don't worry.

We all start eating, Mbatha decide to open the news while we are eating.

"Three inmates died yesterday the police suspect food poisoning but they are still investigating, they were all found in their cell beaten up and assaulted seems like all this happened before they died"

We all stop eating and look at the guys but they are all eating Sphe is even whistling.

Mbatha: Talk.

They don't mind him instead they all continue eating.

Mamzo: Did you boys have a hand in that?

Them: No.

They say at the same time.

Mpendulo: Good riddance.

Mbatha: Hay boy that's not right.

Mpendulo: Right? Was is it right when they raped me?

Mamzo: Mpendulo you are still young to understand the consequences of revenge.

Mpendulo: I may be young but I will not pretend like I'm not happy that they are dead because one way or the other I was still going to make them pay.

The situation is a bit tense now and we are all looking at Mpendulo.

Sims: To all of you here we did not have a hand in that and I think it's best if we never talk about it ever again.

Mbatha: I hope you did a clean job and nothing comes back to you.

They look at him and decide to keep quiet.

Sbani: Boy eat up and go get dressed we told your teacher you will be late today.

Mpendulo: Okay Bhuti.

Sbani: Angel are you okay?

Isipho: I don't know maybe I'm coming down with flue.

Sane: I think she should see a doctor guys she is not well.

Sphe: Babe what's wrong?

He asked in a concerned voice.

TJ: Please take her to the doctor Sphe now.

Sane: I think we can take her you can see Sphe is already panicking.

Mamzo: I will go with you guys Sphe you can also come.

He nodded and got up to prepare, Sbani, TJ and Sims took Mpendulo to school.

I really pray and hope Isipho is not sick because I'm not ready for that.

When we got to the doctor we waited because he was busy but when he came out and saw us he let us in.

Only Mamzo and Isipho got inside we all waited outside.

Sphe was busy pacing up and down.

Zane: Sphe please calm down she will be fine.

Sane: Yeah she is going to be fine.

I also don't think something is seriously wrong with Isi maybe she is really coming down with flue because she was fine.

We waited for almost an hour and I think all of us were starting to panick but we just kept quiet.

Mamzo came out alone and I could see it in her eyes that she is not okay.

Sphe: And? Where is Isipho?

Mamzo: Shawn is waiting for another doctor to come and do some tests.

Zane: Mama how is Isipho?

Mamzo: Isipho can't walk ngane zam.

Me: Can't walk? What do you mean Isipho was walking when we came here.

Mamzo: I also don't know what's going on even the doctor says nothing is wrong.

Sphe: Can I see her.

Mamzo: Yes go in boy.

Zane: What is the meaning of this? Will we ever get peace kodwa.

Sane: It's going to fine.

She was convincing herself more than us.

Me: Should I call the guys?

Mamzo: No let's wait for the other doctor first Sbani will be shattered.

Zane: I don't even want to think about it.

Sane: Mama do you think she will be fine?

Mamzo: I know she will be fine.

We were all not convinced but we kept quiet, the

other doctor came and got into Shawn's office.

Sphe: I don't know what's going on.

Mamzo: What did he say?

Sphe: He said he doesn't know what's wrong because nothing is showing in the tests results.

Sane: Maybe this matter needs Sbani because he is a seer.

Sphe: He will not be able to stand this I know him.

Mamzo: But we have no choice but to tell her.

Me: Let's take Isipho to a private hospital and let them run some tests then after that we call the others.

We all agreed.

Shawn: You can take her to the hospital but I'm sure they won't find anything, I don't even know how to explain this.

Sphe: Is it your first time dealing with something like this?

Shawn: Yes I haven't seen something like this.

Mamzo: Okay we will take her to the hospital thank you.

Shawn: Have you told her brother?

Me: Not yet.

Shawn: Please tell him you know how he reacts it will be hard but he needs to know.

Mamzo: We will tell him son thank you.

Sphe carried Isipho to the car because she didn't want to sit on the wheelchair.

She wasn't talking I was so scared that she maybe can't talk.

Me: Babe you will be fine okay.

Isipho: I just want my brother Thando.

Me: He will find us in the hospital.

Isipho: My daughter needs me Thando I can't be paralysed.

Zane: You won't be sthandwa sam.

God please forgive us for every single we have

committed I think we also deserve to be happy, I said a small prayer.

Sphe: We are here.

Sphe carried Isipho again inside the hospital and we followed behind them, we waited in the waiting room while the doctors were going in and out of Isipho's ward.

Mamzo: Let's pray.

We all held hands and Mamzo prayed because nothing came out of our mouths.

Sbani

We dropped Mpendulo off then drove around just clearing our heads.

Sims: I'm glad it's done.

TJ: Me too man.

Me: I wanted to laugh when taima talked about us doing a clean.

Sims: Hey that man knew we were guilty even though we didn't admit it.

TJ: He knew better than think we will just drop it.

I was talking and laughing because I was trying to distract myself I didn't want to think about Isipho because I don't know what I would do if she is sick but it can't be because she was fine she just looked tired.

Sims: You are thinking about Isipho aren't you?

Me: Ofcos man.

TJ: I'm sure it's nothing serious.

His phone beeped.

TJ: Drive to the hospital.

Me: Why? What's wrong?

TJ: I don't know I just got a message that we should drive there.

Sims: Sbani let me drive.

Me: Sure drive fast please.

I called taima and told him to go to the hospital with Cebo.

I really hope and pray my sister is okay because I don't have the energy to deal with any bad news right now, I prefer being the one who is sick than seeing her sick.

Sims: We are here.

I get out and run inside I find Sphe pacing up and down.

Me: What's going on Bafo?

Sphe: We are still waiting for the doctor.

Thando: Babe hey she will be fine.

Mamzo: Yeah she will be fine.

TJ: I thought you were going to see Shawn is he the one who referred you to the hospital?

They looked at each other.

Sims: Sooner or later we will know what's going on so just tell us.

Sane: Isipho can't walk.

I felt my heart feeling cold like it was exposed to the outside world and I held my chest.

Me: Can't walk as in she is paralysed.

Zane: She can't walk but we still don't know whether she is paralysed or not.

TJ: Okay where is this doctor kanti?

Sane: Babe calm down.

I could hear them speaking but I couldn't make sense of what they were saying because I was deep in my thoughts.

I felt someone patting my shoulder and it was Sphe his eyes shot red.

Sphe: Ogrend Bafo?

Me: Do you think she will never walk again.

Sphe: To be honest I'm not thinking anything right now my mind is just blank.

Me: Hayi I don't have the strength for all this Sphe.

Sphe: Me neither man.

Three doctors came out of Isipho's ward and they were all talking like they are discussing something serious. We got closer and asked what was going on.

Doctor: These are her tests results we checked multiple times but there is nothing wrong with her.

TJ: Does this mean she can walk now.

Doctor: Actually no and we don't know what's going on.

Me: Can we see her.

Doctor: Yes Ofcos.

We got inside and Isipho was facing the other side and I didn't want to see how hurt she is.

She looked at us with tears in her eyes.

Isipho: Bhuti.

Me: Oh Angel are you okay?

Isipho: I can't feel my legs did the doctor tell you what's wrong with me.

Me: No baby.

Isipho: Where is Cebo?

Me: Taima is going to come with her.

Isipho: Can you guys give us some space.

They nodded and left.

Isipho: What do you think is wrong with me?

Me: I don't know Isi but if odokotela ababoni lutho maybe I should look into it I will also call Luthando.

Isipho: What if I don't ever walk again?

Me: Hey hey look at me, you will walk again trust me.

Isipho: You don't know that Bhuti.

Me: Isipho this is no time to be negative please just be positive.

She nodded, I touched her legs.

Me: Does it hurt?

Isipho: No they are just numb.

Me: I don't know what this means Isipho I really don't.

Isipho: What if I'm cursed.

Me: No don't think like that you will be fine and I'm taking you home.

Isipho: You think that's wise.

Me: Yes Isi the doctors can't treat something they don't know so there is no use in keeping you here.

Isipho: What if someone we stay with did this.

Me: No it can't be, I will go talk to the doctor.

I left her I didn't want to think about what she said I trust everyone we stay with they will not do something like this but what if we are leaving with a snake and we don't know it.

I erased those thoughts and went to the doctor's office.

Me: Doc in taking her home.

Doctor: Is she your sister?

Me: Yes.

Doctor: I suggest you get her some traditional help.

Me: You think so.

Doctor: Yes please.

I was kind of shocked because he is white what does she know about tradition ayy abelungu.

I signed some papers and told everyone else that we were taking her home.

Sane: Do you think that's wise?

TJ: Yes we can't leave Isipho here.

I looked at Sane and thought about what Isipho said but no it can't be I'm sure I would have seen it or sensed it, if this is witchcraft or if someone I know did this then they will not live to tell the tales.

Insert forty five

It's been two days since we took Isipho from the hospital and she still can't walk we all don't know what the problem is, Sbani tried connecting with his ancestors but he got no response from them.

Speaking of Sbani this thing is weighing on him he has not left his sister's side he doesn't even want to

go to work, the environment in the house is really awkward sad to be precise we all don't know what's happening and we all don't know what to do.

I get up from bed and go to Isipho's room.

Me: Babe please go take a bath I will look after Isi.

Sbani: No I'm not going to leave her alone.

Me: Ngiyakucela sthandwa sam you need to freshen up and eat.

Isipho: Bhuti please go.

He nods and leave, Sphe has been spending a lot of time with Cebo because Isi doesn't want her to see her like this.

Me: How are you feeling?

Isipho: Tired.

Me: I'm sorry babe you will be okay don't worry.

Isipho: Will I be kodwa Thando?

Me: Trust me you will.

Isipho: I don't know this is just too much.

Me: I can't lie and say I know how you feel but it's going to get better.

Isipho: How will I be able to take care of Cebo while I can't even walk.

Me: That's why we are here Isi.

Isipho: I don't want you guys to raise my baby for me I want to do it myself.

Me: I know love I know.

I didn't know anything I just wanted her to feel better.

Isipho: Who could do this to me?

Me: I don't know but we will figure it out together as a family.

She nodded.

Me: I will get you some food okay.

Isipho: I'm not hungry.

Sphe: Don't worry Thando I already made her some food.

He said sitting down next to Thando.

Isipho: I'm not hungry and please take Cebo out of this room.

Sphe: Mamakhe Cebo needs you she doesn't understand what's going on, the only thing she needs is you to hold her she misses you.

Me: Sphe is right babe please.

Isipho: Okay fine.

Sphe: And you need to eat.

Isipho: But I'm not hungry.

Sphe: It's not negotiable I will feed you if I have to.

Isipho chuckled and I smiled it's the first I'm seeing her smile after everything.

Me: I will leave you to it then.

I left and went to look for Sbani, I found him in our room laying in bed and just staring to the ceiling.

Me: Hubby don't do this to yourself please.

Sbani: I'm useless Thando I can't even help my own sister.

Me: Don't say that you are not useless maybe you should call Luthando.

Sbani: You think I haven't done that already?

Me: What did she say?

Sbani: She said we should wait Isi is going to be fine when the time is right.

Me: Then let's wait sthandwa sam.

Sbani: No I don't want to wait it kills me to see my little sister like that.

Me: I know but she will be fine.

Sbani: It would be better if it was me who is in that state.

Me: Well I'm glad it's not.

I realized I shouldn't have said that gosh.

Sbani: Really Thando?

Me: Ummm...

Sbani: Save it.

Me: Where are you going?

Sbani: I need some air.

He said leaving me there ashamed of myself.

I went downstairs to check on everyone.

Me: Hey guys.

TJ: What happened because Sbani came down very pissed?

Me: We had a minor misunderstanding.

TJ: A minor huh?

I nodded.

Zane: How is Isipho?

Me: Same I feel very bad for her.

Sane: I hope Mamzo and Baba will find some help.

Me: Where did they go?

Zane: To see some traditional healer.

Me: Well I hope they find help because we need it.

Sims: Aren't you guys writing today?

Zane: No babe.

TJ: I will go talk to Sbani.

Sane: Do that please love he needs to eat.

Sims: I have never felt this helpless in my life.

Me: Let's all just have hope this too shall pass.

