



NOBUNTU by Ayanda.N

PROLOGUE

I am woken up from my dreamy sleep by a hard knock at the door. My eyes shoot open, I look on my left and the sun is already up, oh no no. I quickly get up from my mattress without folding the blankets and exit my room. I am so late and I'm sure my grandmother is worked up wherever she is. I make my way to the other hut and take the 2 20L buckets, and wheel them with a wheelbarrow to the village water dispatcher. Living in a

village has its own challenges, for example we have to walk 30 minutes to go and get water and the lines are forever long, some come with 3 or more buckets. I go back home maybe after an hour or two, and I still have to clean, make soft porridge and sew beads, I make a living out of selling these beads at an affordable price to the villagers of course. That's my everyday pattern. I've completed my matric right here in the village 5 years ago, we were learning under a tree even

when it was raining. I had it tough growing up. See, almost 98% of us here in the village don't know how the city look likes we all wish to go there one day. Only those 2% know it and of which 1% are truck drivers and the other 1% city sellers. We have no electricity the municipality have been making empty promises, we've even stopped reaching out to them. I stay with my grandmother, Thakasile my maternal aunt's daughter and her younger brother Sanele. Thakasile is very spoiled she hardly does anything in the house, all she knows is to go and visit her friends Babalwa&Lwandle and only come back late to eat&sleep. I always do the chores, I am like a helper to them but Sanele gives me rest sometimes and takes over. Oh, she is 2 years older than me, she dropped out in grade 10. Sanele is 3 years younger than me he never attended school, he keeps himself busy by doing wire cars, bicycles, fixing villagers roofs, and all that staff. His hands are his biggest gift just like mine,

and he also makes a living too out of his craft. He is so humble and very respectful unlike Thakasile. Anyway back to the story. I fell in the line at the water dispatcher, I think I'm number 35 and the sun is beginning to be scorching hot. I don't have friends in the village, except for the people I hold random conversations with, mostly about general things and how we all want to go, and explore the city one day. I can't help but eavesdrop on a conversation that the girls of the village are having.

“Besewuzile ukuthy i nkosana u Zwelibanzi uyeza”? (Have you heard that Prince Zwelibazi is coming)Zimbini says.

Well, our village is so small that we all know each other's names. King Bhekizwe has two sons and one daughter, that's all I know and I have never seen them ever since I was born. His house is very big, and they have running tap water

Advertisement

AD

flushing toilets, electricity and a whole lot more. Let's just say, they are living life. So the villagers say.

“Hhayi Mnge ngempela?”(No friend, are you for real) Amanda.

Her: “Nqo” (straight)

Buli: “Niyazi kuchaza ukuthini bafazi”? (do you know what this means ladies)

Zimbini: “Kuchaza ukuthy sekuyisikhathi athathe umakoti” (It means it's time for him to take a bride)

Zanda: “Ye hheni” (exclaiming). “Mele silungiseni bafazi” (we have to prepare ourselves ladies)

Zukiswa: “Nazingani ukuthy uzofuna u mfazi? Mhlambe uze ngokuzobona umndeni wakhe, phela ningakhohlwa ukuthy bekahlala e Melika”. (How do you know that he is here to look for a wife? Maybe he has come to see his family, remember that he stays in the states)

Buli: “Ufuna ukuthini kahle kahle Zuki”?(What are you trying saying)

Her: “Uyazi angivani nokuziphinda” (You know I don't like repeating myself)

Zanda: “Mina njer ngithy sengimele I Nkosi yenze umcimbi wokwamukela u Zwelibanzi bese uyasimema” (I am waiting for the king to do a welcoming ceremony for u Zwelibanzi and invite us)

Nomsa: “Kaze usasemuhle njengakuqala or sekayeqisile” (I wonder if he is still handsome like before, or he has changed)

Zukiswa: “Sesizabona ngomcimbi” (we will see at the welcoming ceremony)

Zimbini: “Nobuntu Sisi wathula kangaka sicoca nge nkosana u Zwelibanzi” (why are so quiet while we busy talking about prince Zwelibanzi)

Me: “Uxolo indaba angiyazi I nkosana mina” (I'm sorry the thing is I don't know the prince)

Buli: “Haibo! njani manjer Nobuntu? phela I nkosana u Zwelibanzi udumile la es'godini. Nabayenza umcimbi usuke ukephi”?(How? Prince Zwelibanzi is very popular here at the village. Where are you at when the king was busy making ceremonies)

Me: “Ngisuke ngi busy”. (I am always busy)

Her: “Ayikho Leyo”. (There's no such)

Me: “Ngiqinisile” (I am telling the truth)

Truly speaking my grandmother forbade me setting my foot at the royal stable, I am not even allowed to attend any gatherings taking place in the village, but she allows Thakasile to attend them. Sanele attends them once in a while. Judging by the way they talk about the prince, he seems like he is handsome and possibly the best creature they've ever seen. What if the prince is married? Or better yet choose someone who is of royalty, isn't that how they do things? Royalty marrying into royalty. But then, we all have dreams. Gosh, this will ruin their chances of being with him. Ai, it is now my turn. I fill up by buckets and wheel them back home before I can even reach the second street. I stop on my tracks when I hear car hoots from afar and people ululating, I turn back, and I can see a line of cars coming with a white flag in one of the cars in the front. This is prince Zwelibanzi no one else but him. We all bow our heads down, and some women of the village ululates until the cars are done

passing, they are just too many. I don't know why are they even causing unnecessary traffic. After, 3 minutes I can hear the car hoots fading. I lift my head and continue with my journey. I get home and my grandmother is going up & down, I've never seen her this nervous. I take out the buckets from the wheelbarrow and go, and put them in the hut, that we use as a kitchen. Thakasile comes in running and fanning her face, she is happy I can see it all over her face.

“Gogo shesha sekafikile” (Hurry up grandma he has arrived)

“Ngicedile. Sizohamba manjer” (I'm done. We will leave now)

Gogo comes out looking beautiful with her traditional dress, Thakasile was also wearing her traditional short dress and beaded sneakers.

“Ngifuna ukuthola ucedile konke mangibuya. Sisayo wamukela inkosana u Zwelibanzi, umyeni ka Thakasile” (I want to find you done when we get back. We are going to welcome the prince, Thakasile's husband)

Me: “Ngizoyenza njalo gogo. Nihambe kahle” (I will do so grandma. Go well)

They rush out, and I start with sweeping. I wonder how the welcoming ceremony will be like this coming Saturday, I wish I can go but I know that wish will never come through. I will just

daydream about it and picture it in my head as if I am there. I just hope that my grandmother will have a heart, and allow me to go with them to the ceremony.

1

NOBUNTU

03:45am I am already awake, and I am about to start sewing the beads. The welcoming ceremony of the prince is in 2 days time, and I have loads of beads orders to do. Everyone wants to look beautiful in front of the Prince, especially the young maidens. I would also love to be part of it just once and see how it's like being in the presence of all the villagers, drums playing, girls & boys dancing, and feasting on all kinds & kinds of food. It sounds fascinating and exciting, argh what am I

saying because I will not even make it, it's a complete waste of time. I've already made 50 beads and the time now is 05:30am, I yawn since I am sleepy. Sleep is the last thing on my mind right now, time to go and fetch the water. I stand up, and go to the water dispatcher, luckily for me I am number 4 this

means that I will arrive home early, and get everything done. My turn comes and I fill both my buckets and, go back home. I start by cooking the soft porridge first then I clean my room, and the kitchen then I go outside and start sweeping the yard, by 07:00am I am already done. What I like about myself is that I'm a very fast person even when I work, I finish fast. I think I was born this way. I take a quick bath then go and sit outside, my grandmother hates being woken up early. Thakasile can sleep the whole day, and my grandmother wouldn't mind, she never scolds nor shout at her but if it is me, hhe all hell will break loose. I will be punished severely. I am sitting here thinking about my future. Thinking about how my life would've turn out if my parents were still alive, I just wonder. I have too many dreams that I want them to become successful, but with the way I'm pressed here, I don't think I will make them come true. They will disappear very soon, and they will be like mist in a cup of tea. The door to my grandma's hut opens, and she is shocked to see me sitting here sewing beads, I don't know what's shocking because I always wake up early, okay maybe

today I woke up very early than other days. She greets me and I greet back, she stands at her door.

“Awuna msebenzi okufanele Ngabe uyawenza?” (don't you have any work that you are supposed to be doing)

Is this woman kidding me right now? Can't she see that I am working? And that I am done with house chores? Good Lord this old hag.

Me: “Lutho” (nothing)

Her: “Amanzi wona”? (what about water)

Me: “Ngiwakhile” (I've fetched them) gogo and I've already cleaned the 2 huts and I'm done cooking the soft porridge, as you can see I've also swept the yard.

She nods as if she understood everything I said, Bleh. She walks to the hut that we've turned into a kitchen. I continue sewing my beads, she comes out with her bowl of soft porridge and sits

right next to me without saying anything. I also minded my own business and humming a song, I have a beautiful voice and sometimes I want to showcase it but too bad, they never hold auditions this side when the people from the city are looking for artists. My grandma likes my voice too secretly, she never shows it though. I would sometimes catch her dancing with her head and tapping her feet on the ground, that's how good I am.

√

ZWELI

I am flagged by 2 big muscular guys. They are my guards that are appointed by my father for a time being because of my visit here. I only told my parents that I came back last night but I've been residing at Jo'burg for the past 11 months ever since I came back from Chicago. They don't know that and I'm very much content with that. I get to the dining area and the family

is already seated, they are just waiting for me to join them. I am the second born, Luthando is the first then after me comes

Nkosentle then the last born Nobuhle. I sit in between Nkosentle&Nobuhle. Luthando is sitting with his husband Mqhele he is a Prince in another village. King Nqobani and Queen Nandi are sitting in the big royal gold chairs facing us, and some other family members that I don't really like. I greet everyone and they greet back. King Nqobani says grace, and we all dish up for ourselves and start eating. In this household we don't hold conversation while eating, we eat in total silence only the noise that must be heard is of chewing & cutlery nothing else. I find all of this totally annoying & useless. I am used to eating while watching TV, with a remote next to me and a bottle of Heineken. This is absurd I tell you, but this is the Chief's house I will have to live by their rules. We are now done eating, the maids come and start clearing up the table. We all stand up and go to our different stations, those who are going to work are leaving and those going to school

Advertisement

it is only me and the parents now. Others had things to do in preparing for my welcoming ceremony...

“Everything is fine baby, just the parents annoying me”, I tell Tasha. She just called me, I am in my room.

“They still on about you getting a wife that side?”, she asks clearly annoyed.

Me: “Yes”.

Her: “I don't get it. Why would your parents want you to take a wife from your village, while I'm here”?

Me: “That's because I'm of royalty and I must take a wife who is also of royalty like me. If not of royalty then I will be forced to take a commoner in this village”.

Her: “This is ridiculous Zweli. All in all, once you get married to a Zulu princess/commoner I will come second to you”?

Me: “I know and it's not as if like I have a choice. If I marry a princess then yes it will be like that. If I marry a commoner, you

will be number and her second since she is none significant, like a princess is”.

Her: You have a choice Zweli and that is to defy them. Put your foot down or choose the commoner, I don't want to be your second best”.

Me: “They will disown me then we lose everything. Your flashy lifestyle will be gone and you will live in an RDP house or a shack in someone's backyard and wear rags. Is that what you want”?

Her: “No babe. I don't see myself downgrading like that. Whatever you do just don't pick a very beautiful girl, pick an ugly one” I laugh.

Her: “I'm serious baby. I don't want you falling inlove with her, and she must be dark in complexion, not light”.

Me: “I won't baby and can you please stop calling me. I'll be the one doing the calling from now on”.

Her: "Gezus! Fine. I love you and bye".

Me: "Love you too" I hang up.

Just then a knock comes through at the door, who could that be now.

"It's open" yelling.

The door opens and it is one of the guards.

"Your parents are summoning you to their chambers" he tells me then bow down and walk out.

I grunt...

I will never get used to this life, this is torture dad should've just called me. I get up from my bed and go to the King's office. The guard opens the door for me and I enter, I bow my head and my father tells me to sit opposite him and his wife.

“Is there anything you want to tell us or do before we proceed with the ceremony the king asks me.

“There's nothing I want to do dad. You can proceed with the ceremony”.

Mom: “Spoken like a true Prince” I nod.

Dad: “Are you sure that you are ready to be my assessor”? I nod.

Am I ready to be one? I think TF not. This is not even my dream, and I am also not planning of making it a reality, I have a life of my own to live by.

Him: "Very well then but you do know that one day you will be a King, right? Once you get married you will have to start learning the King's duties. You should be present in meetings with the counsel".

He starts preaching to me, good Lord this is not on. I can't sit here and listen to him telling me about how to carry myself as a Prince, blah blah. When he is done talking I decide to ask him.

"Dad is it really a must for me to get married to someone who is of royalty"?

He looks at my mother and my mother nods at him.

Dad: "Not really. You can also marry a commoner, but she should be of this village not any other villages".

Mom: I for one, would really like you to marry a princess not some stupid illiterate commoner from this village.

Me: "I hear you dad. I hear you telling me about taking my duties as a future King once married. I am not ready for such responsibility, I still have things to do before I devote myself to such. And mother, I don't want to marry a princess and that is final".

Him: "What are those things Zweli? Another thing, you can choose a commoner but your second wife should be of royalty and that's final". I huff.

What? What about Natasha then? It is clear as broad day light that we will never get married, ever. This is messed up.

Dad: "Son"?

I shake away those thoughts...

Me: "Apologies dad. Things like getting my degree in information technology and expanding my car parts selling shop. I need to get my life in order first".

Him: "You are 33 years old Zweli. You should've been married by now, but I understand your concerns. We will wait with the future King training till you are settled, I am giving you few months".

Me: "Thank you dad. May I take my leave now"?

Him: "You are excused".

I stand up, bow down and exit his office. I am so done with this village nonsense mxm. I miss Jo'burg now, I know that I got here yesterday but I already miss Jo'burg. Then my father had to bore me, about starting to learning about my duties as a future King, yoh. I can't place my life on hold because of a throne, a mere fucken throne. I also have a life and a woman I love. Even if I were to introduce Natasha to my parents, my father would not approve of her. He will tell you straight up that he doesn't like her. He will tell you that Natasha is possessed by a demon, he will cause unnecessary drama. That's how dramatic he is, argh. I can't also leave my business on a thread that will be my biggest downfall. Now, what to expect

on Saturday? I hope there will be that one ugly girl, well I know that a lot of them are illiterate. Now imagine the two combined, hehehe sparks, I tell you. I want a domesticated woman, who will cook for me and Natasha every day. Natasha can't cook, it's sad really. Another reason why my dad will not approve of her, but my mom will sure like her and possibly befriend her. She is too high class, she works at a salon as a nail technician. One of her friends is the owner of it. She has lots of friends, some are my friends girlfriends. Let's just say, we are a circle of small friends.

2

NOBUNTU

Judging by the voices of the singing maidens outside it's 04:00am in the morning. They are all heading to the river to have their baths. When there are ceremonies happening around the village especially at the royal house, every women/girls go and take bath at the river. For the past 2 days

the villagers were going up & down, and the girls & boys were practising their dancing & songs. I really wish I could be part of the ceremony, I don't know why is my grandmother restricting me from going, it's not like I will cause a scene or something after all I am a nobody around here. I was going to go there, just to watch like other villagers. Sometimes I think that she doesn't love me, she only loves Thakasil&Sanele. I mean I am always the one doing the house chores and go fetch the water

- woods while Thakasile is always out with her friends. I complained once to my grandmother and I received a beating of the century, I couldn't sit with my butt for 3 days. I still did the house chores despite the pains I were feeling, ever since

that beating I've stopped asking her things, I would just do my chores, and sit in my room. I never sit with my grandmother and have a full conversation with her, we have those random conversations just once in a blue moon as for Thakasile, we never exchange words. It has been like that for the past 4 years, and I'm fine with it. I lie on my back since I've been tossing & turning thinking about all my dreams that I wanted to achieve, it pains me that I can never fulfil them not unless I get a breakthrough somewhere somehow or someone helps me randomly, well I can only hope. I hear my grandmother calling Thakasile's name, as per usual she never wakes up on her own, and right now she is late, very late.

“Thakasile vuka maarn sezihambile ziye mfuleni izintombi zala e sgodini” (Wake up the young maidens of the village have left for the river already)

“Hhayi maarn Thakasile! Ngizowuphula lomnyango” (No Thakasile. I will break down the door)

I roll my eyes, she is just wasting her time. Her voice is irritating, it doesn't really help because Thakasile's room is right next to mine.

“Hhayi maarn umsindo wani ekuseni so” (What's with the noise so early in the morning)

That would be Ntombi gogo's firstborn, she stays in the city with her husband & kids. She was one of those lucky women who got boyfriends in the city, I wonder how it feels like having a boyfriend. She is here for the welcoming ceremony of the

prince, she never visits, and she is a very humble person. I like the fact that she calls a spade a spade she doesn't sugar coat it.

“Akusi wu Thakasile”! (Isn't it Thakasile)

Her: “Myekele mama yabona akazi miselanga nhlobo njer ukuya emfuleni” (Leave her mom, you can see that she is not prepared to go to the river)

Gogo: “Hha ana Ntombi. Zonke izintombi zala esgodeni zambile kusele yena yedwa” (all the maidens from the village are gone, and she is the only one left)

Her: “U Nobuntu yena sekahambile”? (has Nobuntu left already)

Gogo: “Hhayi uyaphi loyo? Makasale la ekhaya” (Where is she going? Let her stay here at home)

Her: “Soze kwenzekile loko naye uyi ntombi yala esigodini kuphoqelekile ukuthi naye aye mcimbini wokwamukelwa kwe nkosana”. (That will never happen she is also the maiden of the village. It is prohibited for her to attend the welcoming ceremony of the Prince)

Gogo: “Elami igama liyama. Akayilapho uNobuntu Ngicedile”!
(My word still stands. She is not going there, I am done)

Her: “Kubi ke loko ngoba mina ngizoyobikela I Nkosi ukuthi unqande yezinye izintombi ukuthi ingaphumeleli ukuwamekela isimemo sasebukhosini” (that's bad then because I will go and tell the chief that you've denied one of the maiden to honour the royal invitation)

Gogo: “Ngasho ngathi ukhohlakele wena! Ngabola amathumbu ngawe” (I did say that you are cruel. I was rotten while carrying you)

Her: “Angeke ngikuvumele umhlukumeze njengoba wenza u Ma wakhe, soze mama soze! Ngamane ungibize ngama gama”

(I will not allow you to ill-treat her just like you did with her mother. Never. Never! You can even call me by names)

Gogo: "Suka phambi kwa mehlo ami Ntombi njenga manje Ntombi. U Nobuntu akayindawo"! (Get out of my sight Ntombi right now. Nobuntu is not going anywhere)

Her: "Ok'salayo ngizo yazisa I Nkosi, thula u bheke! Futhi ke uzoya lapha emcimbini ngenkani" (I will still tell the King, keep silence & watch. She will go to the ceremony by force)

Gogo: "Ngizokuqhweba nge mpama Ntombi". (I will slap you)

Her: "Ya! Ujwayele vele qhegukazi elithakathayo, sies". (you are used to it, you old witch) I chuckle.

Gogo: "Nt...Ntombi ukhuluma nami njalo? Mina lo owakubeleka"? (you talking to me like that? Me who gave birth to you)

Her voice is breaking, hau. She also knows how to cry?

Ntombi: “Kuzokusiza ukuthi uvumele uNobuntu aye emcimbini wokwamukelwa kwe nkosana” (it will help you to allow Nobuntu to attend the welcoming ceremony of the Prince)

Her: “Hamba la Ntombi! Hamba maarn”. (leave) I chuckle.

I am so happy to finally have someone who shields me. Ntombi is the best. I hear some footsteps then my grandma cursing, she bangs Thakasile's door again. I hear some fiddling then Thakasile's door opening.

“Shesha njenga manjer uyemfuleni ungangidini”! (Hurry to the river right now, don't irritate me) she yells at her.

Her: “Kodwa gogo ngi...(but grandma...) She cuts her short.

Gogo: “Usase la? Shesha maarn”! (you still here? Hurry up)

My mind is still stuck on the fact that my grandmother ill-treated my mother, but then she told me that my mother died while giving birth to me. I have questions lots and lots of them, and they need answers. Who will answer them? Definitely not her! So, she is doing to me what she did with my mother? She is cruel very cruel! I still want to know what is it that she did to my mother, I also heard that she ran away, now I don't know what to believe. If she really died, or she is living her best life without me, but why did she leave me behind? She knew that her mother was cruel, she knew that her mother will treat me like she did with her when I grow up, but she still left me. Was I a burden to her? Lord

Advertisement

tears are streaming down at the corners of my eyes. I am alone in this world I have no one. Maybe my life would've turned out for better if she was still around. I wipe away my tears and try sleeping again. As for my father. All I know is that he knocked mom down and never to be seen nor heard of again.

★»★«

ZWELI

I am so over this day already. We(family members) just came back from the kraal with the seer to do a ritual, and ask the ancestors to bless this day. Honestly I don't understand why would my parents want me to get married to these illiterate village girls. I was told this morning that I must choose a wife today, here I was thinking that there will be a ceremony for such. Today was supposed to be my welcoming ceremony, now they boycotting it. It's confirmed my parents hate me, and my reputation is at stake here. My friends are going to have a field day with me when I get back to Jo'burg. I will be a joke and knowing them they might even post about it on social media.

You know if only I had a chance to run away, I would've run away and never look back, but then I would've lost everything. I wouldn't even know where to start with picking up the pieces. The door to my room open, and one of the guards tells me that I have a visitor, I tell him to let the person in. I wonder who it is because I am not expecting anyone and I don't have friends this side. Who is that visitor?

“Your royal your majesty” Nkanyiso says as soon as he enters my room laughing & bowing.

Nkanyiso has been my friend for over 10 years now, we met during our varsity years, and ever since then we've been holding it down. He is like a brother to me now. I stand up laughing, and we fist bump, he throws his bag on the floor. He sits down on my bed. I am really shocked to see him here, he did not tell me that he was coming. Otherwise I am glad that he is here, he will kill my boredom, and hopefully get me through the day.

“Can't believe that you're getting married man. A whole you tying the knot, and here I was thinking that it's a small ceremony to welcome you back home” I sigh.

I narrated everything to him that happened the days I was here.

Me: “I am only doing this to get my dad off my back, you know I have a girl that I love so much” he whistles.

Him: “How does this work? Do you get to choose a wife for yourself or your dad is going to choose one for you”?

Me: “Traditionally I am supposed to marry a princess. A princess that was going to be chosen for me by my parents. I don't know how but the gear just shifted, I am going to marry the girl of my choice. A commoner to be precise”.

Him: I see. I don't think I will survive with your life, I am happy for you man. Are girls from this village hot”?

Me: "I don't know. They just too natural you know, they look village even if you can take them to the city the village in them will still be there. On top of it all they are illiterates"!

Him: "All of them?" he raises his eyebrow.

Me: "All including their mothers".

Him: "Damn that's bad. I thought I was going get me one Zulu girl".

I laugh. He is full of jokes...

Him: "But look on the bright side. Girls from the villages are taught respect, submission, and they are domesticated, they have all the qualities of a wife material. Imagine coming home from work to a heartily home cooked meal"?

Me: "Well, I guess I will have myself a new maid, and a cooker at the same time".

Him: "That's not right man, and what about MaSabatha"?

Me: "You will have to hire her as your maid"

Him: "What? Dude I am a bachelor for Christ's sake, why would I want a maid? And you know I always have my fuck buddies coming to my apartment, no man. I can't traumatize her like that". I laugh.

Me: "Almost forgot about that. Don't worry I will think of a plan". He nods.

Him: "You are going to wear this cow skin"?

His directing his question to the attire laid on top of my bed.

I nod...

He laughs until tears come out of his eyes. He finds all of this funny, I will get him.

Me: "This is not funny".

Him: "Sorry man. So, are you going to choose a beautiful thick wife"?

Me: "Nope. I've been given instructions to choose an ugly one".

Him: "Damn. Imagine choosing a hot girl that surpasses Natasha's's beauty? That would be a nail in the coffin. Anyway best of luck bro and chose wisely"

Me: "I am planning too. Trust me".