They nodded while TJ went outside.

Sbani

I don't know what to do or say when I see Isipho like this what could be the meaning of all this, they are telling the truth when they say "inyanga ayizilaphi" I don't see anything concerning Isipho no matter how much I try to consult. What Thando said really hurt me she's suppose to be my support system like I am when she's going through something but no she always finds something to do or say to piss me off.

I pray to God everyday to intervene in this situation but I'm not sure what to do and the way Isipho looks

at me it's like she expects me to have all the answers, I don't blame her though I mean I'm her older brother after all.

TJ: Bafo.

I wiped a tear that fell from my eye

TJ: Don't do this to yourself ngiyakcela.

Me: I feel so helpless.

TJ: That's how we all feel Bafo.

Me: What are we going to do?

TJ: Maybe we should go see Luthando.

Me: I called her and she said everything will be fine in due time.

TJ: What are we suppose to do now just wait, ay this is some fucked up shit.

Me: Hayi mina angazi TJ.

TJ: Did you and Thando fight?

Me: Kind off I just don't want to talk about it.

I don't want to tell anyone what Thando said

because they still don't trust her so I don't want to paint her as the bad person.

TJ: Okay fix it man I don't want you to stress too much you already have a lot on your mind.

Me: We will be fine don't worry.

TJ: Let's go inside so you can eat.

Me: I'm not...

TJ: Udakiwe let's go.

He didn't even let me finish he just dragged me inside.

Me: You are such an ass.

TJ: Sit down I will make you some food.

Me: I'm not a child.

Sims and got into the kitchen.

TJ: Can you all sit down I'm making some food.

Sphe: I'm not hungry.

TJ: It wasn't a question Sphehleh.

Sims: Yes daddy.

TJ: Fuck off.

We laughed.

Me: How is she?

Sphe: She is fine I guess, the girls are with her.

Me: That's better.

Sims: Do you guys think kunesandla semfene in all this.

Sphe: I don't think so I mean who could do something like this.

TJ: Are you sure you didn't cheat?

Me: He wouldn't.

Sphe: Ofcos not come on guys.

Sims: I don't know bafethu I really don't.

TJ made food and then we ate, I didn't realise I was hungry until now.

We spent our day just lazing around no one wanted to go to work so we just stayed in Isipho's room and I was happy to see her laughing and smiling.

Mbatha: We are home.

Me: So?

Mamzo: Afternoon to you too Sbani.

Me: Mama please.

Mbatha: We did not get any help sorry son.

Isipho: What did they say?

Mamzo: That we should wait.

Me: I don't understand? That's why Luthando said.

Mamzo: Then we should just wait.

Isipho: Till when?

We all looked at each other.

TJ: I think we should go fetch Mpendulo from school.

Mbatha: He is in the kitchen eating we fetched him.

Me: Okay what should we do now.

Thando: We should wait guys it's that simple.

Sane: Simple? Hayi Thando.

Guys I think I need another fiance please choose for

me.

They all looked at Thando and she looked down.

Mamzo: Let's all give Isi some space so that she can rest.

They left and I stayed behind I'm not comfortable to leaving her alone.

Isipho: You should also rest Bhuti.

Me: I can rest here with you and Cebo.

Isipho: I love you Bhuti.

I felt my heart beating fast, why is she saying it like it's for the last time.

Me: I love you too mtaka baba.

She was already snoring softly, I looked at her and also slept.

When I woke up it was already dark inside the room so I got up to turn on the light, I felt Isipho's pulse and felt relief because she was still alive. This may sound awkward but I'm scared I know my life can

never be the same without her.

I left her room and went to the lounge with Cebo because she was awake.

Mpendulo: Bhuti are you okay?

Me: I'm fine boyizin.

Mpendulo: Can I play with Cebo.

Me: Yes boy but go to the kitchen first and tell Zane to make her some food.

He ran to the kitchen.

Me: Where are the guys?

Mamzo: They went to get some meat and beers.

Me: Okay.

Mamzo: Have you tried to consult about this matter?

Me: Yes I have been trying to but nothing.

Mamzo: Don't beat yourself up boy it's not your fault.

Me: Even with Mpendulo in the house you still call us boys hayi Mamzo.

Mamzo: Mxm I'm going to the kitchen to help the

ladies out and please try to talk Thando her behaviour is not good.

Me: I have done that for a longest time Mamzo try to talk to her yourself maybe uzokmamela.

Mamzo: Okay I will talk to her.

She left and I was left alone, Mpendulo went to her room with Cebo.

The guys came back with meat and some beers, we all sat down and ate except for Isipho because she was still sleeping.

Mbatha: I think it's best if we all continue staying here together.

Us: Yes taima.

Mamzo: You all were going to agree with him anyway but I also agree with him we need each other more now more than ever.

Mpendulo: Can I take sis Isipho's food to her room.

Me: Yes boy but leave Cebo to her grandmother.

Mamzo looked at me and I laughed.

Me: Cebo misses you Mamzo.

Mamzo: Oh she said so?

Me: Ofcos.

We all laughed while Mpendulo went to the room.

TJ: This was nice thank you guys.

Mbatha: They should be thanking us for the meat hawu.

Sims: Yeah taima.

Sane: Thank you for the meat Baba.

Sphe: But taima didn't contribute anything.

The girls laughed while clearing the table, Mpendulo came down running.

Mamzo: I told you to stop running around the house ndoda you will fall.

Mpendulo: Sis Isipho can't talk.

Sphe: What do you mean can't talk?

Mpendulo: She she...

TJ: Boy calm down and talk.

Mpendulo: She kept on opening her mouth like she is talking but nothing came out.

We all ran upstairs pushing each other we all wanted to see ourselves what Mpendulo was talking about, what is the meaning of all this?

Insert forty six

Sbani

We all ran to Isipho's room I felt like I was unable to breathe like something was pressing so hard in my chest, all I heard was Mpendulo's voice saying Isi can't talk.

Me: Isipho...Angel please say something.

She was just looking at me with tears in her eyes and she kept on opening her mouth like she wanted to say something but there was no voice.

She pointed to her side drawer, Sphe opened and took out a diary and a pen.

"I don't know what happened but I lost my voice, please help me" that's what she wrote down and all of a sudden I felt hot and I was sweating, I looked around the room and everyone else was just crying.

I excused myself and went outside to get some air, I had taken off my t-shirt because I felt like the walls were closing in on me. What will I do to take my little sister out of this misery I know I have to do something because she is expecting me to do something since I'm her brother.

Thando: Babe are you okay?

I looked at her and kept quiet.

Thando: I know it's stupid of me to ask that question but I saw that you were sweating and you have taken off your t-shirt, are you okay?

Me: I'm not okay, I don't know how to help Isi and that makes me feel helpless.

Thando: I know baby.

She said giving me a warm hug a total opposite of what I expected from her.

Thando: Anything you need I'm here.

Me: Thank you.

TJ: Luthando called let's go.

Me: Where are we going?

They kept quiet and got into the car.

Me: Babe please take care of Isi we will be back.

I got into the car and Sims drove.

Me: Where are we going?

Sphe: Luthando said we should go and see Zakhele he has all the answers we need.

Me: Answers regarding what?

TJ: Isipho.

Me: What? But how?

Sphe: We don't know that's all she said.

Me: Could it be that Zakhele is family?

TJ: It could be I mean he looks a lot like Isipho.

Me: Ay I don't know I just pray that he help us.

Sims: I can't even look at Isipho this is just sad.

We all just decided to keep quiet and look outside the window just to avoid crying, we all wanted to cry and be vulnerable but we also wanted to be strong for each other and everyone else.

Sims: We are here let's go.

Me: Wait guys, what are we going to say to him.

Sphe: I don't know but maybe he knows something let's just go.

We went inside and asked for Zakhele he came quicker than we expected like he was expecting to see us.

Zakhele: Majita.

Us: Ogrend.

Zakhele: There's nothing great about this place but we are not complaining kuyancengeka.

Me: We need your help.

Zakhele: You need my help more often these days

what's up?

We kept quiet and looked at each other.

Zakhele: What? Is Mpendulo okay?

TJ: Mpendulo is fine, look man our little sister is sick and someone told us that you are the only one that can help us.

He laughed.

Zakhele: I'm not a sangoma, prophet or a doctor so I don't see how I can help you.

Sims: We also don't know.

I told him what happened to Isipho.

Zakhele: Who is your mother?

I told him about my mother.

Zakhele: It's her.

We looked at each other.

Sims: It's who?

Zakhele: She's been visiting me in my dreams she is my mother's twin sister, she visits me in my dreams

with my mother that's how I know it's her and because my mother used to tell me about her.

TJ: You are not making any sense who is your mother's sister.

Zakhele: Your mother.

Me: You mean my mother and your mother were twins?

I was beyond shocked, my mother never talked about her twin sister.

Zakhele: Come to think of it you do look like my mother but I thought I was just seeing things because I miss her.

Me: So my mother and your mother were twins how come we never saw nor heard about your mother?

Zakhele: I don't know maybe your mother didn't want to talk about her because it would be painful to do so since my mother left home.

He told us everything about his mother.

Sphe: So you knew that your mother had a twin?

Zakhele: Yes I did.

Sims: Why didn't you look for them.

Zakhele: It never really crossed my mind but let's focus on what you came here for, what do I need to do in order to help your sister?

Sphe: Sbani!

I jumped I was just thinking about all this, I wonder why my mother never mentioned her twin sister because the way Zakhele puts it seems like they were very close.

Me: Huh.

Sims: What are you thinking? How is Zakhele suppose to help Isi?

Me: I'm just thinking about everything, I don't know did my mother say something to you in your dreams?

Zakhele: She talked about going back to where they were born I don't remember it was just a lot.

TJ: Do you atleast know where your mother came from?

Zakhele: Yes from Richards bay, eskhawini.

Me: Do you think if we can ask them to release you for maybe two days so we can go with you they can agree?

He chuckled.

Zakhele: I'm in prison not some luxury hotel Bafo just take your sister home and do what you have to do.

Sphe: Thank you so much for your help so when we get to eskhawini what should we do?

Zakhele: Just ask for a Donda family with twins my mother used to say they were well known that side.

Me: I don't even know what to say thank you so much.

Zakhele: I'm glad I could help and I'm more grateful that finally I found my mother's family.

Sims: Are you crying now.

We all laughed.

Zakhele: Mxm hambani la(Leave this place).

He said laughing.

TJ: Dankie Bafo will see you when we get back.

We gave him some money and left.

Sims: I can't believe he is your cousin.

Me: Me too man I mean I don't remember my mother talking about having a twin sister.

Sphe: I guess like Zakhele said it was a painful past she never wanted to revisit.

TJ: I'm glad we finally have a solution to Isipho's problem I was starting to lose my mind.

Sphe: Don't even go there I was so afraid that maybe tomorrow she would have lost her hearing.

Sims: We all almost lost our minds, I just felt like a failure because Isipho expected us to have answers.

Me: I don't think I ever want to see something like that ever again.

My phone rings and it's Luthando.

Me: Helo.

Luthando: Drive to Richards bay now you will meet me there.

Me: Wait how do you know that we have to go to Richards bay.

Luthando: As soon as Zakhele told you everything, it also unfolded to me.

Me: Okay see you then.

Sphe: Was that Luthando?

Me: Yeah she is saying we should drive to Richards bay we will meet her there.

Sims: Okay let me drive fast.

He drove fast till we got to the house.

Mamzo: And? Did you get any help?

TJ: Everyone pack we are driving to Richards bay.

Zane: Me and Thando are writing tomorrow I think you guys should go because Sane is pregnant she can't go.

Mamzo: Me and Baba will also go with you so I can take care of Isi.

Sims: Ladies can you pack for us.

Sane: How many clothes should we pack.

Me: Please just pack because we don't know when we will come back.

They went upstairs.

Me: Mama did you know that my mother had a twin sister?

Mamzo: No she had a twin?

Me: Yes and her twin was Mpendulo's mother.

Mamzo: What?

Me: Yes so we have to go to their home in Richards bay.

Mamzo: Yes I know your mother's home I have been there.

Sphe: That's good so we won't be lost.

Mamzo: It was a long time ago but maybe I still remember let me go pack we will talk on the way.

Sims: Are we leaving Mpendulo with the ladies.

TJ: I think we should take him with us since he has never been home.

Mbatha: That's a good idea TJ.

He said coming from outside.

Sphe: Okay let me go check on Isi and help her prepare.

Me: I will help you out.

We followed each other to their room, we helped Isi with her bath and everything else. We decided we would leave Cebo behind since we would driving a long distance.

Isipho asked me where we were taking her and I told her to get some help, I don't want to overwhelm her with all this information especially since she can't talk.

We said our goodbyes and drove to Richards bay I have never been there before but I hear that it's quite a long drive.

Mpendulo: Sis Isipho will talk when we come back?

Me: Yes she will boy.

Mpendulo: That's good so that you will stop being sad.

I laughed.

Me: I wasn't sad Mpendulo.

Mpendulo: You even lost weight.

Mbatha: I thought I was the only one who noticed kanti uyabona nawe boy.

They all laughed.

Me: Please leave me alone.

Sphe: Mpendulo are you not writing tomorrow?

Mpendulo: No Bhuti we are done writing final exams now.

Me: Really?

Mpendulo: Yes.

Mbatha: Are you going to pass?

Mpendulo: Obviously kanti what's my name.

We all laughed it's great seeing him so free and happy, we took turns in driving some fell asleep on

the way.

When we were in town we called Luthando because Mamzo couldn't remember.

She gave us directions and it was a fifteen minutes drive from town, we parked outside a very big yard.

Luthando: Took you long enough.

Me: This place is far and hello to you too.

She laughed gosh I can never get over how beautiful she is.

Luthando: I know you all are not well so there's no need to ask.

Mamzo: Luthando baby.

Luthando: Mama I'm sorry we meet under these conditions.

Mamzo: That's how life is my baby but we hope all will be well now that we are here.

Luthando: Surely it will be please drive the car inside.

Sims drove the car inside and we followed after him.

Luthando: This is where your mother was born.

Me: It looks like there's someone who is staying here.

Luthando: Yes your grandfather is still alive.

Me: No you are not serious.

I don't know whether I was excited or what but my heart was beating fast and I felt a tear streaming down my face.

TJ: What should we do now, knock?

Luthando: No he knows that we are here let's wait.

We all waited for a while and after some time the door opened and an old man came out of the house, he is those type of man that people say they age like fine wine I think he is suppose to be older than this.

Sphe: Isn't he suppose to be old?

Me: My thought exactly.

Luthando: Thulani (keep quiet).

Donda: I have been waiting for this day all my life

welcome home my children.

Luthando: Thank you baba.

Donda: Come inside.

Me: Should we carry Isi inside too.

Donda: There's no need to carry her she can walk now.

He said going to the car.

Donda: Come my child.

Isipho got up hesitating and got out of the car, we all made noise when we saw that she was now able to walk.

Isipho

I looked at this man and hesitated to take the first step but when I put my feet down they were able to carry me inside the house, I can't even describe how I have been feeling these past few days being unable to walk when you were walking just fine is the worst

thing that I ever experienced. When I lost my voice this morning I was convinced that maybe I was going to die or be like this for the rest of my life.

We get inside the house and I see my mother's photo on the wall with someone else who looks exactly like her, instead of sitting down I go and stand next to the photos and look at them.

Donda: That's your mother and her twin sister.

I open my mouth afraid that my voice will not come out.

Me: My mother had a twin sister?

I ask and to my surprise my voice is back, I feel tears and I let them stream down.

Before he can answer Mpendulo get up and point to the other person who is my mother's twin.

Mpendulo: That's my mother.

I look at everyone shocked but they all seem like they understand what is going on.

Donda: You can all just sit down.

We sit down and wait I don't know for what? Maybe an explanation.

Sbani: So mkhulu the only thing that Isi needed to do was to come here.

Donda: Yes just to put her feet to this yard.

Me: I have so many questions but I don't know I'm still shocked and happy that I'm back to myself again.

Mamzo: It's been long mkhulu.

Donda: I still remember you, you used to come here a lot with my daughter.

Mamzo: Yes but she never told me she had a twin.

Donda: She was so hurt and heart broken, she didn't like talking about her sister.

Mamzo: I understand.

I'm just looking at this man, he looks a lot like me which means he looks like my mother because that's the person I took after. Sbani is my father's duplicate but he does look like Mpendulo a bit.

Luthando: I'm glad you all got to meet each other but there are things we need to do now because I still have to drive back home.

Donda: I know I already prepared everything.

Luthando: You know he took after you and his parents.

She said pointing at Sbani.

Donda: Really? Did he accept it because you will never know with this generation.

Sbani: You are talking about me like I'm not here.

Donda: About you not to you there's a difference.

We all laughed.

Luthando did everything he had to do and when he left I was totally fine, I didn't think that I had to do something this easy in order to be my normal self again.

Mkhulu told us everything about our mothers and we got to understand a lot of things that we didn't know

and Mpendulo got to know that we are his family by blood. We were sad that we didn't meet our grandmother but we were glad that at least one of them is still alive.

I went outside to get some air and Sbani followed me.

Sbani: How are you feeling?

Me: At peace.

Sbani: This place is peaceful.

Me: I can't believe I was unable to talk and walk.

Sbani: That was just temporary Angel.

Me: I know how are you feeling about all this?

Sbani: I'm happy that you are normal again.

Me: That's not what I mean.

Sbani: I'm happy that we found my mother's family I always wanted to meet them but I don't get why our mother never told us about her twin.

Me: I guess she really never wanted to talk about her.

Sbani: Yeah I guess.

Me: And you should shave and eat more Bhuti.

We laughed.

Sbani: Do I look that bad?

Me: Really bad but Sphe is worse.

Sbani: You being sick was killing me I'm happy really happy that you are fine now.

Me: I'm also happy Bhuti, I can't believe Mpendulo is family.

Sbani: But the way I felt connected to him I knew there was something about him but I didn't know what it was.

Me: And he does look like you.

Sbani: And you look exactly like your grandfather.

Me: Atleast he is handsome.

Sbani: Yeah right uyaziduduza.

He laughed.

Me: Mxm let's get back inside.

We went back inside and everyone was happy, they were chatting and laughing. Mkhulu said he will slaughter sheep's for us tomorrow so we will stay here for maybe two or three days I don't know. I don't believe I thought someone might have done this to me I may not say who I thought it was but God please forgive me for even having those thoughts.

Insert forty seven

We all woke up happy and excited because last night we got a call that Isipho is well again, we thank God for all this. I can't help myself but wonder if it won't happen to me I mean it's been long since I went home, it used to be a home but now there is no one maybe I should go there and just visit my parents graves. There are so many reasons that make me fear going back there, the memories are just bad but since I decided to start afresh and leave the past behind I should go there sometimes.

Me and Zane are writing our final paper today and

it's only few weeks to Christmas Eve, I wake up and do my daily routine after that I go downstairs.

Me: Morning mommy.

Sane: Hey babe.

Me: You should rest Sane.

Sane: I'm tired of sleeping Thando I just want some fresh air.

Zane: We can go out this evening.

Me: Morning to you too friend.

We laugh.

Zane: Haisuka we slept together mos.

Sane: Different rooms.

She said emphasising different.

Zane: Yeah yeah whatever so?

Me: What about Cebo?

Zane: We can leave her with our neighbor.

Sane: Hay guys what if something happens, you all know there's never peace in this house.

Me: Or maybe we should book a weekend away and take Cebo with us.

Zane: That's also a good idea what do you say mama bear.

Sane: As long as I'm out of this house.

Me: You can do all the bookings while we go write.

Sane: Okay no problem, good luck bo love.

Us: Thank you mommy.

We said our goodbyes and left.

Zane: I'm so happy Isi is finally okay.

Me: Makes the two of us.

Zane: And I hope this was the last time we go through pain I'm tired I just want all of us to be happy.

Me: Nam babe let's hope we will never face something like this ever again.

Zane: I think we should plan something nice this coming Christmas just to cheer everyone up.

Me: Great idea let's grab some breakfast.

We passed by the cafeteria and got some sandwiches and then sat down and ate.

Zane: I wonder how it's like in Richards bay? You know sometimes I miss home, it's unlike here it's just peaceful.

Me: I think it's easy to miss home when you never grew up like I did.

Zane: But I'm sure there are good memories there.

Me: Yes there are friend but I was still young it would have been better if I was old enough to understand everything.

Zane: I feel you but all I can is that you are at a better place now you should make it count, all the memories you wish you should have had with your parents make them with us because we are all you have got now.

Me: Ahh you want me to cry now, that's exactly what I want to do but most importantly I want to treat Sbani with respect and show him how much I value

him because to be honest I have been an ass.

Zane: Me and Sims have our up and downs but I appreciate him with my soul because he brought back my worth and rebuild my broken heart.

Me: Yeah friend let's go and write.

Zane: Let's go.

We went inside our venue and sat down.

Zane: Good luck friend.

Me: Good luck mngani.

We said down and faced the front waiting for our papers, when they arrived we all concentrated and started writing.

After three whole hours we were done writing and I was damn tired I swear I wanted to cry.

Zane: That was hell of a paper.

Me: I don't even want to talk about it friend.

Zane: All I need is some good wine.

Me: We should pass by the mall, can you please drive.

Zane: Ngaze ngahlukumezeka.

I laughed, my phone rings.

Me: Babe.

Sbani: Thandolwam.

I don't want to talk about the way I blushed.

Sbani: Stop blushing.

He said laughing.

Me: I'm not blushing.

Sbani: Unjani sthandwa sam (How are you).

Me: I'm okay Khoza you?

Sbani: I'm fine just that I miss you.

Me: Ngikukhumbule nami hubby(I miss you too).

Sbani: How was your paper?

Me: Hard but we were able to write.

Sbani: Okay babe where are you now?

Me: We are going to pass by the mall with Zane.

Sbani: Okay don't buy alcohol lapho.

I laughed.

Sbani: Put me on loud speaker.

Me: Done.

Sbani: Muntu kaSims.

Zane: Skeem ogrend?

Sbani: Good and yourself?

Zane: I'm good just tired the paper was kind of hard.

Sbani: I know you both did well.

Zane: Hopefully.

Sbani: Okay bye guys, babe I love you.

Me: I love you too Khoza.

Zane: Can you please tell Sims that Thando is making me drive.

Me: Babe I'm not.

We all laughed.

Sims: Wena Thando sizoxabana.

Me: I'm not I swear.

Zane: Sthandwa sam I miss you.

Sims: Miss you more MaMbatha.

Sbani: Hay hay airtime yam.

Sims: You are being jealous now, bye babe I love you.

Zane: Love you too bye.

Sbani dropped the call and me and Zane were still just smiling.

Me: Okay let's stop now it's like we are crazy.

Zane: I can't stop myself I'm in love with my man.

Me: Siyajola (we are dating).

Us: Yes siyajola.

We peeped through the windows and shouted "Siyajola" people beeped their hooters and we laughed. It feels a whole lot better when things are going great between me and Sbani, from now on I will make sure that I avoid anything that will make

us fight.

Sbani

If I didn't leave Thando behind I would say I don't miss Durban but because I left her behind I miss her and the ladies, this place is great it's just peaceful.

Sphe: I think we should spend Christmas this side.

Sims: My thought exactly.

TJ: We should tell the ladies to come this side when they are done with everything.

Me: That's a good idea bafethu.

Donda: Madoda.

Us: Mkhulu.

Donda: You should take a walk and look around maybe you will catch some fish.

We all looked at him and laughed he just sounded so much like Khoza.

Sphe: We should.

Me: You wouldn't dare.

Mkhulu: Why not.

TJ: Because he is the father of Isipho's baby daughter.

Mkhulu: Which Isipho? My Isipho?

Sims: Yes mkhulu deal with him.

Sphe: You guys are such traitors.

Mkhulu: You guys can go I need to talk to Sphe.

We all laughed while Sphe looked scared.

Sphe: But mkhulu they also left their partners in Durban.

Mkhulu: Do you all stay with your partner's.

Us: No.

Mamzo: Yes mkhulu.

Us: Mamzo.