Him: "Are you ready though"?

Me: "Do I have a choice"?

Him: "I think the fuck not. Let's go and get you your zulu respecting wife". I chuckle.

We hear the sound of drums, and some singing taking place outside. All of a sudden I am nervous, I don't know what to

expect there. I take a deep breath, Nkanyiso pats me on my shoulder, and we walk out. Thanks, God, he is here. This is it. The door opens and one of the royal guards bows down, and lead us to where we are supposed to sit. I give him a nod and follow behind him. We are eventually outside and the yard is full, all the villagers and neighbouring villages are here. I am escorted to my chair right next to the King who is already seated with his family. I sit down and look at the crowd. My heart beating out of my chest this is going to be hard and I foresee a long day, but the scene is beautiful and all these villagers look beautiful with their different outfits. Each village

have flags, representing which village they come from. Nkanyiso sits next to Nkosenhle, this guy, and Nobuhle is blushing. Yhey, she better not think about it Nkanyiso will really break her little heart. I scan the crowd and the girls are beautiful. Everyone is happy, exactly how my parents wanted this ceremony to be.

3

[THE ROYAL HOUSE]

The welcoming ceremony is in full swing. The traditional dancers from all the other neighbouring villages are also here to support, they came prepared. It was the biggest ceremony they've ever had in a long time. The girls are dancing and singing, Thakasile is looking at the Prince with admiration, I mean he is handsome and very irresistible after all. Who wouldn't want him to choose her though? Every maiden wants a piece of him. Thakasile is already envisioning a future between them. She is very sure that the Prince will choose her, after all she is the most beautiful girl than the girls from her village.

“Ave iyinhle I nkosana zintombi” (The Prince is handsome girls).

Thandazile.

“Kakhulu. Futhi sizofanelana”, (Too much. Plus we will blend well together)

Thandazile: “Usucalile uyaphupha Thakasile, soze yakhetha wena I nkosana” (You've started with day dreaming, the Prince will never choose you)

Thakasile rolls her eyes at Thandazile.

Thakasile: “Unomona vele wena phela mina ngimuhle ukunindlula nonke la esgodini. Kuphoqhelekile ukuthi ikhetha mina I nkosana”. (You are very jealous because I'm the most beautiful girl in this village. It is by force for the Prince to choose me)

Thandazile laughs, luckily for them no one is listening in on their conversation, everyone is focused in what is taking place currently.

Thandazile: “Musa ukuzikhohlisa Thakasile. Awukho muhle qha ukuthy unebala elimhlophe”. (Stop lying to yourself. You not beautiful you just light skinned)

Thakasile: “Kuhle ke ngoba uyabona ne nkosana inebala elimhlope (good then because you can see that the Prince is also light skinned)

Thandazile: “Soze ikhethe wena I nkosana, Thakasile ngiyafunga ngiyagomela” (The Prince will never choose you. I swear)

Thakasile: “Hhayi ke sizobona Ntombi, ungasho ukuthy anginakakutshelanga” (We will see girl don't say I didn't tell you)

Thandazile laughs and shakes her head.

Thandazile: “Hai cha uyazithemba Sisi” (you trust yourself) clapping hands.

Azule: “Ngiyayibona inkosanana. Kodwa nambona umngani wakhe”? (I see the Prince but do you see his friend)

Buhle: “Yena muhle impela ukudlula nenkosana yakhona. Mina sengizibhekele yena vele” (he is indeed handsome, he surpasses even the prince. I am scouting for him)

Sino: “Hhayi sisi ewami loya sengufake I stempu” (he is mine, I've already stamped him)

Lwandle: “Ubukeka ephulana I nhliziyo kodwa. Uyayigoxa lo”. (He looks like a heart breaker. He can crush your heart)

Senamile: “Impela mnax E. Uyoqiphiza esika nandi ntsuku zonke.(for real. You are going to cry every day)

Buhle: “Hhayi ke sengamene ngikhale esifubeni sakhe Nkosi yami” (I might as well cry on his chest)

The girls laugh except for Thakasile whose focus is on the Prince but the Prince is not noticing her. Bleh.

Zama(Lead dancer) comes to where Thakasile is sitting with the other maidens panting.

“Haibo Zama kwenzenjani? Ujawha wubani”? (What's wrong Zama. Who is chasing after you), Bavumile.

“Akusi wu Nonhlanhla”. (Isn't it Nonhlanhla)

Bavumile: Wenzeni? Ukujarhelani”? (What did she do? Why is she chasing you?)

All the maidens avert their attention to Zama.

Zama: “Akasese I ntombi into futhi ukhulelwe” (She is no longer a virgin and she is pregnant)

“Haibo. Ini”? They all exclaimed.

Thandazile: “Hhe! U Nhlanhla umithi? Mihlola ke le. Manjer ubani ozohlabelela”?(Nhlanhla is pregnant? This is blasphemy. Now who is going to sing)

Zama: “uThakasile. U mamMbethe ukhethe yena” (Mom Mbethe chose her)

Thakasile: “Hhayini, niyazi anginalo izwi lokuhlabela njer”. (No ways. You know I don't have the singing voice)

Bavumile: “Manjer soyenza njani ke”? (What are we going to do now)

Thandazile: “Angisho ufuna I nkosana ibone wena wedwa? Leli ithuba lakho ke sisi”. (You want the Prince to notice only you, right? Now this is your chance sis)

Thakasile: “Kungani ungahlabeli wena Thandazile? I nkosana izovele ingibone noma nginga hlabeli”. (Why don't you sing Thandazile? The Prince will still notice me even if I don't sing)

The maidens erupt in laughter...

Zama: “Thakasile zilungiselele Ndlovukazi yethu”.
(Prepare yourself our Queen)

Thakasile: “Angeke ngikwazi ukuhlabela”.(I can't do it)

Zana: “Manini ukuphi u Nobuntu”? (wait, where is Nobuntu)

All the maidens looked at each other than their eyes stopped at Thakasile.

Zana: “Thakasile ukuphy u Nobuntu? Kutheni engekho la”? (where is Nobuntu. Why is she not here)

Thakasile: “Angimazi. Uthe yena akufuni Ukuza la”. (I don't know. She said she doesn't want to come here)

Buhle: “Kutjeni esho njalo? Mhlawumbi u gogo wakho umunqabele ukuthi eze la. Bekuyisi fiso sakhe uNobuntu ukuthi azohlangana nathi”. (Why did she say that? Or maybe your grandmother refused her to attend? I was Nobuntu's wish to come and celebrate this day with us)

Thakasile: “Hhayi ukhuluma njani manjer? U gogo akanqabelanga muntu” (Why are you talking like that now? My grandmother did not deny anyone coming here)

Buhle: “Angikholwa mina. U gogo wakho ukhohlakele vele”! (I don't believe it. Your grandmother is evil)

Thakasile shoot her a death stare. In her head she has concluded that, Nobuntu has been bad-mouthing her grandmother to the girls of the village.

Zama: “Sekwanele manjer! Makuphuma izintombi zase mngabulezweni kulandela thina. Lungisani” (It's enough now! When the maidens from mngabulezweni finish dancing, it's our turn. Be prepared)

Thakasile: “Kodwa Zama...” (But Zama)

Zama: “Elami liyema lapho”(My word stands)

She turns and walk away, leaving Thakasile stressed.

Thandazile: “Siholeke Nkosazana wena ozoba yi ndlovukazi yethu kungasikudala (Lead us princess, you who will be our future Queen very soon)

The others laughed, Thakasile just gave them one look. She knows that she is doomed, and she has no come back and can't turn back, now she wishes that Nobuntu was here. She sings so gracefully and melodically. She stands up, and go and look for her grandmother, she finds her sitting with other old women from the village, she greets them, and ask to talk to her grandmother. The woman that was sitting next to her grandmother, shifts making space for Thakasile to sit.

“Wabukeka ungajabule yini indaba”? (you don't look happy. What's wrong)

Thakasile: “Ngikhethwe ukuthi ngihole izintombi” (I am chosen to lead the maidens)

Gogo: “Hau into Enhle Leyo nje”. (That's a beautiful thing)

Thakasile: “Kodwa gogo uyazi anginalo izwi mina”
(But grandmother you know I don't have a voice)

Gogo: “Haibo! Uyohlabelela futhi? Kutheni bengaka khethanga abanye? Uphi u Nonhlanhla”? (You going to sing again? Why didn't they choose others? Where is Nonhlanhla?)

Thakasile: uNonhlanhla ukhulelwe” (She is pregnant)

Gogo: “Ini”?

Thakasile: “Injalo gogo” (It's like that)

Gogo: “Manjer soyenzani Nkosi yami? Kutheni u Mabhele angenza kanjena”? (what are we going to do now Lord? Why would Mabhele do us like this)

Thakasile: “Angazi soyenza njani gogo. Kube uwumnqabelanga uNobuntu ukuthi eze lana bheka manjer. Futhi nezintombi zala

esgodini sebacala ukusola ukuthi awumuphathi kahle u Nobuntu. (I don't know what we are going to do. You shouldn't have restricted Nobuntu from coming here, look what's happening now. Another thing, the girls are starting to speculate that you mistreating Nobuntu)

Gogo: “Ungangitshela ngaloyo mina futhi unganaki ukuthi abantu bathini. Hamba uyohlabela ke, kuzomele uzame ntombi”. (Don't tell me about that one and don't mind what people are saying. Now go out there and sing, you will have to try)

Thakasile looks at her grandmother and shakes her head. She is indeed sending her to the lion's den. She stands up and bid her goodbye to her grandmother, and the women she is sitting with, then walks to where the maidens are eagerly waiting for her. Their nerves are shooting up. Thakasile better come through for them, or else the King will deal with them.



Nobuntu just got done bathing, she is wearing her traditional attire even though she won't be part of the ceremony, but she can always watch from a distance. She takes a cloth to cover her face just so people won't recognize her, because she knows that they will run to her grandmother and tell on her. She takes a deep breath before leaving her hut, she walks for a while singing along the way, her voice is beautiful, no lies about that. The streets are empty, the villagers like things iyoh. She thinks to herself. She finally gets to the big rock, and sit on top of it, from here she can see almost everything happening, well except for the Royal family of course. She sees Nonhlanhla approaching the rock

Advertisement

she takes the cloth and cover her face with it. Nonhlanhla passes her by sniffing a part of her wanted to stop her and ask her why is she crying but the other part decided otherwise. Is not a surprise that Nonhlanhla hates her, she too doesn't know why, but she does or maybe it's because she sings better than her. She once told her straight in her face when Nobuntu was still part of their group. They were mocking her about her physical appearance and skin colour, this went on & on until she eventually left the group. She couldn't stand the mocking

any more, other girls too soon joined in. She has had enough of their mocking and name-calling, plus her grandmother did not like her going to the practice. Yet she allowed Thakasile to go, she is still attending. She travels her eyes to the Royal stead, the izintombi zesinqumo are about to go and dance, well that's her former group. She leapt off the rock and get closer to the royal stead but then a question is running in her mind, if Nonhlanhla left then who is going to sing?, Because as far as she knows Nonhlanhla is the lead singer. She pushed that thought aside and shakes her head. It's been close to 5 minutes now, and there is no movement from the izintombi zesinqumo. All the maidens look at Thakasile, Thakasile is looking down silently crying and playing with her fingers. She won't do it. She can't, and the maidens are going to be on her case, she will never hear the end of it. Her grandmother will be very disappointed at her. On the other hand the King is getting impatient while Prince Zwelibanzi is zoning in & out of sleep. Everyone is looking at the maidens and should they not sing they know what awaits them. The King is about to stand up looking as livid as ever, that's when Nobuntu runs to the yard and pushes herself forward, squeezing herself amongst the maidens, her face still covered with the cloth. This might work in her favour because in other groups there are girls who have

cloths around their faces. She takes a deep breath and starts singing...

“Ngibizeleni uMama ezobona ubuhle bami” she starts singing.

All the maidens turn to look who it is, but they see no one, but then they know the voice very well. It is never to be missed, she is the only one with that voice. That soothing voice. Relief overcomes them. The king sits back down, and the Prince is now fully awake, Nkanyiso also stopped being busy with his phone and focus on the izintombi zonqumo. Their eyes gazing at the maidens, wanting to see the maiden with a beautiful singing voice.