Mamzo: I tried separating them but they attacked me.

Mkhulu: Attacked you as in hit you.

Mamzo: Something like that.

We were so shocked but we just laughed.

Sims: Abafazi.

Mkhulu: What did you say?

Sims: Nothing mkhulu.

Mamzo had returned to the kitchen leaving us with this man.

Me: But for real mkhulu woman are a piece of work.

Mkhulu: My woman was the best.

He started telling us about stories of the good old days.

Isipho

I stood by the door and watched them as they laughed and listened to mkhulu's stories, everyone was just at peace. I took my phone and called

Thando I wanted to check on them and my daughter.

Thando: Isi babe.

Me: You are guys are drinking without me.

Thando: We are not drinking.

Me: I know you babe, how are you guys doing?

Thando: We are good how are you?

Me: I'm great.

Thando: That's good we are happy you are well babe.

Me: Thank you how is my baby doing?

Thando: Good she is playing with Sane since she is not drinking.

Me: I'm sure she only misses her dad that one doesn't even love me.

Thando: You can say that again Cebo is his father's princess.

Me: I know how did you guys write?

Thando: We tried babe.

Me: That's great enjoy then, kiss my baby for me.

Thando: Will do bye love you.

Me: Love you too bye.

Sphe: Love you too?

I laughed.

Me: That was Thando.

Sphe: Really now?

He said coming closer.

Me: Yes babe I was just checking up on them and Cebo.

Sphe: I miss her so much.

Me: I'm sure she misses you too.

Sphe: I know she does but I miss you too.

Me: I'm right here nje sthandwa sam.

Sphe: You have no idea how much I'm happy that you are okay now I was so worried Isi.

Me: I know but I'm okay now.

Sphe: I'm glad.

He said holding my waist.

Me: Stop Baba kaCebo mkhulu will kill you.

He didn't stop but he kissed me, he put me on top of the table and I broke the kiss.

Sphe: Damn.

Me: This is not Durban babe.

Sphe: I miss you.

Me: I miss you too but we should wait.

Sphe: Okay then.

Mbatha: Kwenzakalani la(What's going on here).

I jumped off the table and stood behind Sphe.

Sphe: We were just talking taima.

Mbatha: Talking huh?

We laughed.

Me: Yes baba talking.

Mbatha: Oho.

I left them there and bumped into my brother.

Me: Big bro.

Sbani: Lil sis.

I love the way his eyes light up when he sees me.

Me: I miss you.

Sbani: Hay I'm not your boyfriend Isipho.

I laughed.

Me: Haibo Bhuti.

Sbani: How do you feel since you arrived here?

Me: At peace and happy.

Sbani: I'm happy if you are.

Me: But I'm worried about Mpendulo he seems distant have you talked to him.

Sbani: No but I will have a chat with him don't worry.

Me: Please do Bhuti.

Sbani: We were thinking of spending Christmas this side.

Me: Have you talked to the girls?

Sbani: No we will go to Durban then talk to them.

Me: Okay no problem I will go with you guys.

Sbani: Okay maybe tomorrow or Sunday.

Me: I love you and thank you for being the best brother in the world.

Sbani: What do you want?

We both laughed.

Me: Can't I just appreciate my brother.

Sbani: I know you.

Me: Well I...

Sbani: Whatever it is just ask Sphe angithi unendoda wena.

He said leaving me there.

Me: Bhuti.

I said shouting at him but he was already gone, I went outside to Bhuti Sims and TJ.

Me: My lovely brothers.

Them: No.

I laughed.

Me: Haw guys.

TJ: Asimali Isi (We don't have money).

Me: Who said I need money.

Sims: So what do you want?

Me: Well I need...

Sims: No don't say it forget I asked.

We laughed.

Me: You guys don't love me anymore.

They got up and walked to the house.

Me: Hawu.

Them: We love you too.

I looked at them as they walked to the house and I looked up and thanked God for my family.

Me: I pray for peace and happiness amongst us.

I said as I walked back to the house smiling.

Insert forty eight

Sbani

The next day I woke up before everyone else and decided to take a walk around the place just to admire where my mother grew up, this place is peaceful I think I really like it here maybe one day when I'm older and retired I will build my own house here. It's like being here filled out a missing piece in my heart I guess it's because I never knew my mother's family.

I walk around till I notice a big rock facing a beautiful mountain, I walk towards it and decide to sit down and just admire the place.

Voice: It's beautiful isn't it?

I look around to see the person who is talking but I see no one, I ignore the voice and continue looking around.

Voice: Kuhle impela uyabona?(it's really beautiful, do you see?).

I look behind me and I see my mother with someone I assume is her twin sister.

Me: Mama.

Voice: I'm glad you finally came here.

Me: Why didn't you tell us?

Voice: That's not important Sbani.

Me: But...

She laughs and I feel my eyes watering.

Voice: Still stubborn just like your father I see.

Me: Is that her?

Voice: Yes it's her thank you for coming here, I'm now complete because she is here with me.

Me: I don't know what to say.

Voice: You don't have to say anything, now go live your life and make yourself happy stop worrying about everyone else.

Me: I miss you and Baba.

Voice: I know you do boy but we will always be with

you,all of you.

I just keep quiet and look at her my mother still looks beautiful more beautiful even in her spirit.

Voice: Thank you for taking care of Mpendulo.

Her sister says.

Me: He is my brother it's my job.

Voice: And don't worry about Zakhele he will be out soon.

Me: What do you mean?

She waves her hand and disappears.

Voice: Keep well my baby remember we are always with you.

Me: Mama.

She also disappears, I sigh and wipe my tears.

I feel someone tapping my shoulder and I jump.

Donda: Sbani.

Me: Mkhulu it's you.

Donda: She was here wasn't she?

Me: Yes how do you know?

Donda: This was her favourite rock, she used to say it brought her peace.

Me: You know sometimes I wonder how life would have been if they were still alive.

Donda: They are at a better place it was all God's plan.

Me: I guess so.

Donda: You don't have to carry everyone's problem in your shoulders I'm here now even though I may die soon because I'm old.

Me: Don't say that we still need you.

Donda: I'm happy you all came here I have waited for too long.

Me: I'm also glad we came while you are still alive.

Donda: Focus on yourself from now on, Mbatha seems like a good man and I know Mamzo is a good woman let us all take care of you.

Me: I will try.

Donda: Don't try and ngifuna umakoti mina.

I laugh.

Me: Well usekhona I'm getting married next year.

Donda: That's good, she was such a kind hearted woman.

Me: Who? My mother?

Donda: Yes her and her sister were inseparable.

Me: Did she give you any trouble?

He laughs and smile like he is remembering it all.

Donda: Ofcos especially when she met your father, I admired your father because he loved your mother dearly and I see you look a lot like him.

Me: I hope I'm as good as him.

Donda: I know you are now let's go back home.

Me: How did you even know I was here?

Donda: I have my ways.

We both laughed.

Me: We decided to spend Christmas this side.

Donda: Ngempela (Really?)

Me: Yes we can't leave you here alone.

Donda: Who said I was going to be alone.

Me: Don't tell me uyajola.

Donda: Why not I mean look at me.

I laugh out loud and look at him, he looks damn serious.

Me: Haibo you are what? 80?

Donda: I'm 75 I'm not that old.

Me: You are not that old? Come on mkhulu.

We get inside the yard and everyone is awake.

Donda: It's not that bad, right?

Me: Bad? It's the worst thing I ever heard.

We both laugh.

TJ: Share the joke please.

Me: Mkhulu here has a girlfriend.

The guys look at him so he can answer for himself.

Mkhulu: What? Lisasebenza phela.

We burst out in laughter and he goes inside.

Sims: I can't believe this.

Me: Guys I also thought he was joking but now I believe him.

Sphe: He is aging fine though I mean he still looks good.

We look at him.

Sphe: What?

TJ: You say it like you want him for yourself now.

Sphe picks up a stone and throw it at TJ.

Sphe: Fuck off.

He picks more stones and throw them at all of us.

Sims: What did we do?

We play that game till Mamzo calls us to have breakfast.

We sit around the table and Sims start eating.

Mbatha: Sims say grace.

We want to laugh at him but we know we will be in deep trouble.

Sims: Uhmm I already prayed by heart.

We just laugh.

Mbatha: Awufuni Sims?

He asks pretending to get up.

Sims: Okay taima sit down.

We are over thirty years but this man still want to whoop our ass.

Sims: God bless our food and the hands who prepared them amen.

Us: Amen.

When we are about to eat mkhulu interrupts us.

Mkhulu: Haibo, Sims is that all you can say?

We all look at him, is he serious now I mean we are all hungry.

Mamzo: I was about to ask that.

Sims gives her an eye.

Sims: But...

Mkhulu: I'm joking you can all eat.

Us: Yoh.

We all laugh and continue eating, I look at Mpendulo and he is just playing with his food. I don't know whether he is not happy to be here or maybe he is not feeling well, I make a mental note to talk with him after breakfast.

Mamzo: So have you decided on when you will return to Durban?

Me: Are you not going?

Mamzo: No I mean Christmas is already around the corner.

Mbatha: I guess everyone likes it here.

Isipho: You can say that again Baba.

TJ: I was thinking we drive back later today.

Mamzo: That's fine by me.

We finish eating and we collect the dishes and wash them after that I decide to go and talk to Mpendulo.

I walk outside and he is sitting under a tree.

Me: Mjita.

Mpendulo: Bhuti.

Me: Are you okay?

Mpendulo: I'm fine.

Me: You can atleast say it like you mean it Mpendulo, I know you are not okay what's up?

Mpendulo: I miss my brother.

Me: Sorry boy I know you do but that's not all, angithi?

Mpendulo: I have been having nightmares about what happened.

Me: When did they start?

Mpendulo: A few weeks back.

Me: Few weeks Mpendulo and you kept quiet.

Mpendulo: I'm sorry I just didn't want to worry

anyone.

Me: I'm just anyone boy I'm your brother and I meant it when I said I will always be here for you.

Mpendulo: I know.

Me: You will be fine okay? next year you will attend therapy sessions.

Mpendulo: Will that help.

Me: Yes it will but for now I will be your therapist you can tell me anything.

Mpendulo: Okay, did you know that my mother and your mother were twins?

Me: No I didn't.

Mpendulo: I miss her sometimes.

Me: She is here you know.

He looked around and I laughed.

Me: Not in person phela Mpendulo but in spirit.

Mpendulo: I don't understand but okay.

Me: One day you will.

Mpendulo: I want to go now so we can fetch my report.

Me: Are you excited?

Mpendulo: Scared a bit but I'm excited.

Me: I know you passed.

Mpendulo: Okay teacher wam.

He says and run to the house.

Me: I will get you uzobona.

He sticks his tongue out and I laugh, I'm happy when he is happy in fact when everyone is happy.

I think mama and mkhulu were right I need to focus on myself and planning my wedding with Thando now, and speaking of Thando I think I need to get her pregnant now don't look at me like that I'm not getting any younger.

Thando

Me and Zane slept late yesterday since we were drinking celebrating God knows what, Sane took Cebo and they went to bed early she can't wait to give birth again so she can be able to drink again.

So today we are going on a weekend away just the three of us, I drag myself to the bathroom and take a shower after I'm done I go downstairs.

Me: You are already dressed?

Sane: I told you guys that I need to get out of this house, it's been long since I went out.

Me: Headache is killing me.

Sane: Drink that.

Me: Oh gosh I know it tastes terrible.

Sane: But it will help you with your hangover.

Me: Thanks babe.

Zane: Morning ladies.

Sane: Hey babe.

Zane: Can we go already.

Me: Zane udlale ngam izolo it's like you didn't drink.

Zane: I know how to handle my alcohol honey.

Me: Mxm whatever let me go get dressed.

I left them there and went to change and pack a few clothes.

Sane: Let me get Cebo so we can go.

We decided to take a drive to Mpumalanga and spend our weekend there, when we got there me and Zane were so tired from driving. We drove from the till we got here late.

Zane: Next time we will fly.

Sane: True I wasn't driving but I wanted to cry from sitting in the car for that long.

We got inside our logde and settled down.

Me: Mpumalanga is beautiful guys.

Zane: Very I love it here.

Sane: Let's rest so we can go eat at a restaurant I booked.

Me: That's a surprise.

Sane: Yes it is.

We rested I'm sure Cebo was so tired but she doesn't understand anything she is just happy.

I wake up to my phone ringing and it's Sbani oh my God we didn't even tell them we were coming here.

Sbani: Sthandwa sam did I wake you?

Me: Yes I was just resting.

Sbani: Sorry babe, nikuphi (where are you?)

Me: Uhmm home why?

Sbani: Because we are here please open the door we forgot our keys.

Hawemah.

Me: Uhmm.

Sbani: Thando.

Me: We are not home.

Sbani: Where are you? I mean it's late now.

Me: Babe we went to Mpumalanga.

Sbani: What?

Me: We decided to take a weekend away.

Sbani: Natshela bani Thando (who did you tell).

Me: Uhmm no one.

Sbani: Thandolwethu you are not serious right?

Me: Hubby I am we didn't know you were all coming back today.

Sbani: Why didn't you guys call?

Me: Uhmm.

Sbani: Talk.

Me: Sorry babe.

Sbani: Where is Cebo?

Me: Here with us.

Sbani: Okay.

He says and drop the call, I get up and I bump into Zane and following each other to my room.

Sane: Did Sbani call you?

Me: Yes.

Zane: Sims also called.

Sane: We are in deep shit.

Zane: We should have told them.

Sane: The worst part they don't even have the key to the house.

We look at each other and laugh.

Me: They will murder us I'm telling you.

Zane: Well let's go eat khona singezofa silambile.

We laugh.

Sane: Yazi this is not a joke.

We take Cebo and follow each other to the restaurant, I can't believe we left Durban and drove all the way to Mpumalanga without telling anyone what if something happened to us. I just hope the guys calm down and sleep in the car, I laugh to myself I actually find that funny but I know it won't be when we get back home.

Insert forty nine

We went to the restaurant and ordered our dinner, I'm a bit scared I know the guys can be a bit dramatic but they should have atleast told us that they were coming back. We will be in more trouble because we traveled all this way with Cebo, I'm sure Isipho is breathing fire wherever she is.

Zane: I can't even enjoy myself now I know they should have told us but we should have done the same worse we traveled this far with a little baby.

Sane: And a heavy pregnant lady.

We both looked at her.

Me: It was your Idea though.

Sane: I will just cry and say my emotions were all over the place.

She said laughing.

Zane: Yazi it's not funny.

Me: We are on our own Zane.

Sane: You guys just tell them that I cried and said I want to come here.

Zane: As if that will work you know those men with their stubbornness.

Me: But we will try, here is our food let's eat.

We ate while having some good wine and good conversation, it felt good to just chill alone the only person who was missing was Isipho.

Sane: This is great though we should do it more often and involve the guys ofcos.

Me: Yes that's true.

Zane: I think we should head back to the lodge, Cebo needs to rest.

Sane: Yeah I'm also tired let's roll.

We settled our bill and went back to the lodge we were all just tired so everyone went to their room because we had different rooms, I got into the shower and then got into bed in Sbani's t-shirt.

I'm a heavy sleeper I know but I felt some shuffling around the room but I ignored it because I was tired,

but I felt someone sitting on my bed and jumped.

I screamed and ran to the door but the key was not there.

I tried reaching out to the light and lit it on, only to find Sbani laughing on my bed.

Me: Sbani what the hell?

He couldn't stop laughing and I just cried, my heart rate just escalated I was so scared thinking maybe people broke into this place.

He looked at me and saw that I was crying.

Sbani: Babe are you crying?

Me: You almost gave me a heart attack and you think it's funny.

Sbani: Ngiyaxolisa sthandwa sam.

Me: Mxm.

Sbani: Angizwanga?

I looked away.

Me: Nothing.

I said going back to bed.

Sbani: Babe come on I'm sorry okay I didn't mean to scare you it's just that I didn't want to wake you up since you were sleeping.

Me: Okay.

I said facing the other side I can't lie I missed him but he scared me and I'm angry at him, how did he even get here.

Sbani: Babe come on.

I ignored him and tried sleeping, I heard him sigh and getting into bed.

I woke up the next morning and he was still sleeping, I looked for the key and opened the door only to find Zane and Sane standing in the passage.

Me: Morning.

Zane: Is he also here?

Me: Who?

Sane: Sbani?

Me: Yes wait, are they also here?

Them: Yes.

Me: That's why you guys didn't hear me when I was screaming yesterday.

Zane: Why were you screaming?

Me: Sbani scared me, I was sleeping and I felt him sitting on my bed and jumped.

Sane: Sorry babe lucky for me Cebo kept me awake.

Zane: How did they even know we were here?

Me: Sane's man ofcos.

Sane: That one is a problem nekhanda elikhulu.

We laughed.

Me: Atleast they are not angry.

Zane: Ofcos they are not angry I mean me and Sims did some things yesterday.

Me: I just slept I was so pissed.

Sane: Sorry babe remember if they shout it was my idea.

Zane: Noted because you can never know with them, maybe they are still going to lash out at us.

Me: Is Isi not angry?

Sane: I don't know I guess we will find out when they wake up.

We all went back to our rooms to freshen up, Sbani was still sleeping so I went to take a shower when I came back he was awake.

Sbani: Morning.

Me: Morning.

I dropped my towel and saw him swallowing hard and I laughed on the inside I just enjoyed seeing him suffer.

Sbani: Uhmm I'm going to...to take a shower.

He said literally running to the bathroom, I just laughed and continued with what I was doing.

When I was done I went outside bumping into TJ.

TJ: Thando.

Me: Hey.

TJ: You good?

Me: Great how are you?

TJ: Great, where is Sbani?

Me: Taking a shower.

TJ: Oh excuse me I need to talk to him.

I nodded.

I went to the kitchen and found the ladies there, it was a self catering accommodation so we will eat out or cook for ourselves.

Me: Isi hey.

Isipho: Hey babe.

Me: Look I'm sorry we didn't tell you.

Isipho: It's fine the ladies already apologised but I'm angry you guys left without me.

Me: Sorry babe it's just that you were not there.

Isipho: I understand it's okay.

Me: So you are not angry?

Isipho: Ofcos not.

Zane: So Isi are they guys angry?

Isipho: I don't know but I don't think so.

Sane: You guys got here early, did you drive?

Isipho: No we booked flights.

Me: I was still asking myself how you got here that fast.

Isipho: Thanks to TJ.

Sane: That one is a crook I'm telling you guys.

TJ: Who is a crook?

Us: No one.

Sphe: Seniyi choir manje?

Zane: Are you guys hungry?

She asked quickly changing the subject and they looked at each other and chuckled.

Sbani: We already ordered breakfast so you can just relax.

We looked at each other, they are calm and it's not like them.

Sane: Uhmm listen guys we are sorry we didn't tell you we were coming here.

Sphe: Oh no it's fine we also should have told you guys that we were coming back.

No something is not right, they are letting this go just like that.

Sbani: And sorry I scared you sthandwa sam I just didn't want to disturb you since you were tired from driving, you guys drove right?

Sane: Uhmm yes.

Sims: Were you guys not scared?

Me: No.

TJ: So you all drove from Durban to Mpumalanga with a baby and a pregnant woman?

Zane: Uhmm yes.

Sphe: Oh didn't you think it was risky?

We looked at each other, the questions were getting hot and they were calm.

Isipho: Did you guys hear that? I think they are

delivering our food.

Sane: Yeah ladies let's go.

Sims: Go where? To the door all of you?

Me: I remember I wanted to check something in my room.

Sane: I wanted to check on Cebo.

Zane: I will help Isi with the food.

We all went our separate ways and they laughed.

I got into my room and went to the bathroom to pee when I came back Sbani was sitting on the bed.

Me: One of these days you will give me a heart attack.

Sbani: Sorry babe I didn't mean to scare you again.

Me: No it's fine.

Sbani: So you forgive me.

Me: Ofcos I do.

Sbani: Thank you, come here.

I sat on his lap and kissed him.

Me: So babe why are you all calm I thought you were going to be angry that we left without telling you.

Sbani: Us? Angry no way we understand.

They are up to something I know, we can bet on that.

Me: Okay.

Sbani: I missed you.

He said kissing me hungrily and I responded, it started heating up so he put his finger inside me and started pumping in and out. He put two fingers and I went crazy I felt myself building up but when I was about to cum he stopped.

Me: What?

I shouted frustrated.

Sbani: Remember when you said "Mxm" to me yesterday.

Me: Babe please.

He looked at me with a smug on his face and licked his two fingers.

Sbani: Let's go eat sthandwa sam.

Me: Babe please I'm sorry okay can you atleast finish what you started.

Sbani: I'm hungry nje love so my performance will be very bad.

He kissed my forehead and left me there to service myself, I need another man guys and definitely not a Zulu man. I went to the bathroom to wipe myself and wash my hands then went back to the others.

Isipho: We almost finished eating without you.

Mpendulo: Are you okay sis Thando?

Me: Yes I'm okay boy.

Sbani: Are you sure you okay babe?

I gave him a death stare and he smiled, ngaze ngahlukumezeka.

We all ate and when we were done the guys decided to go get some clothes since they didn't bring any, I don't even know why they left their clothes in Richards bay.

Sane: Do you guys think they are being sincere.

Zane: I don't trust them.

Isipho: I also think they are up to something.

Me: You can say that again they are acting strange and Sbani just deprived me an orgasm just because I said Mxm yesterday.

They laughed.

Zane: Friend so what did you do?

Me: I used my hands haw.

Isipho: So that's why you were in the room for that long.

Me: Yes babe.

We continued talking waiting for them to come back.

Sbani

Mpumalanga is beautiful though, especially at night I don't know why but I loved it more yesterday when we got here because it was already late, It was just

beautiful.

Sphe: So what's the plan?

TJ: I think we should just let them enjoy being here we will get them when we get to Richards bay.

Sims: You have a plan?

TJ: Yes a very good one but I will tell you guys tomorrow.

Me: You know the suspense will kill us.

TJ: I don't care.

He said singing that part.

Sphe: Mxm yekela.

Me: Boy do you like this place?

Mpendulo: I love it but I love Durban more.

Sims: Me and you both Mpendulo.

We bought some clothes and Sphe bought some for Isi.

Me: I can't believe you are really with Isi man.

They laughed.

Sphe: Will I ever hear the end of it though.

Me: Ofcos not.

We saw Mpendulo talking to some girl her age.

TJ: You see how that girl is blushing.

Sphe: This needs a video.

He said taking out his phone.

Sims: You are crazy.

We looked at him till he was done.

Mpendulo: Why were you looking at me like that, I could literally feel your stares piercing my back.

We all laughed.

Me: That's a bit extra mjita so what did you say?

Mpendulo: You don't need to know.

Sphe: So did she give you her number.

Mpendulo: Ofcos.

Sims: Oh gosh I hope you won't be like Sbani.

Me: Haibo.

TJ: Plus Mpendulo looks like him so kubhedile.

Sphe: You can all just ask me I know all about Sbani.

I laughed.

Me: You all are talking like I'm not here, can we go pay and go.

We went to pay and went back to lodge.

Zane: You guys took long enough.

Sims: What did we miss?

Zane: Just go change so we can go.

We went to change and went to check out some wildlife.

I was sitting next to Thando.

Me: You seem tense.

Thando: You are enjoying this aren't you?

Me: Haw kodwa malavisto.

She laughed.

Thando: Really Sbani? Malavisto?

Me: I'm trying to be romantic here.

Thando: Hay I give up.

Me: So when we get back to the lodge we will continue where we left off.

Thando: No I'm okay now.

Me: So you serviced yourself?

Thando: I had no other choice babe.

Me: You are naught Thandolwam.

We both laughed, we were not even paying much attention to the animals.

Thando: So how was Richards bay?

Me: We will talk about it later for now let's enjoy this.

We had someone who was telling us about different animals and their lives, it was actually nice seeing them at this close range.

Halfway through it Sane cried because she was afraid of a lion so we had to leave and go eat at some restaurant.

TJ: So babe were you really afraid or you were just hungry, I mean even Cebo didn't cry.