“Ngithi mubizeni azobona azobana. Ayaya zisho” she continues to sing.

Soon the guys start beating the drums and the other maidens join in singing & dancing. They are singing and dancing, it's a very interesting sight to witness, as the hosts they have to top them all. Everyone joins in. Nkanyiso and the Prince are browsing their eyes amongst the girls to see the lead singer, but

they see no one, they are all dancing and some looking down. And before they know it the other villagers join in and throw their shawls towards the Izintombi zesinqumo, declaring them as winners. Before they can even sit down, since they are now

done. Nobuntu have long jogged home, because she knows that her grandmother & Thakasile will rush home to check up on her. Should her grandmother not find her. A whip is will be whipped on her body. As soon as she gets, home she changed into her normal clothes and hide her traditional attire, she takes her beads and go, and sit outside. Thakasile and her grandmother are shocked to find Nobuntu busy with her beads, their anger flashed before their faces and looked at each other shocked, moreover confused.

“Hau gogo naze nafika masinya, usephelile umcimbi) You are home early, is the ceremony over)

Gogo: “Hhayi bengizofuna o phaca bami. Asambe Thakasile”. (No. I came to look for my push ins. Let's go Thakasile)

Nobuntu nods, and they continue heading inside. Thakasile & gogo keep on looking behind. Gogo shakes her head, she takes her push ins, and they leave again.

“Cela nisibuyele nokudla sino Sanele” (please come back with food for me & Sanele)

Her grandmother clicks her tongue ignoring her completely, and walks away. Nobuntu takes a deep breath, that was close. Very close. At least they don't know that it was me, who am I kidding? My voice is very unique & beautiful. They know it was me but they are not sure. On the contrary, I must say that I've enjoyed myself. I've been missing out on a lot, it was a very beautiful ceremony. One of which I will treasure and never forget, after all. What's life without taking risks?

4

ZWELI

We are gathered around the feasting table after yesterday's successful ceremony. I really enjoyed myself, it was a different kind of scene for me. I can't get over the voice of that girl who was singing, it was the most beautiful voice I've ever heard in a

long time. I mean even my friend Nkanyiso was taken by it. My father sent out men to call all the maidens of the village, my father is going to make them sing one by one until we find that girl with that particular voice, that voice we heard yesterday. If it happens that she is not of this village then my father will have no choice but to ask the other villages for their maidens to come too. I want that maiden found, come high or low waters. The seer of the royal stead comes in, and greet all of us. We greet back. He stands in the middle of the dining area, and wonder his eyes around until his gaze stops at Nkanyiso. Nkanyiso shifts in his uncomfortable, he looks at him for a long time, and I can see Nkanyiso swallowing hard, he is nervous but who wouldn't be? I mean the royal seer is scary, and looks like a mini witch with his cracked skin, and long finger nails. He is a short tokoloshi type, if you ask me. His eyes are very dark, and forever glowing. He moves them from him and walks away, leaving us all confused. Why would he look at Nkanyiso, and not say anything? We all get back to eating but Nkanyiso doesn't touch his food.

“Are you okay, son”?, my dad asks him.

“Not any more baba. Why did the seer look at me like that”?
I can detect fear in his voice.

King: “I wish I knew son, and with the seer you don't ask questions. If he answers, he answers in riddles he never gives out a straight answer. Just ignore him” he nods.

Queen: “Maybe he was confirming your real intentions of being here, and by the look of things, you came with good intentions. Relax” he smiles. “He doesn't bite, and as my husband said, ignore him.

He nods still uneasy...

We continue eating. After we are all done eating, we are summoned outside. The seer is going to perform a small

ceremony for the ancestors to guide us and choose a good maiden fit to be a future Queen, and will be able to lead the masses with me side by side. Well, it will be in vain because I am not about to be a King, that is definitely not part of my

future plans. I hope whoever the ancestors chooses for me, will have to live with the fact that, I love Tasha with my everything in my eyes she will always be my Queen. She must know that before her comes Natasha. He calls all the Zulu clan names and burn some incense, we are all kneeling down. The king speaks too and we are done, We all stand up, and go and sit in our respective chairs the maidens are already here. They are all eager and so ready to throw themselves at my feet and possibly yes sir to everything I say, pathetic village girls. I roll my eyes, dramatic and so gay, I know.

“Ngiyanamukela nonke zintombi zase sgodini. Ngiyazi niyazubuza ukuthy kungani I Nkosi inicelile. Ngaphandle kokumosha is'khathi, I nkosana la isuke yathathiwa yilizwi elinye lapha kini ebeli hlabela Izolo. Yingakho I Nkosi inibizile, loko kusho ukuthy ngamunye ngamunye mele nihlabele”. (I welcome you all maidens of the village. I know you are asking yourself why did the king summon you. Without wasting any more time the prince here was blown away by the girl amongst

you who was singing yesterday. That is why the King summon you, he wants each and everyone of here to sing).

I can see them looking at each other and some shaking their heads, I am so over this day already. In fact over this place. I just need to get back to Jo'burg, being here is just a waste of time. Anyway the maidens start singing one by one...2 hours later they are still at, but some are refusing to sing, and that makes me angry. They all said they can't sing, sigh. I did not hear the voice I heard yesterday, I guess my father will have to extend an invitation to the neighbouring villages. I see my father shaking his head, he is not impressed and so is my mother. The maidens are beautiful though no lies there, they are a breath of fresh air. They are now waiting for my father to talk. He stands up but the seer stops him, and shake his head. My father sits back down looking at the seer confused, in fact we all are. Can't he see that this is all a waste of time?.

“Uxolo Nkosi yami kodwa aziphelelanga izintombi kushoda yinye njer” (Forgive me my King but the maidens are not complete, there's only one missing).

“Ubani loyo? Kutheni engekho la, akazi uthi isimemo se Nkosi Siyazelwa ngokushesha”? (Who is that? Doesn't she know that the King's request must be honoured very fast). My father roars.

Him: Akenzanga ngamabomu Nkosi yami uphoxwa yi simo.
Uzoza manjer Nkosi yami”(She did not do it deliberately my
King, situation forces her not to come)

He looks at the maidens, and points at one of them with his stick. The maiden bows then turns around and jogs away. I wonder where she is going. I guess she is going to call the other maiden, I hope she is not good-looking, because all the girls here are beautiful, and some average. I don't think Tasha's wish will come, I will just have to choose the less beautiful. Whuuu, who am I kidding? They are all beautiful.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

I am lying down on my back in my mat since I have nothing to do. Thakasile went to the king's urgent maidens summoning. I wonder why the sudden summoning, I guess Prince Zwelibanzi is going to pick his wife, God I wish I was there just to see who he picks. He can pick anyone but not Thakasile, uh uh I don't want him dying young. Gogo went to town to buy grocery, Me

- Sanele contributed some money

Advertisement

but she told us that she is not going to use her money but ours, as if we care. I can hear someone calling my name from a distance. At first, I thought that my ears were deceiving me but as the voice grows nearer & nearer, now I am sure that someone is definitely calling my name. I get up from my mat, and go and wait at the door, I see Lindiwe entering the gate I wonder what does she want. She finally gets to me. Seems like she has been running judging by her breathing, she needs to exercise more. What is she doing here anyway? Isn't she supposed to be at the royal house?

“Sawubona Nobuntu. I Nkosi iyakucela njengamanje” (hello Nobuntu. The King is requesting for your presence right now)

I shoot my eyes open, and look at her with shock written all over my face. Why would the King request my presence? What did I do? What if it's about yesterday? I am sure as hell that he is going to banish me or worse kill me, after all I've gate crushed the ceremony. I don't dare ask any questions, they might delay us from making it soon to the King's place, and I heard that he doesn't tolerate late coming. I wear my leather sandals, and we both rush to the royal stead. My heart is beating out of my chest, I am sweating, thanks God I don't have oily skin. I can see all the maidens standing in line, as soon as we get in we also fall in line. My heart is beating out of my chest and my palms are sweaty, I don't know what to expect from here going forward. I do not dare look at the Royal family, my head is bowed down. I feel myself being pushed forward, I swallow hard. I am standing before the royalties.

“Siyabonga ngokuza kwakho. I Nkosi u Nqobani usacela umhlabelelele?” (Thank you for coming. King Nqobani is asking you to sing for him)

What? I am not doing that. Anyway, why would the King want me to sing for him? I mean no one saw me yesterday, so...what did he hear? But then I know better than to defy his

orders, he is said to be a ruthless man, he can even burn you alive if you defy him. I take a deep breath, and I don't dare lift my face, I know that Thakasile is breathing fire wherever she is standing, and she will run her mouth to our grandmother, as soon as she steps inside the yard. Here goes nothing;

“Ye mama ngabe mina ngithandwa ngubani na. Kutheni ngilahliwe ngingabonwa? Ngiyashweleza maningi lekelela Bantu abadala, Izindlela zami zimnyama”, (I wonder who loves me. Why am I thrown away and not be seen? I plead with you my elders to please help me. My ways are dark)

It was dead silence, I swear people can hear my heart beating out of my chest.

“Ingabe yilo le lizwi olivile ndodana”? (Is that the voice you heard, son)

“Yebo baba yilona” (yes, dad it is)

King: “Kushuthi yiyona kanye indlovukazi yethu yakusasa yala esgodini” (It means she is the future Queen of this kingdom)

Thakasile: “Ini? Lento embi kanje”! (What? This ugly thing) she shouts.

What?! This can't be happening, I am not ready to take up such a huge responsibility. No no, they made a mistake.

Thandazile: “Ai ke ashabalala amaphupho kanjalo ke Thakasile” (and your dreams vanished, just like that)

King: “Thulani umsindo! Ayize ngaphambile I nkosazana yethu” (keep quiet! Let our princess come forward)

I swallow the lump in my throat. I don't want to get married, and definitely not to royalty, I have plans and marrying into royalty will hinder me from making them a success. I will be expected to become a house wife, iyooohh.

Seer: “Ikhulumile I Nkosi nkosazana” (The king has spoken princess)

I blink away the tears, and make my way forward with my heart beating out of my chest, I am a nervous wreck. I don't dare look up. I am just playing with my fingers, I can actually see the King's shoes, he has ugly toes. The shoes look funny and big.

King: “Bantu bala esgodoni le ntokazi emi ngaphambikweni, yiyona I Ndlovukazi yenu yakusasa. Indodana yami isikhethile icedile” (my fellow villagers, the maiden that you see standing before you. She is your future Queen)

The villagers ululate, and I can feel my tears pushing forward, they want their presence to be felt but I will not succumb to their demand. I just have to be strong, till I am out of here. My mind traces to my grandmother, good Lord I can't even imagine the punishment that awaits me. Now this will give Thakasile more reasons to hate me, it's a mess. I can hear the seer talking but my mind is not listening to whatever is said, I know that it involves me. I did not dare, not even once lift my head, I just

can't look at all the people gathered here. I also know that there are maidens who are mad pissed that they chose me and not them. One of the servants comes and pull me by my hand, I follow behind her. This is not how I've envisioned my future, getting married to a Prince. Why did the Prince choose me? I mean there are lot of beautiful girls here in the village, why did he not pick Thandazile or Lindiwe? I mean they are beautiful, why me? I am escorted in to the royal car, they are taking me home, and they are going to inform my grandmother about me being chosen to be the prince's wife. Nc nc, this is madness. I balance my head on the window of the car and look outside, wiping my tears. I shouldn't have come here yesterday, I should've just stayed at home, and sewed my beads. None of this wouldn't have happened, there's no use complaining because it is happening and from what I picked up, we are getting married in a week time from now. It's too soon if you ask me. Why the rush though? Can't they at least give us a month to get to know each other? I am so not ready to carry the burden that comes from royalty, ai ngaze ngazilaya.

★Insert 5★

NOBUNTU

After the guests left my grandmother came back with a belt, looking livid as ever. It's about to go down. Kwanyiwa.

“Bowuyofunani lapha wena? Zanke ngithy hlala la endlini”?
(What were you going to do there. Didn't I tell you to stay here at home?)

Silence...

“Ngikhuluma nawe Nobuntu or sowuyisi mumu manjer”? (I am talking to you or are you deaf now)

Me: “Bengiyobona kuthy kwenzakalani”. (I went to see what's going on)

Her: “Ngobani”? (Why)

Me: “Because I've never attended any royal ceremonies before. I just wanted to experience it”.

Her: “Ungalinge ungidakele. Khuluma kahle nami ngoba angizwa nex” (Don't you start with me, talk properly with me because I do not hear anything)

Me: “Bengobona izintombi ukuthy zigcoke njani”. (I went to see how the maidens were wearing)

Thakasile: “Unamanga Nobuntu. Bowuye lapha ngoba bewufuna I nkosana ikukhethe, ukhohlakele wena. Dala ngibona ukuthy uyinyoka! Ngiyakuzonda Nobuntu ngenhliziyo

yami yonke, ungihuze umyeni wami"! (You are lying Nobuntu. You went there because you wanted the Prince to choose you.

You are evil and I always knew that you are a snake, I hate you with all my heart you've taken my husband away from me)

Me: "He was never yours to begin with. I don't know why you busy whining".

Her: "Uyahumsha wazikahle ukuthy angisazi islungu? Ungibukela phansi kahle kahle".(You speaking English knowing very well that I don't know it. You are clearly looking down at me)I shake my head.

Gogo: "Kutheni unenhliziyo embi? Ngizokufindisa isfundo". (Why do you have an evil heart? I will teach you a lesson)

Me: "Kuyafana mus. Asoze ngashada ne nkosana mina angifuni ukushada nayo, angiyithatha u Thakasile". (It's all the same. I will never get married to the prince, I don't want to get married to him. Thakasile can have him)

Gogo: “Uthini? Usufuna ukungihlambalaza la esgodini manjer? Uyeyisa kahle kahle” (What did you just say? You now want to

embarrass me in the whole village? You are very disrespectful) I roll my eyes.

Me: “Kubi ke ngoba angeke ngashada ne nkosana mina. Soze. Sowungamane ungishaye gogo” (too bad because I won't marry the Prince. Never, you might as well hit me)

I feel my cheek burning. Oh wow, she slapped me.

Her: “Uziyenzile angisho? Kube uvele wahlala la endlini ngabe akwenzekanga konke loku. Inkinga awulaleli Nobuntu”! (You brought this upon yourself right? You should've just stayed at home, all of this wouldn't have happened. The problem is that you don't listen)

Me: “Uxolo kuloko mara soze ngashada ne nkosana ngifun...”
(I'm sorry about that but I will not ma...)

I did not even finish my sentence, my cheek stung, and before I know it, she is beating me, I am crying pleading with her to stop, but she doesn't hear my plea. Thakasile is enjoying every

minute of it. Pathetic. I cry till I have no more tears to cry, and my body feels numb, in fact even my brain too. After she finishes hitting me, she leaves me on the floor I can't even get up. I do not even want to think about the bruises in my body. I lie there for almost 5 minutes and lift myself up slowly but surely, I limp to my room. This old witch really did a number on me, psshh. As for Thakasile she will never amount to anything, she will die here in this village with nothing, mxm. I get to my hut, and slowly force myself to lie down, I can now feel the pains they are excruciating, and I have no pain killers. I guess I will just have to sleep them off, I don't know if I will be able to cook tonight but with my grandmother you will never know. I will cook whether I like it or not. Maybe it's not a bad idea after all marrying the Prince, I mean I will be free from slavery and also be treated like royalty, but what if the Prince doesn't love me? What if I will be ill-treated? God, I need your intervention.

★»★«

NKANYISO

Zweli suggested that we come here on these hills and see how beautiful the village is. I won't lie to you guys the Buhlebezulu village is beautiful with it's farms & river, it's so calming. I can't help it but think of the way the seer looks at me, his eyes were saying a lot but I don't know what they were saying, it was very creepy I won't lie. Then there's Nobuntu. The girl with a beautiful voice. I did not really see her face but all I can tell you is that, I fell in love with her from yesterday when she first opened her mouth to sing. Her voice took me to all kinds of places. Wait, this is wrong. Why am I even thinking about my best friend's soon to be wife? It's not right, I need to erase the thought completely but how when all I hear is her voice? Not unless I leave, and go back to Jo'burg, maybe just maybe I will forget about her. I sigh, this is bad. I keep on throwing small

stones on the grass, Zweli is on a phone call with Tasha. I wish I had a steady girlfriend but unfortunately I am not the relationship type, I have few fuck buddies. I had to cut ties with some because they were starting to catch feelings. After I caught Amanda red-handed with my brother, and later found out that she was pregnant for him, really tore me into pieces. I even tried committing suicide but I failed, ever since then I

started resenting girls and froze my heart not to ever love again but after seeing Nobuntu somehow it melted. Well, I will just have to stop thinking about her it's not healthy.

“Sawubona bhuti” 2 voices are greeting me. I look up and I see 2 maidens looking at me all smiles.

“Yebo ninjani”

Them: “Siphilile” (we are good)

Girl 1: “Singahlala nawe la xa ukuthy akuna nkinga”? (Can we sit here if you don't have a problem)

Me: "You are welcome to sit it's no problem"

Girl: "Asikuzwa" (we do not hear you)

Me: "Akuna nkinga ningahlala" I smile.

Them: "Siyabonga". (Thank you)

Girl_2: "Igama lami ngingu Sbahle bese lo engihamba naye u Zano" (My name is Sbahle and this is Zano)

Me: Igama ngingu Nkanyiso. Ngiyabonga ukunazi" (my name is Nkanyiso Lovely knowing you)

Sbahle: "Siyacala ukukubona la esgodini" (It's our first time seeing you here in our village)

Me: “Ngizovakashela umngani wami” (I am here to visit my friend)

Zano: “Ubani igama lo mngani wakho mhlambe ngiyamazi” (What's the name of your friend maybe I know him)

Sbahle: “Umngani we nkosana” (he is the Prince's friend) I hear her gasping.

Zano: “Ngempela” (serious) I nod.

Her: “Ukuphi yena manjer”? (Where is he now)

Me: “Nangu uyeza” (here he comes)

Zano: “Masambe Sbahle” (Let us go)

Me: “Niyaphi manjer”? (where are you going now)

Sbahle: “Asivumelekile ukuthi sibe duze ne nkosana njengoba esekhetha u malokozana wakhe”. (We are not allowed to be near the Prince since he has already chosen a wife)

Me: “Ohhh...kubi ke loko”. (That's bad)

Zano: “Sowuza sala kahle”. (Stay well)

Me: “Nihambe kahle”. (Go well)

They stand up and walk away but before they can even get far, Zweli stops them. He talks to them for a few minutes then leave them, and they walk away, he comes and sits next to me.

“I can't wait for all of this shit to end. I am so over it”

“Only few days left and it will all be over”

Him: “I miss Natasha, I can't be having phone sex when I have a girl back at the city” I chuckle.

Me: “It's better than fucking anything that wears a skirt, I like the fact that you respect your relationship” He laughs.

Me: “What were you talking about with those girls”?

Him: “I was asking them their names and where they stay. They turned me off because they don't know English, remember I did tell you that they are illiterate”.

Me: “Too bad because you will have to communicate with your wife in Isizulu not unless you will hire a tutor for her”.

Him: “I will hire her a tutor. I only chose her because she has a great voice, she will sing for Natasha and her friends”

Me: “Her voice is indeed beautiful but look on the bright side, you will be deflowering her”

Him: “I know, and we have to do it right after the wedding. The sheet must have a blood stain to confirm that she is indeed a virgin, it's too much but then culture is culture I have to do it whether I like it or not”.

Me: “You sure don't like this girl”.

Him: “With all my being. She is nothing to me other than being my wife and do her wifely duties, that's it”

I just nod, here he is trash talking the girl without even knowing her. If only I was the one who was marrying that girl, I am sure I was going to treat her like a Queen that she is. I mean she managed to melt my heart in a way but since she is not mine I will continue freezing it.



NOBUNTU

My whole body is in great pain

Advertisement

and my eyes are swollen. My grandmother really gave me a hiding of a century, I mean I can't even sit on my butt. I am lying on my left side right now, trying to calm the pain. A loud bang

comes through my door, I can't even bring myself to stand up and attend to it.

“Yewena Nobuntu usukhohliwe yini kuthi mele uyotheza izinkuni? Mhlambe uzibona sowuncono ngoba naku uyogana ne nkosana”? (Yhey Nobuntu, have you forgotten that you have to go and fetch the fire wood? Or you think that you better

than us now, seeing that you will be marrying a prince?) Erh
hhayi this old witch!

Me: “Ubuhlungu umzimba wami gogo cela u Thakasile”.
(My body is painful grandma ask Thakasile)

Her: “Ngitshela wena mina. U Thakasile ulele usaphumula.
Uze ung'size ke uvuke lapho uhambe uyotheza bese uyabuya
uzopheka, angifuni ukubuya futhy la”! (I am telling you.
Thakasile is resting she is very tired. Please help me by getting
up and, go to fetch the woods then come back and start
cooking, I don't want to come back here)

The is no use reasoning with her, she will still insult me and
call me all sorts of names, and end up getting beaten again.
She

doesn't even care that I am in pain. God. What did I do to
deserve to live like this? Tell me, what did I do wrong? I am
clearly the problem because even my parents left, and never
looked back. I think I was cursed at birth even my prayers don't
even reach your ears or are you just plain ignoring them? I need

some peace too, you know. I might as well marry the Prince maybe he is my breakthrough to this life of mine that I am living currently. These people don't even care about my feelings. No one asked me how I feel about all of this. My feelings don't matter to any of them. I force myself to get up, I exit my hut then go to the kitchen to fetch an axe and start walking, my legs are wobbly I can't even walk properly, but what choice do I have? I hate my life. I finally arrive at the forest and sit down for a little bit, I am kind of tired since my body is in pain. After 5 minutes of resting I eventually stand up and start chopping woods, the axe is heavy and it is causing me more pain.

“Ithi ngikusize ungaze uzilimaze ntokazi” (Let me help you before you hurt yourself woman)

His baritone voice sends shivers down my spine, it is so deep that even with his request to help me sounds like a command of some sort. I turn to look, and I am met by this tall handsome man, with the broadest smile and pure set of white teeth. He is

not dark nor light, he is in between. His black/brown eyes are a complete beauty. His hair slightly cut, he actually cut it in a style. It suits him perfectly, it's like he has just walked out on a

magazine cover. I am in awe of his handsomeness. I don't realize that I have been staring him for too long, until he cleared his throat. With a smile plastered on his face.

“Cela imbazo” (The axe please) I give it to him.

Me: “Ngiyabonga” (thank you)

Him: “Ubukeka usezi nhlungwini, ingabe kunenkinga ekhaya”?
(You look like you are in pains, is there any trouble at home)

Me: “Oh, it's something not to worry yourself about”

Him: “You can speak English”?

Me: “Yes. Why do you seem shocked”?

Him: “It's just that I was chatting to some girls earlier on, and they told me that they don't know English”.

Me: "That's because not all of us went to school. We were 30 pupils in the class during then, most of the villagers didn't see the need of education because it won't take them anywhere. And boy, are they right? They are very much right. I mean for example, take a look at me. I have completed my grade 12 5 years ago, and I've passed with distinctions but here I am stuck in this village with no ambition. Being treated like a slave, unloved, and clearly broken. I am tired of it all, I am tired of fighting. I am just tired".

Him: "I am very sorry to hear that, I wish there was something I can do to help"

I simply nod, and quickly wipe my tears before this man standing before me could notice that I am crying, I don't want him pitying me. He finishes chopping the logs, and he gives me back my axe, he wipes sweat in his forehead.

Me: "Thank you".

Him: "You welcome. Let me formally introduce myself, my name is Nkanyiso"

Me: "Nobuntu".

Him: "You have a beautiful name just like you". I chuckle and blush.

Whoa I am not supposed to be blushing, I am going to be someone's wife for Christ's sake, this is very wrong. I pick up the woods and immediately leave before I will get tempted. I up my pace just in case he is following me, I no longer mind the pain. I felt so foreign standing before him. Jesus. Abomination Le...as soon as I get home, I start by preparing the fire. I look for the axe and I don't find it, shit I left it at the forest and going to get back will be a mission, what if that handsome man is still there? Hhayi I will go and fetch it after I'm done cooking.