Sane: What are you saying TJ?

TJ: Nothing babe.

Sane: It better be nothing.

I wanted to laugh but I know she would just cry and leave us here.

We all ate on a light conversation and decided to go chill in the lodge.

Me: So why did you guys decide to come here out of all provinces?

Zane: Mpumalanga is beautiful guys.

Isipho: You can say that again.

Mpendulo: Next time we should go to Cape Town.

Sphe: Yeah we should.

Sane: Are you guys still going to lash out at us for coming here?

Me: No, you guys think we should?

Zane: No no.

Sims: Okay then just relax and enjoy Mpumalanga.

TJ: I think we should go rest a bit I booked us a restaurant for later.

Me: Okay let's go.

Mpendulo: I will stay here and play with Cebo.

Isipho: Okay when you get tired just bring them to us.

He nodded.

When we got to our room we layed on the bed and just relaxed.

Thando: So how was Richards bay?

Me: Great, mkhulu is still alive.

Thando: Your mother's father?

Me: Yes.

Thando: That's great sthandwa sam.

Me: Indeed it is I'm just glad we were able to go back there while he is still alive.

Thando: I'm sure she was happy to see you guys.

Me: Very happy.

Thando: Okay I'm glad Isi is fine her situation was really weighing on you.

Me: I can never imagine my life without her.

Thando: I know baby.

Me: So would you mind spending Christmas in Richards bay?

Thando: You want us to spend Christmas there?

Me: Yes that's if you don't mind.

Thando: Ofcos I don't mind.

Me: Great, thank you baby.

We kissed.

Thando: So is it in rural areas?

Me: Not really.

Thando: Okay let's rest.

Me: But babe...

Thando: After how you punished me ekseni you are not getting anything.

Me: Come on.

I know where to touch her to get what I want so I worked my magic and the rest is history.

Me: That was good, thank you baby I love you.

Thando: I love you too Hlase.

She said and started snoring softly on top of me and I followed after her.

When we woke up it was already dark outside.

Me: What time is it?

Thando: 19:30.

Me: Shit, TJ said dinner will be at 19:00 we are late.

Thando: Let's take a quick shower.

We took a quick shower and got dressed, we checked the rooms are they were all gone. I texted Sims and he sent me the location, now we had to take an Uber.

When we got there they were already eating.

Me: Why didn't you guys wake us up?

Sane: We sent Mpendulo to wake you guys up but the poor kid came back traumatized.

Thando: Why?

Sphe: You both know why.

Me: Where is this Waiter I'm famished.

They laughed because I was kind of changing the subject.

The waiter came and I ordered for me and Thando since everyone else was already eating.

Halfway through our dinner a waiter came and gave Zane a piece of paper.

Waiter: Those gentleman over there said I should give you this.

Sims: Let me see that.

He said snatching it.

Sims: I'm being tested.

Me: What does it say.

Sims: "Care to join us, you can bring your friends, the ladies Ofcos".

Sphe: Siyajwayeleka.

Me: Haven't hit anyone in a while.

TJ: And I think it's time for that now.

Zane: Calm down guys.

Sims: Calm down and let them disrespect us like this?

Thando: No but you guys can't go around hitting people.

Me: We will just talk to them just stay here and eat.

We left and went to those guys table.

TJ: Howzit gents.

They looked at each other and laughed.

Sims: Care to share the joke?

Guy1: We said we wanted to have some drinks with the ladies, we didn't know that you were the ladies.

He looked at his friends and they laughed, I swear I

felt my armpits itching.

Sphe: Listen and listen very carefully, are you listening?

He asked holding the guy who was talking by his t-shirt.

Sphe: You will not disrespect us like that especially not Infront of our woman, ningasijwayeli kabi nizolimala.

People were now looking at us.

Sims: Is that clear?

They nodded.

Me: Talk!

Them: Yes sorry gents.

We went back to our table.

Zane: Was that even necessary?

Sims: You want to join them?

Zane: No.

Sims: Eat then singakaxabani.

We saw those guys leaving, I felt uneasy because we are not from here what if they try something but ngeke balunge so they shouldn't even try because they will get hurt really bad.

Season finale

Insert fifty

Sbani

We are having the time of our lives and I'm happy we decided to join the ladies but I have a bad feeling about something. I look at everyone and I see them laughing and having the time of their lives, I'm excited about what's going to happen tonight I mean it's been long since we gave anyone a beating I know this is going to be fun.

Me: Ladies can I steal the gents for a sec?

Them: Sure.

TJ: Yini Sbani?

Sphe: He is such a mood spoiler phela lona.

Me: Mxm we have a problem.

Sims: Can you talk already.

Me: They are still here.

TJ: Who?

Me: The gents from earlier.

Sims: So?

Me: They are waiting for us.

Sphe: Why?

Me: To beat us up Ofcos.

They just burst into laughter.

TJ: Beat who? Wothi uyadlala.

Sphe: Seriously? I'm going back to the table.

Me: Guys I'm serious I think we should send the ladies and the kids back to the lodge.

TJ: This is going to be fun.

They all smiled.

Sims: The ladies should drive themselves then we will catch an Uber.

Me: True but you all know how stubborn they are.

Sphe: True Bafo but we can't put their lives in danger.

Me: Let's go talk to them, do you guys have your guns?

Them: Always.

We all walked back to the table.

TJ: Uhmm ladies something important came up, we need you and the kids to drive back to the lodge.

Zane: Why? What's going on?

Sims: Nothing important babe.

Thando: We all know you are hiding something.

Me: We are not.

Sane: If any of you gets hurt heeh you will see.

We laughed.

TJ: Babe you are pregnant.

Sane: I can still use my gun though.

Isipho: Is it the guys from earlier? I saw them outside.

Sphe: You went outside by yourself?

Isipho: No I saw them through the window.

Me: Okay I will ask if there is no back door.

Zane: We packed at the back vele and we came through the back door.

Sims: Good, now please get up and go to the lodge.

Thando: Guys please be safe.

TJ: We will take care of each other.

Sane: You guys should just give me the gun and let me sort them out.

TJ: You are crazy stop being stubborn and go.

We took all of them to the car and said our goodbyes.

Thando: Promise me you will come back in one piece.

Me: I promise babe now go.

We watched them driving out then we went back inside.

Sims: Let's have a drink first.

Me: Yeah I'm thirsty.

We had our drinks and just relaxed for a bit.

Sphe: Look.

He pointed through the window and those guys were looking at us.

TJ: They just messed with the wrong people let's show them how we do it.

Me: Yeah let's show them how we Zulu's teach people respect.

We got up and walked out through the main entrance, they were all standing by one car smoking.

We called an Uber and waited.

Guy1: We can take the ladies home while you all wait for an Uber.

TJ: Do you see any ladies here?

Guy2: Are you guys scared? I mean if you were not

why would the ladies wait inside while you call an Uber.

Me: You can go check them out and if they are there please take them home.

The other guy went inside while the others laughed.

Guy1: Some ladies really settle for less I mean look at you guys, who in their right mind can date a guy who still calls an Uber?

His friends laughed again so this one is the clown and he thinks he is all that.

I went closer to him and laughed till he got irritated.

Me: Why are you guys not laughing is it not funny anymore?

I asked him and his friends and they kept quiet but my guys laughed like they were crazy and when they stopped they became scary because we were now pissed.

The other guy came back and saw that it was intense.

Guy2: The ladies are gone.

His friends kept quiet.

Guy2: Guys what's going on here?

Sims: What's going on here is that you all need to be taught some respect.

They looked at each other and laughed, this laughing thing is becoming really boring now.

We got closer to them and the good thing is that they were also four.

I stood near the first guy and looked at him.

Me: I wonder what your wife will say if she finds out you impregnated her sister.

The shock is what was funny they should have laughed.

Guy1: How?.. what?

I slapped him and the other guys took out their guns not knowing that we also had guns.

TJ: We are Zulu's and we don't fight using guns so let's do this without guns.

They looked at each other and nodded.

Sphe: I think we should take this away from people because they are already watching us.

Guy2: I know a place you can get into the car.

Me: That's not going to work let's walk a bit, I saw just the perfect place.

I think we were having a lot of fun but we just needed to be careful because if not we would end up hurt.

We walked till we reached a quiet place.

Sims: This is how we do it.

He said hitting the guy who was next to him then the fight started, it was fun and all until we heard a gunshot and Sphe was shot.

We all rushed to him.

Sphe: It's nothing just a flesh wound.

Me: I thought we said no guns.

We hit them like we were crazy after that.

Guy1: Please forgive us we didn't mean to disrespect you.

We left them and took their car keys then took their car and went back to the lodge.

TJ: Sphe you okay?

Sphe: I'm fine.

Sims: That was fun but truth be told it was also risky.

Me: Very true.

TJ: I feel sorry for Sphe the ladies are going to kill him.

Sphe: Don't even mention it bro.

We continued driving we are glad that Sphe didn't get hurt kakhulu because anything could have happened.

Thando

We have been pacing up and down wondering what's going on, are they okay or maybe something happened. We tried calling their phones a couple of times but nothing.

Zane: I think we should just drive back to restaurant and look for them.

Isipho: I agree with you.

We took the car keys but when we were about to go we heard someone knocking.

Me: What if it's those guys?

Sane: Then I will shoot them.

We chuckled.

Isipho: Sane you and guns bathong, we should name your baby "gun".

I went to open the door and it was oSbani.

Me: Are you guys okay? Did any of you get hurt?

Sbani: Babe we are fine, can you move away from the door so we can get inside.

Me: Ummm sorry guys come in.

Isipho: Whose car is that?

They sat down.

Sims: Those guys.

Zane: Bebe you took their car, won't that bring us trouble.

Sims: No it won't relax.

Sane: Sphe why are you bleeding in your arm?

Sphe: Bleeding?

We all looked at him.

Isipho: Babe are you hurt? Oh my gosh Sphe.

Sphe: It's nothing.

Isipho: Let me get the first aid kit in the car.

Sane: So Sphe you got shot?

Sphe: It's nothing really.

He looked scared he knows Sane doesn't joke and the guys laughed at him.

Sane: So you all are laughing didn't you say you will take care of each other?

TJ: But we did.

Zane: If you all did then how come Sphe got shot?

Sbani: It was just a mistake.

Isipho came back and helped Sphe out.

Isipho: A mistake huh?

Sims: You all should be shouting at Sphe not us.

Me: You were suppose to protect each other.

TJ: Look we all made a mistake and you should be thankful that Sphe is still alive, we should have been more careful yeah but you can't just shout at us like we are kids.

We kept quiet.

Sbani: I'm going to check the kids.

Zane: So what will you do with the car?

Sphe: They will fetch it, we taught them respect so they will come back and apologize.

Me: How do you know they won't come back with the police or maybe their friends.

Sims: Then they will find us waiting for them.

Sane: Tomorrow we should drive back home I don't want to die here.

We looked at her and laughed.

TJ: Haw mamakhe what happened to your shooting skills?

Sane: So you mean I can't shoot?

She started crying.

TJ: No babe I didn't mean it like that.

Sane: You meant it how then?

She asked walking to their room, TJ followed her.

TJ: The life I live.

We all laughed at him.

Me: Sphe you sure you okay?

Sphe: Yeah I'm fine I just need to lay down.

Isipho: Okay let me help you out.

Sphe: You know I can still walk right?

Isipho: I know baby but let me help you.

They both walked to their bedroom.

Sims: I think we should also go to sleep Zane.

Zane: Yeah goodnight friend.

Me: Night love.

They left me alone and I stayed there waiting for Sbani.

Sbani: Babe are you still here?

Me: I was waiting for you.

Sbani: Let's go to bed then.

We walked to our bedroom.

Me: You know what you did was risky right?

Sbani: I know Thandolwam but we all came back in one piece.

Me: Next time be more careful.

Sbani: Relax there won't be a next time.

Me: Good let's sleep we are driving home tomorrow.

Sbani: Goodnight sthandwa sam.

Me: Goodnight Hlase.

We kissed and played a bit then slept.

We woke up the next morning and prepared for our drive home, lucky for all of us we drove the family car when we came here so we were settled.