“Bathe ngikunikeze Le mbazo bewushiye lapha ehlathini”
(They said I should give you this axe, you left it at the forest)

“Ngiyabonga Sanele” (Thank you)

Him: “Upheka njani usezinhlungwini”? (How do you cook whilst in pains!)

Me: “U gogo wakho”. (It's your grandmother)

Him: “Yahlanya logogo yekela ngizopheka mina hambo phumula wena, ukushayelini nje khona”? (that grandmother is crazy. Leave it I will cook, go and rest, why did she beat you anyway?)

Me: “Ngoba I nkosana ikhethe mina kuno Thakasile” (because the Prince chose instead of Thakasile)

Him: “Kwaze kwa kuhle loko Nobuntu. Ngiyakuthokozela”
(That's good Nobuntu, I am happy for you)

I nod and sit down with him making a small conversation with me, my body was here but my mind was far away, I find myself smiling alone. Nkanyiso. I keep on replaying the conversion in my mind. How does it feel like, when you inlove? Hhayi Satan is working overtime, skrr skrr.

NKANYISO

I followed Nobuntu without her noticing that I am following her. I left the axe at the gate when I bumped into someone as soon as I turned to face whoever it was, I was met by a boy who looks younger than Nobuntu, and I told him why I was there. I gave him the axe, and he went inside the yard while I walked away. At least now I know where she lives. She is nothing like the other girls in the village, she is darker than the bunch, but my heart only yearns for her. I was smiling all the way to the palace, the smile plastered in my face can't be missed, before I can even enter the yard I first composed myself, and then make my way inside the yard. My heart is leaping with joy, I spoke to her. I can't believe that I made a small conversation with her, she is even more beautiful up close. She is indeed a melanin Queen, but it doesn't sit well with me that she is being abused, I mean how can one be cruel and abuse such a loving soul? I wish she at least told me who abuses her maybe just maybe I would've helped her. Truly speaking I wouldn't mind killing for her. It broke my heart when I saw her wiping her tears, she thought that I didn't notice, but trust me I did. Zweli better treat this girl right if he knows what's good for him. Why am I even territorial of her already? Get a grip Nkanyiso! You can do

better than this. I steady myself and get inside the huge yard, I see the seer approaching me, I swallow hard. This man scares the shit out of me. I walk slowly enough for him to catch up with me. He finally catches up with me.

“How was your walk”? He asks walking besides me. His presence is very heavy.

It still amazes me that he can talk English, unlike the others here in the Royal household.

“It was okay” I shrug.

Him: “Just okay? So, nothing out of the ordinary happened”?

Me: “Yes”

Him: “I see. Did you by, any chance met any maiden you like in this village or is there someone you like in particular”?

What is this man talking about? I swallow hard. Does he perhaps know about the encounter I had with Nobuntu few minutes ago?

Me: "What are you talking about? And no I have not yet met the woman I want, maybe I might meet one at the wedding".

Him: "Let your heart lead you to a right woman, and another thing you need to let go of the hatred you have in your heart. The anger will hinder you from a lot of things. She will step into the your life. You should allow her in, open your heart for her once she starts penetrating it. She is your sanity, and you are her sanctuary. Take care young man. I will see you around".

Me: "I will always remember that. Thank you for the talk".

Him: "She is not his chosen one. She is paving the way for the chosen one. She is yours to keep, she is destined for you not him".

He says and walks away...

What on Earth is this man on about? A chosen one? Whose chosen one? Argh. This man is definitely losing it, and he is talking in riddles. I shake my head, and head inside the house, the house is rather empty I guess everyone is in their rooms. In 30 minutes time it will be dinner time, oh well, I guess I have to take that quick shower. I ascend the stairs and go to my room, I pass by Zweli's room his door is slightly open, and he is still sleeping with his mouth open, "chuckling" ai this man and sleeping they are the best of friends. I head to my room and take a quick shower, I need to get Nobuntu's image out of my mind. She can't be occupying my mind like this, dammit woman. What are you doing to me? Stop invading my mind like this, you are going to be my best friend's wife in few days time. I let the water hit my skin, this is a mess. I am fucked. I am in love with my best friend's soon to be wife, and the fact he will be the one deflowering her makes me angry. On the other hand the seer said some things in riddles, he confuses the shit out of me. I shouldn't have come here, this was a bad idea. I only came to support my best friend I didn't know that things will turn out this way. I didn't know that, I will fall in love with my friend's soon to be wife! I get out of the shower as soon as the

water becomes cold. I am wrapping a towel around my waist, a knock comes through at the door I go, and open it is one of the

servants. She freezes and opens her mouth as soon as she sees me. I clear my throat and, she snaps out of it.

“Ku...kulungile ukudla” (food is ready) she tells me and walk away fast.

I chuckle and close the door, I wear my track suit and, go to the dining area. Zweli is not here, I guess he is still sleeping I greet everyone and sit down.

“Ukuphi u Zweli? Akazi ukuthi isikhathi sokudla lesi”? (Where is Zweli, doesn't he know that it's time for dinner)

“Usalele Nkosi yami” (He is still sleeping my king) one of the guards answers.

King: “Hambo mvusa njengamanje angifuni ukuthukuthela”!
(Go and wake him up right now I don't want to get angry)

One of the guards bows, and rushes to call him. He comes down looking half asleep, I chuckle and shake my head. He

greet us and takes a sit next to me. The king gives him one stern look, and he looks down, the King says grace, and we all start eating. The food is always well cooked and taste absolutely amazing. The cooker is the best.

★»★«

THAKASILE

I can't help it but be jealous of the brother & sister relationship that Nobuntu & Sanele are having. They look very much happy, but Sanele is never like this with me, I am his blood sister for Christ's sake. We don't sit and talk like siblings. What is it that Nobuntu have that I don't have? She is not even beautiful or

thick, she is skinny, ugly and dark with her long hair, at least she takes care of her hair. Why did the Prince even choose her? He fucken chose this ugly thing over me? geez. What was she even doing at the welcoming ceremony of the Prince in the first place? She ruined my chances of me being chosen by the Prince, she had to ruin all of it. The other maidens actually laughed at me, they were having their time of their lives with my sorrow. I mean, I was so sure that the Prince will choose me, I was certain. I had plans for me & Zweli, and an ugly girl like Nobuntu took him away from me, thinking of it all makes me hate her even more. I hate Nobuntu, I don't think I will ever like her.

Advertisement

We grew up close all 3 of us, we were very tight until 5 years back when Nobuntu finished her matric. I was very happy for her trust me, until my grandma started poisoning my ears about how bad influence Nobuntu is, and how she is a cursed child I must not envy her. I was still a dummy then, I didn't know much. Futhy ke it got worse because she completed her matric, no matter how bad the situation was she still soldiered on. She will go to school on an empty stomach, and stays the whole day without eating. That still didn't bother her, she still went to school. She never gave up, gogo will wake her up as early as 02:00am to go and fetch water, that time it is very dark

outside. She will come back only to find the door of her hut locked. Then the good boy will allow him to sleep in his heart. We don't even know what happened to her parents, but I know what happened to mine. They died in a fire. Gogo also told me that Nobuntu drove her mother away, she has bipolar, and very much unstable. The worst thing is some of my friends came and told me how Nobuntu is bad-mouthing me, calling me useless & dumb because I don't have matric let alone finished school. That's when I build up this hate I have for her with all the poison that my grandmother, and my friends fed my ears with. I will not watch her marry the Prince, I will have to come up with a mother of all plans for the wedding not to happen. We have like a week left. I will have to talk to my grandmother first before I initiate the plan, her input would be very valuable. I

continue looking at them, they look very much happy. I need to act quick. Should it happen that she gets married to the prince, I would be left to take over her duties and of which I hate doing. I hate being ordered around. She may have matric, but she is still stuck here with us 5 years later, it was all just a waste of time. She should've dropped out just like me.

★»★«

ZWELI

We are now done eating, and the king has summoned me in his chambers. I know that he is going to reprimand me of which it's not necessary because I did nothing wrong, I just overslept

that's it. I follow behind him, we get into his office, and he gestures me to sit down, I sit. The Queen soon join us, well this is about the wedding, I suppose, seeing that the Queen is also present.

“We only have 4 days left Zweli and it seems like you are not prepared or ready to get married” my mom tells me politely.

“He is ready and very much prepared. He better put his shit together and do what's right”! My dad roars.

Me: “I am the one who chose my wife dad, that should be evident enough to you that I'm ready to get married”.

Him: “I know and sorry for coming at you like that. You know very well that you are hot headed”.

Mom: “We need to prepare for the ceremony of welcoming our new bride and so far we did nothing. Nothing at all. There

are still gifts to be bought for the bride's family, the elders, we also have to buy food and hire tents, chairs and pots. We are running out of time. Not forgetting your traditional attires along with your groom's men and her bride maids. The decor, everything. Have the invites to the other villages been sent”?

The king nods...

Her: “Good. Now let's get to work, we have like 4 days to get everything done”.

Me: “Why don't you hire a wedding planner? I thought we were doing something small & intimate”.

Her: “I want to do things for myself and besides I have women who I trust, they will be the ones helping me with everything and make sure that everything runs smooth. That was the plan, but you know how the villagers are. They all want to witness the prince of Buhlebezulu village taking a wife”.

King: "You can't handle everything at once Khethiwe. You need some help" mom smiles.

Her: "I can. As for you, you better start arranging rooms for the invited villages chiefs and their elders. See to it that they have a place to sleep before Friday. Son, I am so proud of you. Marriage is a huge step".

King: "Son, do you want to add anything? It's your wedding after all"

Me: "Nope. I trust the Queen to pull off this wedding, she will make it a success, and besides it's not an actual wedding, it's a welcoming ceremony of the bride, right"?

Queen: "And her dowry day of course, not forgetting exchanging of rings"

Me: "Wait, we are going to exchange vows with each other"?

Her: "Yes. Is there a problem"?

I look at dad and his death stare is not giving me peace, it's more like a warning. I have no choice but to shake my head. If I speak my voice will betray me, it's best I keep quiet.

Her: "You better start practising them then".

King: "What must he practice? He must say them straight from his heart not some prepared vows"

Queen: "Either way my king. He has to practice them just to make sure that he doesn't mess up"

Him: "Mess up what? He will be saying his vows coming straight from his heart, after all he is the one who chose the maiden. Excuse me I have other commitments to attend too".

He stands up and walks away his stick making clicking noise on the floor. Mother shrugs and shortly follow after him. I rub my

face with my hands, I need to get this over and done with, then go back to the city and start living my life without no one guarding me. My dad is really making my stay uncomfortable. I take out my phone from my pocket and call Natasha, she answers on that 3rd ring.

“Baby”

“Hey Babe. I miss you”

Her: “I miss you too baby. You sound down what's wrong? Are you having second thoughts about the marriage”?

Me: “A part of me yes, but then again I have no choice I will have to go ahead with it or else my father will kill me”

Her: “All will be well babe. Just get done there and come back to me, I miss you, and this house is too big without you”

Me: "I miss you too baby. How I wish that you can come down this side"

Her: "You know I can't baby. I wouldn't just stand and watch you saying vows to her, kissing her, and the thought of you sleeping with her doesn't sit well with me".

Me: "It's not as if like I will sleep with her. I will just break her hymn that's it. As long as there will be a blood stain, then it's good".

Her: "Is that even allowed"?

Me: "What they don't know won't hurt them"

Her: "If you say so. How far are you with the preparations"?

Me: "Mom is handling everything"

Her: "Oh okay. I've got to go I'm having lunch with my family.
Love you"

Me: "Love you too".

I hang up and walk out of my dad's office. I bump into
Nkanyiso.

"Man the guys are asking when should they come"?

"Friday early in the morning"

Him: "I will let them know. How are you feeling? Are
you ready"?

Me: "I feel like I'm betraying Tasha man"

Him: "You are not. Remember why you're doing this, now chin up and pretend to be happy that is going to make all our lives easy. The sooner we get done with this. The easier for us to leave, do you want to be stuck here"?

Me: "You're right. Thanks for being here man, I don't think I would've survived on my own"

Him: "I always knew that you love me and today you've just proven it"

Me: "Fuck you man«

I punch him on his shoulder, and we both burst out laughing.