We went to the lounge with our luggages and had breakfast first, in the middle of it we heard a knock at the door.

Mpendulo: I will get the door.

He said already walking to the door, we couldn't believe our eyes the guys from yesterday were here all of them.

Guy1: Gentleman and ladies.

Us: Yes.

Guy1: We are here to apologise for yesterday and ask for our car back.

Sbani: Sure.

He said throwing the car keys to them.

They took them and left, the guys fist bumped and laughed.

Zane: What did you guys do to them?

Isipho: I also want to know because the one who apologized was the cocky one.

Sims: We taught them respect.

Sane: I don't even want to know how.

After breakfast we prayed then our long drive began.

Narrated

The guys took their car and drove back to the house and chilled.

They looked at each other and laughed.

Guy1: I always knew that Zulu guys were stupid but I didn't think it was that serious.

Guy3: They think they can beat us up just like that and get nothing.

Guy2: But truth be told they did a number on us.

Guy4: I give them that but they are not ready for

whats about to happen.

Guy2: What if the guy who prophetesses you foresee the bomb.

Guy1: I doubt he will.

Guy2: Let's hope so because if he does we will be in trouble.

Guy3: He won't trust me they will die in a blink of an eye.

Guy4: And there won't be any survivors.

Guy1: This is great I think we should call G and tell him the good news.

Guy2: Will he ever come out of prison though?

Guy3: We will get him out after they are all dead.

Guy4: G will be happy to know that we finally got them.

Guy1: I can't lie I feel sorry for the kids though.

Guy4: I don't want to lie I don't feel any remorse.

Guy2: We should watch the news later today so that

we won't miss their death.

Guy1: We need to stock up alcohol so we can celebrate.

They all laughed while the other one called their friend.

G: Is it done?

Guy1: Any minute from now on that car will blow.

G: That's what I want to hear.

Guy1: Yeah none of them will survive this.

G: I know thanks gents.

Guy1: No problem you will get out of there soon.

G: I can't wait, I want to attend their funeral.

Guy1: Sure case.

G: Keep me updated.

He dropped the call.

Guy1: Let's prepare our suits we will be going to KZN to burry them, we are doing all this for G.

Them: To G.

They smiled.

Insert fifty one

Sbani

Life always turns up differently than what we expect or we want, not so long ago we were happy and having the time of our lives but here we are now about to die. I look around and they are eating since we stopped at the garage to get some food, how do I even begin to tell them that there is a bomb here in this car and it will blow off anytime from now. I don't want to die and I don't want anyone to die so I have to do this because I don't have enough time.

Thando: Babe are you okay?

Me: Ummm yes I'm fine.

Mpendulo: Bhuti why are you not eating?

Me: I will eat boy, Sphe please stop the car but don't switch off the engine.

Sphe: What? We are in the middle of nowhere.

Me: Guys please don't panick okay.

TJ: What's going on Sbani?

Me: Someone planted a bomb in this car and it can blow off any minute from now.

Them: What?

Me: Please let's calm down.

Sims: Sphe stop the car.

Me: Just press the brakes because if you switch off the engine the bomb will go off.

Sane: Who could have done this?

Sphe: Whoever did this will pay.

Me: We have 10 minutes to get out off this car so can you all stop talking.

I opened the door and they got out one by one when Sphe let go of the brakes the car crashed and burned. We were now sitting by the road in the middle of nowhere stranded with kids, those guys played with fire I can't even explain the way I'm feeling right now.

Isipho: What are we going to do now because it's dark and I'm scared.

TJ: We are here don't worry we will come up with a plan.

Me: Guys can we talk aside.

We walked a bit and then stopped.

Me: They are working with Gift.

Sims: What?

Sphe: So this means they knew us all along.

Me: Yes they have been following us.

TJ: We need to deal with this fast we almost died today.

Me: We need to talk to Zakhele about Gift but now how will we get home.

Sims: I hired a car it will be here in a few but we must keep low because those guys think we are dead.

Me: Yeah it must stay like that we will get them because they are planning on coming to the funeral.

We walked back to the others and the car was already here, it took us straight to Durban. We arrived there around 3am in the morning and we all went to sleep.

I woke up and it was around 12 midday I was still tired but my phone was ringing non stop.

Me: Helo.

Mamzo: Oh thank God umkhulu Jehovah.

Me: Mamzo what's going on?

Mamzo: We saw on the news that your car crashed and they said that there were no survivors, I thought oh nkosyam.

Me: Calm down mama we are fine and we are home.

Mamzo: All of you?

Me: Yes all of us.

Mamzo: We thank God that you are able to foresee things because if not we would be talking something different now.

Me: Yes mama now calm down and don't worry yourself.

Mamzo: Baba and Mkhulu are on their way there.

Me: Here?

Mamzo: Yes Sbani I'm sure sebezofika.

Me: Okay mama bye then.

This means most people think we are dead this is messed up but the best part is that we are still alive. I decide to take a shower before joining the others downstairs and I find them eating.

Me: Morning.

TJ: How come you look fresh I'm dog tired even after sleeping.

Me: Ngiyageza mina.

TJ: Mxm.

Zane: Can we pray and thank God for saving us last night I'm still shocked.

We prayed and sat down.

Me: So Mamzo told me that mkhulu and taima are on their way.

Ladies: What?

They jumped and we laughed.

Sims: Why are you jumping?

Sane: We need to bath I mean we are still in our sleep wear.

She said while they disappeared to the passage.

Me: Boy go take a bath so we can go fetch your school report.

Mpendulo: Okay Bhuti.

Sims: I couldn't sleep thinking what if Sbani didn't see that bomb.

Sphe: I even had some nightmares.

TJ: I'm angry I just want to finish those guys off.

Me: Sims did you tell Zane about Gift being involved in all this?

Sims: Not yet I know she will blame herself for

everything.

Mkhulu: Aren't you all suppose to be dead?

Sphe: Are you not suppose to knock?

Mkhulu: Uyalwa Sphe?

We laughed.

Mbatha: Im glad to see all of you but where are the girls?

Me: Upstairs.

Mkhulu: Who did this?

TJ: Some people who need to be dealt with.

Mbatha: Who are those people?

Me: It's Gift.

Mbatha: Gift as in Zane's ex.

Sphe: Yes taima.

Mkhulu: Tell me everything.

We told him everything that has happened.

Me: I don't know how we will deal with him since he

is in prison but his friends are coming and they will be here today to pay their respects.

TJ: We will deal with them the sooner the better.

Me: You need to calm down TJ because now you are not thinking with your head.

He just nodded and the ladies came downstairs.

Zane: Baba.

Mbatha: Baby are you okay?

Zane: Yes Baba I'm fine.

Isipho: Mkhulu.

Mkhulu: Ladies.

We laughed.

Me: Mkhulu this is Thando, Zanele and Sanelisiwe.

Mkhulu: Nice meeting you ladies.

Thando: Likewise mkhulu.

Mbatha: Let's discuss the plan.

We all sat down and discussed what we needed to do.

Zane: I need some air guys.

We nodded.

Zane

I had already called an Uber to take me to prison I need to talk to Gift, I heard the guys talking earlier so I can't put them in danger anymore I need to deal with this all by myself.

I slowly opened the gate and got out running to the Uber.

Me: Please take me to westville prison.

Driver: Okay.

I left my phone outside by the pool, I know this is risky but I don't want them to trace me.

Driver: We are here.

Me: Thank you.

I stand outside debating whether to go in or not but I

have to do this, I have had enough of Gift and his games.

I have been waiting for almost thirty minutes now for him to come but nothing when I'm about to leave I see him coming.

Gift: MaMbatha.

Me: Zwane.

We both sit down.

Gift: What did I do to get a visit from you.

Me: I know you are shocked that you are seeing me here when you think I'm dead.

Gift: Dead? But why?

Me: Ha ha ha you are not funny.

Gift: I wasn't trying to be funny.

Me: Stop all these games Gift.

Gift: I was never like this Zane you changed me when you chose that boy over me.

Me: You were always like this Gift have you forgotten

that you are the one who played me and killed our daughter.

Gift: I didn't kill her.

Me: Ofcos you did, so now tell me why did you ask your friends to plant a bomb in our car.

Gift: MaMbatha you give me too much credit I mean I'm in prison how would I have done that.

Me: Don't act dumb Gift we both know you know what I'm talking about.

Gift: Even if I did I wouldn't tell you, I need to go so please leave.

Me: You want to tell your friends that we are alive oh sorry babe you are a little too late because they are already in the house paying their respects not knowing what awaits for them.

Gift: If you dare hurt them...

Me: What will you do because uyafana nje nenja engenamazinyo.

Gift: One way or the other you will pay for what you did to me and Mel's.

Me: You are really crazy, the day you get it in your head that I did nothing to you is the day your mind will start working.

Gift: Leave and don't ever come back here.

Me: With pleasure.

Gift: Those people changed you, you used to have a good heart.

Me: No you changed me, I have never loved someone like I did with you but then you hurt me.

Gift: Zane.

Me: No, bye Gift and you will pay for what you did.

Gift: MaMbatha.

I could hear him shouting my name but I didn't turn back till I was outside, I stood outside and took a deep breath.

I can't believe I did what I did and Gift didn't feel anything, I know the needle was small but I thought he was going to feel the prick yet he didn't. I stand outside waiting for an Uber to pass by because I left my phone at home.

Sims: Get in.

I don't even know how he knew I was here.

Me: Uhmm babe how...

Sims: I don't have all day can you get in the car.

Me: Thank you.

Sims: Do you actually use your mind to think?

Me: Ofcos.

Sims: People are out there trying to kill us and you just disappear without telling anyone.

Me: Uhmm.

Sims: Just shut up your father will deal with you I don't have the energy.

Me: Babe I'm sorry.

Silence.

Me: I didn't mean to worry anyone.

Sims: Yet you did, the worst part you just leave your phone by the pool like someone kidnapped you or something.

Me: Ngiyaxolisa.

Silence. I decide to also keep quiet because he is angry, my father is going to murder me I'm telling you.

We get to the house and Sims just get out of the car leaving me there, I followed after him till we get inside.

Mbatha: Zanele Mbatha.

Me: Baba.

Mbatha: Are you crazy?

Me: No but I needed to do this so that Gift will stop hurting everyone because of me.

Mbatha: Come here.

Me: No Baba.

Mbatha: Awufuni Zane.

Me: Hay Baba I know you will beat me up.

Mbatha: I'm not going to do that.

He said getting up and I jumped hiding behind Sims, I know it's crazy right because Sims is mad at me but I'm involving him in all this.

Sbani: Taima I think they are here.

Mkhulu: You all need to go hide then we will remain here.

We all went upstairs to hide.

Thando: So you have never loved anyone like you loved Gift?

Me: How.. what?

Sane: We heard everything you said to Gift.

Me: But how?

Isipho: I think we all have devices in our bodies even though I don't know how.

Me: This is why Sims is angry.

Thando: Yeah I guess.

Me: Babe can we talk?

Sims: No.

Me: Please.

Sims: I said no Zanele now leave me alone.

When I was about to talk we heard gunshots coming from downstairs and we ran.

Me: Baba, Baba.

Mbatha: What?

TJ: What? You shot them?

Mkhulu: They are not dead you can deal with them.

Gift

I have been trying to call my guys since Zane left this place but they are not picking up I don't know what's going on, that's why I wanted them to kill everyone because I knew if they survived it won't be good.

My body has been itching I don't know what's going on but it's really bad, I need to do something I know they have a family member here maybe I should just kill him because I know they will kill my friends.

I go outside and I see him playing soccer with the others, no one touches him in this place and I don't know why, I approach him even though I feel weak and weaker by each step I take.

Me: Zakes can we talk.

Zakes: Do I know you.

Me: No but it's urgent.

Zakes: What's it about?

Me: It's about Mpendulo.

Don't ask me how I know about him I have my own ways.

Zakes: What about him?

Me: Let's talk privately.

We walk away from the crowd.

Zakes: So what...

I don't even wait for him to finish I stab him but I feel my body getting weaker, I stab him again and he lands on the ground but I follow him as I feel a piercing pain in my heart.

I look next to me and he is bleeding but my heart is beating slow and I know it's about to stop.