Him: "Let's go and practice your wedding step"

Me: "Mxm"

We both walk away with him busy telling me about the girls of the village. It's all a waste of time because he is not the committing type, he smash & pass. It's been like that for years, he just needs to find the one who will tame him. That one who will unfreeze his heart. Underneath that stoned cold heart of his, lies lots of love.

7

NOBUNTU

The almost big day that everyone has been talking about is finally here. I woke up as early as 03:00am before anyone else and went to the river to bathe with four of the maidens I have chosen, my bridesmaids. I haven't bothered myself with asking Thakasile, it was going to be a complete waste of time. I chose Zuki, Buhle, Nomsa & Zana, they the only ones I am closed too. I have to do everything by myself but my bridesmaids also played a very vital role for this to be a success. Zana asked her mother to sew me a dress, Buhle offered to do my hair and Zuki offered to do my make-up. All in all I am sorted. My grandmother hasn't spoken to me ever since that encounter of beating me. Thakasile have been avoiding me ever since, she practically hates me. I heard that she wanted the wedding not to happen, but something strange happened. She woke up 2 days ago not walking, wuhhh hhayi. I can't really believe that few hours from now I will be officially someone's wife. It feels surreal. I wish I can run away and never look years, but where will I go? What I also found funny this week was that I actually have uncles real uncles. I wonder if I would've known them if it wasn't for this wedding that will be taking place. I don't blame them though my grandmother can make one very

uncomfortable. She also talks a lot, she has no filter. I wonder how are they going to treat me at the royal house. Are they going to treat me like a maid? Well, they wouldn't though

because they have servants. How will they welcome me? After, all I am just a commoner. What will I be doing there exactly, in terms of my duties of course? I don't see myself popping babies for the prince and be a house wife at the same time. No, I want to become something in life not just a wife married to a Prince. Will the Prince love me, well I think he does love me that's why he chose me right? He chose me because he loves me. It's not all bad after all. At least I will leave this hellhole called a home, not literally hell but yeah that. I never ever in my life imagine that I will be someone's wife at the age of 25, never ever especially a wife to a prince but here it is happening. One of my aunt comes into my hut, she is all smiles. It's my first time seeing her, actually it's my first time seeing all of these people who are here. Where were they all these years when gogo was abusing me?

“Unjani Sisi” (how are you)

“Ngiyaphila Ma wena unjani”? (I am good and how are you)

Her: “Ngiyaphila nami. Igama lami ngingu Ncumisa ngingu mamncane wakho ecaleni laka nyoko” (I am good too. My name is Ncumisa your Aunt from your mother's side)

Me: “Ngiyabonga ukukukwazi” (it's good to know you)

Her: “Yazi ngithukiwe njani mangizwa bathi uyashada. Phela thina singumndeni sazi kuthi wahamba no mngani ka mamakho edolobheni” (I was so shocked when I heard that you are getting married. We as a family know that you left to town with your mother's friend)

Me: “Ngempela”? (Really)

Her: “Yebo”

Me: “Kusho ubani”? (who said that)

Her: “Ugogo wakho. Awumazi ukuthi ukhohlakele njani asimufuni nala ahambe khona. Kaze umukhona njani wena”

(Your grandmother. You don't know how evil she is, we don't even want her near us. I wonder how you manage with her)

If only you knew. No doubt about that evil part though, she is beyond evil. What puzzles me is that, why did she hide me from the family? Why did she lie about my whereabouts? She is more cruel than I thought, once I am settled at the royal house I will ask Ncumisa about my mother.

Her: “Asisala siyeka lendaba yalo mthakathi. Uziva njani? Honestly speaking”. (Let's leave the talk about that witch. How do you feel)

Me: “I don't know really. A part of me is happy and the other part of me it's not. I am nervous, I mean, I will be in a new environment. I will have to adapt to their ways, I have never been apart with my grandmother, Thakasile and Sanele. It was always the 4 of us, now going to a big family I really don't know what to expect”.

Her: “It's very normal to feel like that. I was also like you except that I am not married to a prince. It was hard at first to adjust

to the changes, they treated me like a slave until my husband put a stop to it. Ever since then they started treating me with respect, and acknowledging me. It was not an easy road but look at me now. All I could tell you is that don't put up with nonsense. If your husband starts cheating seek counselling or speak to your elders or a marriage counsellor. If all fails leave or do a complete make-over. You are a beautiful dark skinned girl Nobuntu, you need to own your beauty and embrace it. If he raises his hand at you, pack your things and go, once he starts he will never stop, your sanity comes first and don't settle for less. You still young Nobuntu, you better go and further your studies don't allow them to bully you into being a house wife”.

I chuckle... This woman is raw, I like her already.

Me: “Thank you for the advice. I guess the elders will come and tell me otherwise, tell me about being submissive to my husband”.

Her: “Don't mind them they too old school. This is a 21st century they will have to understand, in order for you to

submit, your husband must treat you with respect and love you, that way submission will come in easy”.

Me: “I will always remember that. Thank you for lifting up my mood, I was so down”

Her: “Only a pleasure. Let me go and see how far are they with preparations”.

Me: “What are they preparing exactly”?

Her: “Food for the uncles and some villagers who can't go to the palace”

Me: “Where did they get the money from”?

Her: “From the King. I will suggest that you take a nap because it's going to be a long night”.

Me: "Let me just do that".

Her: "I will bring you your food"

She stands up and leaves my room. I lie down and take a deep breath, it's happening. I am about to be someone's wife, if only it was just dream, but it's reality.

★»★«

ZWELI

The royal yard is full unlike the last time when there was a welcoming ceremony. I am standing near the window looking at everything taking place. Everyone looks happy, they are in the spirit of wedding, and I am not. I am the only one who is not happy about this union, but for my sake I will have to pretend to be happy, I don't want to anger the king. He looks

happy. The week have been long, it was the longest week I have ever had. I hear my niggas voices all the way from the passage, my mood is back. The door flew open and Sizwe is the first to get in and the others follows.

“Groom to be”! They shout in unison.

I look at them and roll my eyes. Ben throws his bag on top of the bed, and comes and stands next to me. Thabo starts laughing, and they follow him, these friends of mine are no fun right now.

Ben: “This place is beautiful man

and don't get me started about the girls, they are all flames and I saw their boobs, they are firm”

Me: That's all you saw Ben? Come on man. You are a married man”.

Him: “I was window shopping brah. Nothing hectic”

Sizwe: “How are you feeling bruh. Considering the fact that you are getting hitched to a stranger”?

Me: “I don't know how I feel. I just want to get this over and done with. I feel like I am betraying Tasha in a way, I was supposed to marry her first, and now everything took off south”

Him: “Yah neh. It can't be easy for her, you are going to exchange vows with a stranger a total stranger”.

Mnqobi: “Is she hot”?

Me: “No. She is average and dark skinned at least Tasha won't see her as a threat”

Ben: “You chose an ugly duckling? Dude TF? Out of all those hot girls I saw you settled for a bomb”?

Me: “Yeap”

Sizwe: “If you chose a beautiful girl she was going to be a threat to Tasha”?

Me: “Exactly”.

Him: “Wow man. If she makes you happy and won't mind being seen with her in public, I guess its cool” he chuckles.

Me: “Who said I will walk with her in public? Once we get to the Jo'burg she is going to be a maid in our house. I've decided to turn the outside storeroom as a room for her”.

Mnqobi: “What? Are you marrying this girl to turn her into your maid”?

Me: “Yeap”.

Him: “Let me get this straight. You are going to make her your maid? A whole wife with a ring in her finger your maid”?

Me: “Yes”.

Him: “Wow just wow man”

Me: “My dad wanted a daughter-in-law and I got him one. He is happy and so is everyone”.

Ben: "I guess this means no school for her"?

Me: "I am not responsible for her education. Her parents are, and I doubt she even went to school, 98% of the girls here are illiterate".

Him: "She is your responsibility now, you are marrying her. You must take her to school. All in all 2% attended school"?

Me: "Yes and of which 1% are school dropouts"

Him: "Wow, but at least they are domesticated you will be well taken care of".

Me: "She will not be cooking for me. Tasha will still order food for us. Her job will be cleaning and doing laundry, that's it".

Mnqobi: “And I'm sure that girl is thinking a bright future with you, and already have plans for the both of you. You guys having kids and be one big happy family”.

Me: “If that's the case then dissatisfaction awaits her”

Sizwe: “We hear you boy. Where is Nkanyiso”?

Me: “He is busy helping outside and it will be best for you guys to go, and give him a hand”.

Him: “He was doing fine without us. He can carry on working we will just walk around and view the yard”.

Me: “Did the King or any of the royal family see you”?

Him: “Some boy named Nhlakanipho”.

Me: “You guys better go outside now before my father comes gun blazing”

Ben: “We are here for the wedding not to slave around”

Me: “Do as I say and I assure you that you will see a lot of maidens walking around, go and indulge yourself”.

Sizwe: “We must go and work wearing like this? Do you know how much these clothes cost”?

“There will be no need for you to work looking like that. You may follow me” that was uncle Vusi. The very strict uncle out of the bunch. He looks at them and walk away, the guys look at me and I smile at them.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

According to tradition I was supposed to go to the royal house in the early hours of the morning, but because my grandmother wants to get rid of me, she suggested that I leave at 00:00am midnight I will have to go to the river first. The elders will have to cleanse me and the royal seer will be there to lead the whole thing, I decided to take a nap again. My stomach is doing flap jacks, reality it's kicking in, few hours from now I will be someone's wife. It all feels surreal.

★»★«

We are on our way to the river with the elders. I have been covered with a blanket given to me by my Aunt. I was told not to look back as to not to invite bad luck. Like guys, it was actually my last time at that place that harboured me since I

was born. A place I used to call home, I can't help it, but shed some tears. My maids are right next to me. My grandmother refused to come along with us, Thakasile too but Sanele is present. He is the only person I am going to miss not the other two. We finally arrive at the river, and we are told to get in butt naked, the men looked away while the women were the ones looking at us. We get inside the river, and the water is cold yuhhh, I am even shivering. The seer cleanses us and say clan names of the Zungu's, then we get out of the river. The incense is burning. We take our blankets and wear them again. The women start a song, and we leave the river, a horn sound fills up the entire air. I guess they are announcing our arrival. My heart is beating out of my chest. I can hear more voices behind us, it must be the villagers. Couldn't they wait till the morning? Imagine being disturbed from your sleep just to welcome the Prince's wife to be? Iyoh, it can never be me. I love my sleep shame. My uncle's calls out our clan names asking my ancestors to protect me as I am going into a new family. I hear the gate creek open, Buhle takes my hand and leads me inside. We walk around the whole yard first before entering the house. The seer is the one doing all the talking, and asking the ancestors of the royal place to recognize me as their own. After walking for few minutes, we finally make our way inside the house. The women ululate, and I am led into another room. It is only then that I

breath, the blanket have been removed. I take a look around my surroundings, we are in this African beautiful painted room.

“Aha aha Nobuntu bewukhala yini” (were you crying)- Buhle

I shake my head while wiping my tears.

Her: “Bewukhala. Uzojwayela. Umndeni wakho omusha lona”
(You were crying. You will get used to it. This is your new family)

Zana: “Kuhle kakhulu ke la phakathi” (It's too beautiful inside)

Nomsa: “Ai cha badla izambane laka pondo. We Nobuntu ungasikholwa nawe mase wudla laka pondo” (They are very rich. Nobuntu don't forget us when you also rich)

Me: “Never”.

Zuki: “Nibabonile labo bhuti abala mara? Bahle ma e and ontanga bethu”_(Have you seen how handsome they guys are? They are our age mates)

Buhle: “Ubabone njani wena”? (how did you see them)

Her: “Hhayi ke hhayi ke Buhle ngibabone ngamehlo” (I saw them with my eyes)

We all laugh. Zuki is one crazy girl, I did not make a mistake choosing them as my bridesmaids. Buhle is my maid of honour.

Me: “Mhlambe nani nizothola umendo khona la” (Maybe you will also get marriage here)

Buhle: “Ngempela O”? (serious)

We continue talking about random things njer. The door opens and a woman who happens to be around her 60s comes in. She is followed by two other woman.