I look at my arm and it's swollen I felt something when Zane touched me I guess she did it on purpose. Now I die with one of theirs.

Rest in peace Gift Zwane.

Finale

Looking back to what I have been through feels like a dream, I never thought that I would be where I am today. I never really believed in happily ever after because I thought it only happens in movies or fairytales but here I am, who would have thought that a prostitute can end up with a loving family and a degree...yes a degree me and Zane graduated a month ago. God really comes through for us in unexpected ways, he proves that no matter how much we suffer he is always there watching and ready to take us to our destiny.

I'm out of words I wish there was something I would really say to show how grateful I am but I sure pray everyday because I know that's the least I could do. My project is going really great and I'm glad I'm able to help all the women I'm helping that's atleast the only way I can show my gratitude to God.

Along the way there are people I wish I never lost, people I know would be happy to see that I also made in this life, it pains me to know that there are people who lost their lives trying to save me and those are the people I will always carry in my heart for the rest of my life.

Well today is the day I have been waiting for, the day I become Mrs Khoza officially I'm beyond happy I don't even know how to express it in words. To be honest I thought by this time we would have broken up I was starting to believe that maybe we were not made for each other, I took Sbani's love for granted too many times for him to be still here till this day. I treated him like he owed me something forgetting that he loved me through my worst days, he fell in

love with me knowing very well the life I was living then, I guess if I didn't believe in true love now I do.

I was broken but he patched my scars and made me the woman I am today, I can never say how much I appreciate him but I will let my actions speak for themselves.

Everytime I want to explain how this life thing works I just don't know what to say but all I know is that no one can be sure that they have it all figured out because it always takes unexpected turns.

We spent our December holidays in Richards bay and it was great even though the guys made us work hard just to get back at us for not telling them about going to Mpumalanga, imagine.

Sane gave birth to two bouncing baby boys which their father named Sinqobile and Manqoba, he said everyone needed to know that they are Zulu by just hearing their names, crazy I know but their names are beautiful.

Zane is three months and Isipho is now working even though Sphe is not happy about that, I feel sad

somehow I'm scared that maybe I'm infertile I have been off the pill since the beginning of this year but still I'm not pregnant. I know Sbani wants a child I mean he is not getting any younger I'm just afraid of what would happen if I can't give him one.

I hear them singing outside and I get off my bed then open the curtains it's a beautiful day, I smile with tears in my eyes just tears of joy I can't believe it's really happening.

The girls: Umakoti ungowethu

Siyavuma uzosiwashela, asiphekele

Siyavuma, siyavuma.

Me: Niyabhimba marn.

Sane: Haisuka.

We laughed.

Zane: Friend you look sad what's going on?

Me: I'm just happy Zanele.

Isipho: You need to get ready we don't want to be late.

Sane: Babe cheer up you deserve it.

Me: Can I get some wine?

Lizzy: No you want Bhuti Sbani to kill us.

Lizzy is Isipho's friend I don't know if you remember her but the one that used to date Nick, that white guy Isipho lied about dating years ago I also don't know the story well but that's what Isipho told us so they fixed their friendship and she is a good girl.

Me: One glass only.

Zane: No please go take a bath it's already prepared for you.

I stripped naked and they all looked at me.

Me: What?

Sane: When last did you see your periods?

Me: Last month why?

Isipho: Nothing just go bath babe.

I looked at them and went to the bathroom there is no way I could be pregnant I mean I would know if I'm pregnant right? And besides my periods were

normal last month.

I finished taking my bath and went back to them in my room, Sane was carrying a crying Manqoba.

Me: Let me help you.

Sane: No Thando you need to get ready I don't want Sbani to stand in the altar and think you are not coming.

We laughed.

Me: Stop being dramatic kusase early.

I took Manqoba and he kept quiet immediately.

Me: You see I have got magic hands.

Zane: Let me do your makeup then.

She did my makeup after she was done I put Manqoba on my bed because he was sleeping and prepared to get dressed.

Isipho: Will your dress fit nje babe you look like you gained some weight.

Me: What? Isi no please don't say that.

I was already panicking.

Isipho: I'm joking chill.

They helped me get dressed while they were also getting dressed, Zane is my maid of honour if I could I would have made all of them my maid of honours because they have been my pillar of strength but what's important is that they are all here.

Lizzy: You look beautiful Thando.

Me: Thank you baby.

Isipho: I'm not going to lie first time hearing your story I couldn't believe how my brother fell in love with a person like you but then I got to know and I realised you were made for him, there are times where I wanted to give up on you and wanted my brother to do the same but I guess it's true when they say what's meant to be will be no matter what. In you I found a sister and a friend and I'm really grateful for that and please Thando don't ever hurt my brother, if you feel like you have had enough just stay away but I know you won't. I love you and I appreciate you.

Everyone in the room was now crying.

Sane: Isi you are ruining our makeup.

Me: Thank you Isi this means a lot especially coming from you, I love you too.

Zane: Let me fix your face no more tears please.

There was a knock at the door.

Me: Mama.

Mamzo: Oh baby you look beautiful.

Me: Thank you.

Mamzo: Girls please give us a moment.

Isipho: We will go check if the cars are ready.

Zane finished my makeup and also left.

Mamzo: How are you feeling?

Me: Happy, nervous and happy.

Mamzo: I'm glad I'm still here to witness this day and I'm happy for you sthandwa sam.

Me: Thank you mama.

Mamzo: For what?

Me: For everything, you are wonderful and I truly believe you were sent from heaven to play a role of being a mother to all of us.

Mamzo: Oh Thandolwethu I don't want to cry and ruin my makeup.

We laughed.

Me: I love you.

Mamzo: Oh baby I love you more and the only advice I have for you is to always pray for your home, for your children and your husband. Don't ever stay if you are not happy because your happiness matters more always choose your sanity okay?

Me: Okay mama.

Mamzo: I will tell the girls to come and get you.

I nodded and she left, I tried writing my vows but then we decided we were going to speak from the heart.

Sbani

Well what can I say life is life and no one can ever have the best definition of it even if they tried. I stopped trying to crack my mind thinking of the best way to describe life because it works in its own way and here I am today in a suit waiting to get married to the love of my life. The past few years life has been bad we faced challenge after challenge and I started to believe that we were not made for happiness, I don't even want to think about the people we lost because it all brings back the pain that I have been trying so hard to bury inside because that's the only way I can deal with it.

After finding out that Gift died and stabbed Zakhele in the process we were all devastated especially Mpendulo but God and Idlozi being on our side Zakhele made it and he is here with us today. Zane later told us that she is the one who killed Gift we were shocked but we couldn't pretend like we cared so we celebrated.

I think from today onwards we will be getting good news only I mean since this year began we have been happy really happy and I wish it could stay that way. I know life is not always sweet but we have tasted bitterness far enough we deserve this and everything else that's coming our way.

I knew that Thando was the one but somedays I doubted her but then here we are.

I don't know how she feels about having a baby but she would have to forgive me because she is already carrying my seed and I'm over the moon.

Me: Gents can you all get dressed we need to leave.

TJ: Chill hawu.

Me: Don't tell me to chill I'm not the one who forced you all to drink like fishes yesterday.

Sims: I think I'm still drunk.

Sphe: Zane is going to kill you.

Me: If you don't get dressed I will leave without you.

We are still as tight as ever I think we are more closer now adding Zakhele to the brotherhood they

are all great and I love them so much.

Zakhele: Can you all just stop shouting and sleep.

We laughed.

TJ: And sleep hayi udakwe ngempela wena Zakes.

Me: Guys can you stop this before nginishaye.

Sphe: You always shouting yini ukorile yini Bafo.

They laughed and I smiled.

Sims: No way!

Me: Yes way but Thando doesn't know yet.

Zakhele: Hah uzofa wena.

They were all getting dressed now.

TJ: So how far is she?

Me: I'm not a doctor I don't know.

TJ: Mxm.

Zakhele: So Lizzy...

We all looked at him.

Us: Nooo.

Zakhele: What?

Sphe: So Lizzy what?

Zakhele: How old is she?

Me: She is young so forget it.

Sims: She is Isipho's age and Sphe and Isipho are...

Me: Don't even say it wena Sphe you are such a traitor.

We laughed.

Sphe: Hay hay.

Me: Guys thank you I know you hate speeches because niyakhala but I want to take this time and say thank you for always being there and for remaining my brother's till this day, there's a lot I want to say but we need to leave so I love you all majita.

Them: We love you too Bafo.

We walked out to our cars I looked at them and Zakhele and Sims were still drunk, I rode with Sphe in the car.

Sphe: How are you feeling?

Me: Happy.

Sphe: I know you feel way more than happy but you hate expressing your self.

Me: You know me very well Bafo.

Sphe: I'm glad you are finally happy after all we have been through, after how you have stood by all of us and carried all our problems in your shoulders you deserve it.

Me: Thanks man.

Sphe: You look good by the way.

Me: Hay Sphe I'm not ready for you to tell me that you are gay and you love me.

Sphe: You are such an ass but I love you man.

Me: I love you too Bafo.

Sphe: Are you ready?

Me: Kind of nervous but I am.

Sphe: Mele ngabe ushaye istiff.

Me: No I need to be sober for this.

Sphe: Let's do this.

We got out of our cars and went inside the hall, it was beautifully decorated and there were lot of people inside.

TJ: Who are all these people?

Me: Was just asking myself that.

Zakhele: We should just chase them out bazoqeda ukudla nje.

We laughed and people looked at us.

Me: You are crazy.

We stood there and I was impatiently waiting for Thando to arrive, I wanted to see how beautiful she looked. When I saw the ladies coming looking beautiful I felt my heart beating fast and wondered how my wife looked, she came in and taima and Mkhulu were walking her down the isle talk about drama.

I got lost in her beauty and felt my eyes getting moist, I wiped a tear and looked at her.

Taima: Treat her well.

He whispered.

Mkhulu: Make more babies.

I laughed mkhulu is crazy he was also whispering, after handing Thando to me they went to sit down.

Me: You are beautiful.

I whispered and she blushed and mouthed thank you.

Pastor: We are here today to witness the matrimonial between Thando and Sbani, we will hear their vows since they decided to speak from the heart.

Thando: The first time I saw you I knew you were different from all the man I had known and met, the way you looked at me was different and I felt safe around you not knowing you were my safe place, not knowing you are my peace and my forever. Never really believed in love at first sight or in love at all but you changed all that for that Khoza I want to thank

you. I want to thank you for loving me and for being patient with me because I know I was a pain in the ass, I thought you would come in my life and use me then leave like they all did but because you were sent from above you remained with me through it all. No words can ever describe how I feel about you but I promise to show you, I promise to take care of you and to always be there for you till death do us part. Ngiyakuthanda myeni wam and I remember the note you gave me when we first met I didn't understand it but now I know what you meant when you said mina ngingowakho, I'm all yours and nothing will change that Mlilo, Hlase, Bhovungane.

She was now crying I wiped her tears and looked at her.

Me: Ummm where do I even begin.

"Ekuqaleni" the guys shouted.

Me: When I saw you I knew you were the one for me and that we will spend the rest of our lives together, I remember I did not tell you my name but I said you

must call me hubby I guess I predicted the future because here we are. We have been through a lot together but it all made us strong, I love you Thandolwam not even words can express how I feel but I'm glad I have my actions to speak for themselves. You are my world, my pillar of strength and my forever, I promise to love you, to protect you and most importantly to stand by your side always. To give you lot of babies.

Everyone laughed.

Me: And to provide for you, Wena Ungowami I knew it then and I still know it now so matter what happens know that nothing can come between us because this is till death do us part. I love you mkami.

Pastor: What God has joined together no man can put asunder, you may kiss the bride.

We kissed then left to take pictures with everyone else.

Isipho: Congratulations Bhuti.

They all congratulated us.

Me: We have to go see you guys after three days.

Mamzo: Good well my kids.

We said our goodbyes and left we were going overseas to our honeymoon we just couldn't wait.

Me: Mrs Khoza.

Thando: Mr Khoza.

Me: Wena Ungowami.

Thando: Now and forever.

We held hands while the driver drove us to the airport and this is our happily ever after.

THE END.