“Sanibona”

“Yebo”

Her: “Ngingu MaZungu mina. Laba engihamba nabo U MaLanga no MaMajozi size la sizokuyala usazongena emshadweni wakho”. (We are here to guide you before you venture into your wedding)

I nod....they join us on the mat, and they start telling me about how to behave as a Zulu Princess, blah blah. I am even falling asleep from their talk. They're actually telling me to be submissive, make babies for my husband and know that my place is in the kitchen nowhere else. Iyoh, this is too much. Submission must come naturally, my aunt told me so. After 2 hours of talking they eventually leave. I look at my maids, and

they are all sleeping. I chuckle. I wonder what awaits me hours from now to my future. Sleep is nowhere to be found, guess I

will stay awake. I stand up, and go and stand near the window people are still going up & down. They are supposed to be sleeping, so that they wake up refreshed in the morning. I look at the far distance, and the tents are being decorated, I thought that it was going to be something small with just both families, but I was wrong. This is something huge, the lights makes the yard look beautiful. God, please guide me.

8

NOBUNTU

By the time the sun rises from the horizon my eyes were already shoot open, I have even bathed. One of the woman came to wake me up, and told me to go and take a bath before anyone else. I look at my maids, and they are still sleeping. I wake them up and Zano mumbles something in her sleep. Nomsa wakes up, and Buhle doesn't want to hear any of it. I just let her be. The door opens and one of the servants comes in. She bows her head.

“Amanzi okugeza wabakhaphi bakho sekalungile” (The bathing water for your bridesmaids are ready)

“Ngiyabonga ngokusazisa” (Thank you for letting us know) She bows her head once more, and leaves the room.

Me: “Nizwile angisho”? (You all heard right)

Nomsa: “Wena ke”? (What about you)

Me: “Dala ngigezile mina” (I've long taken a bath)

Her: “Ulele mara wena”? (Did you sleep)

Me: “I hora nje” (just for an hour)

Her: “Oh, mina bengingeke ngilale i hora ubuthongo bumnandi kanjer”. (I will never sleep for an hour, I love sleeping) I chuckle.

Me: “Hambo geza isikhathi sahamba Ngizovusa laba abanye” (go and take a bath, time is not our side I will wake the others up)

She stands up and steps out of the room, I wake the others up. They still don't want to wake up, I guess they are not used to waking up early. The door flies open and MaLanga walks in. She looks at the girls and shake her head, she goes straight to the closet and comes back with a belt. I chuckle, she is going to wake them up with a belt, and they must not blame me

because I tried waking them up. She beats them, and they jump off from the mat screaming. I laugh at them.

“Nimantombazana anjani avuka sekuphakeme ilanga?! Banifundise njalo aboma nyoko”? (what kind of girls are you guys that wake up after the sun has risen? Did your mothers teach you that?)

They shake their heads. Buhle holds up the blankets.

“Hambani nohlamba njenga manjer”! (Go and bath right now) They hurry out of the room.

“Bazoziletha manjer izingubo zenu. Ujabulile”? (they will bring your dresses now. Are you happy)

Am I?

Me: “Yebo ma ngijabulile” (yes I am happy)

Her: “Kuhle ukuzwa loko. Ithi ngikushiye uzilungiselele” (that's good to hear. Let me leave you to get ready)

She bows her head and leaves, geez this woman. Nomsa comes back looking all fresh.

“Ubayenzi lo gogo”? (What did the old woman do to them)

Me: “Ubashayile mebangafuni ukuvuka”.(she has beaten them they didn't want to wake up)

Her: “Ubalayile” (she did well) laughing.

Our dresses are laid out on top of the bed they look very beautiful. The door flies open again and Aunt Ncumisa steps inside with aunt Sesi, a big smile erupts on my lips and I run to them, I embrace both of them. I am very happy to see them. I thought that none of my family members will come, but they proved me wrong. Seeing them here in front of me gives me joy.

“Thank you for coming”

“You thought we were not going to come? We can never neglect you like that”, Ncumisa.

Sesi: “And to ease your heart we've managed to invite all our relatives in neighbouring villages and cities”

Ncumisa: “And trust me people will start asking questions like, where were we all along? Why are we showing up now? Blah blah” I chuckle...

Me: “People will always talk whether you do good or bad. I am just glad to see you guys here and that I have a family of my own. This means so much to me and I'm glad that there's more coming, now I can face my fears for the day with a big heart”.

Sesi: “I'm glad that we came through for you baby girl. Your witch guardian and her deputy granddaughter of a witch did not come” I laugh.

These women are full of jokes. Why did my grandmother refuse me knowing them? Geez that old witch is very evil. We are now done getting dressed, we all look beautiful. We hold hands and pray, asking God for guidance and to bless this day and the union of me and my soon to be husband. After we are done

praying the Queen steps in being flanked by her servants, she looks beautiful up close. We all bow at her presence.

“Everyone please excuse us”

They all leave. I swallow hard she looks at me with a straight face on. I don't know why, but she is about to spit poison.

“Before we get far do you understand English? Oh wait, why am I asking the obvious. Almost forgot that you illiterate. Konjer awungizwa”. (you don't hear me) I nod.

Her: “Lalela la ke ntombazana ungacabangi ukuthy njengoba ushada nendodana yami uyi mpumelelo yakho for impilo encono. Ukushada ngoba ekuzwela, alikho isoka elizokuthanda. ukukhipha ohlazweni. Kuzokusiza ukuthi umuhloniphe and uwenze isiciniseko sokuthi awukhulelwa ngoba ngizomu bulala

lomntwana wakho mina. Uhlale wazi ke ukuthy mina ngidlala indima enkulu empilweni yendodana yami”. (listen here girl. Don't think that just because you are marrying my son he is

your breakthrough to a great life. He is marrying you because he pities you, no man will ever love you. He is saving you from embarrassment. It will help you to respect him and make sure that you don't fall pregnant for him because I will kill that child of yours. Always know that I play a very important role in my son's life)

Oh he is a mama's boy, I see. He lives according to his mother's wishes, Jesus. A grown man taking orders from his mother, this is ludicrous! And all that she said is not really necessary, she is wasting her breath.

Her: “Ngiyethemba ungizwile”. (I hope you have heard me)

Me: “Ndlovukazi” (Queen)

I bow my head and roll my eyes mentally. I hear her heels clicking across the floor leaving, the door opens & closes again. I lift my head and let out a huge sigh. This woman hates me but

it's okay I won't be in her way just to keep the peace between all of us. My bridesmaids and my aunt enter again, and we do our final touch ups. Let's do this. Now, who is going to walk me down the aisle? Just then the door flies open and steps in my uncle, uncle Bhekani. The one who was handling the Lobola negotiations.

“Are you ready”? I nod.

He takes my hand and links it with his. I am really getting married, wow. Another thing that I'm looking forward to is seeing how the Prince looks like. I never saw him close-up.

★»★«

ZWELI

We are all in our traditional clothes. The guys are really happy, I did not even sleep a wink last night. I was hoping that something was going to happen, like the bride running away

from home or something. Okay I can't really put that past her I am the one who chose her after all.

“Let's go and get you wedded boy” Sizwe.

“Yeah man plus I saw this other girl this morning she is very beautiful. I think that she is one of your wife's bridesmaids. I must get her numbers before we leave” Ben says.

Me: “Dude, girls from this village don't know anything about cellphones or any gadgets. All they know is being domesticated and they are illiterate. Don't waste your time, they are what you call. “Beauty with no brains”.

Nkanyiso: “It's time gents. Let's go”

I take a deep breath, and we walk to the main tent. Seems like everyone from all the villages are here. Half of these people weren't even at my welcoming ceremony last weekend. Where the hell does all of these people come from all of a sudden? And I thought that it was going to be a small ceremony but

now, huh uh. This is written my mom all over it. The pastor is already at the altar, there are maidens singing & dancing while the boys are beating the drums. I look at my parents, and they look very happy, my dad is one proud man now. The seer is standing right next to my father, he never smiles this one. Ululations erupt and people stand up as my soon to be wife appears

I roll my eyes mentally. The old women erupt in a chorus. I don't even dare look at her. She stands before me looking down with a bouquet in her hands. Her face is covered with a veil. She has short nails, she also doesn't know about manicure? Geez this rural girl there's a lot that Natasha must teach her.

“Siyanamukela nonke kulo mcimbi wokuhlanganisa laba ababili ngohlukana nokuhlana kwenu ngezizwe ne zizwe. Ngithande futhi ukuthatha lethuba ngicele enkosini nasezinyanyeni zakwa Zulu basibusisele lelisuku elikhethekile” (We welcome you all to this ceremony of binding these 2 together in accordance to

difference villages. I would also like to take this time and ask the God and the ancestors of the Zulu family to bless this chosen day)

The pastor goes on and on and on, I am actually bored, and he comes to the part where I am not comfortable with. Exchanging of vows, yasis. I am about to lie to everyone present here today, but they won't know that I am lying. I take a deep breath and take her hands into mine. She looks at me and her eyes are glistening, she doesn't look happy or maybe it's just me, I don't know but hhayi she doesn't look happy. I can see it right through the veil. I am glad that she at least feels the same way about this as me. If it's like that then this is going to be simple, we are just going to play along. Someone taps me on my shoulder, I look back and it is Nkanyiso he gives me the ring. I bought her a cheap ring that fades colour the plan is for her to wear it when my parents comes to visit us. I take it and nod at him, I look at my wife to be and smile she just gives me a plain look. Okay.

“Mina Zwelizabanzi Zulu ngiyakuthatha wena Nobuntu Zungu ukuba inkosikazi yami ngokusemthethweni naphambi kubo bonke abantu abakhona la ngaphakathi kwethu. Ngizohlala nawe ebubini nasebumnandini” (I Zwelibanzi Zulu take you

Nobuntu to be my lawfully wedded wife in front of these people who are here within us. I will stay with you in good times and in bad times)

I take the ring and slide it in her finger.

She said the same vows to me, slid the ring in my finger and it was done. The pastor pronounced us as husband & wife. Women ululated and the men whistling, she did not even want me to kiss her, but I did give her a peck. We are ushered to where the reception will be held. We settle in our seats and smile to the people, her smile is the fakest of them all. She has a PHD in fake smiling. Both families say their speeches and so do our friends, community members and so forth. Food is being served, we all eat and exchanging of gifts comes. My family gives Nobuntu's family gifts and so do they. I had no idea that Nobuntu has such a vast family, it's shocking to tell you the truth. The festivities go on until the evening. Nobuntu starts complaining about her legs being tired. I just look at her in disgust, why is she telling me this? I see maLanga approaching us. I so don't like her and I don't know why.

“Ubuکهka ukhathele makoti” (You look tired daughter-in-law)
Nobuntu nods, and gives her a faint smile.

“Asambe uyocambalala kancane nakusasa kusase ilanga”
(Let's go so that you can take a nap, tomorrow it's still a day)

“Awunakinga Zweli”? Nobuntu ask me.

“Ungahamba akunankinga” (you can go there's no problem)

She bows her head and walks away. It is only then I take a deep breath and relax. My niggas are having fun with the other maidens except for Nkanyiso who looks to be far away with thoughts, I guess fatigue finally got to him. Now that I am free this gives me a chance to call Natasha, everyone seems to be busy.

★»★«

NKANYISO

Ever since the arrival of Nobuntu during midnight I was no longer in a good mood. Actually I wish that I left yesterday afternoon just to avoid the wedding, but I couldn't drop Zweli in the last minutes. I had to support him even though it was a bitter pill to swallow. Ben is busy flirting with one of Nobuntu's

bridesmaid, I wonder where did Nobuntu disappear to. Mngqobi approaches me since I am standing alone near the main gate, he finally gets to me he hands me a beer, I thank him.

“You don't look good man. Your mind was not at the ceremony that took place hours ago, you were out of it. What's eating you”?

“Nothing man”

Him: “Talk to me man. You may be Zweli's best friend but I know you better than he does”.

I chuckle...he is right.

Me: "Just promise that you won't judge me after telling you this"

Him: "I swear to God"

Me: "I think I am in love with someone"

Him: "You are in love? A stone cold-heart man in love? I guess these village girls managed to melt your frozen heart. A whole fuck boy in love? Unbelievable. Who is the lucky girl"?

Me: "Urh...it's. Dude are you sure that I can trust you with what I'm about to tell you"?

He keeps quiet and looks at me confused then proceed to being shocked, he just realized what I mean. What bomb I am about to drop to him.

Him: “Dude you mean... No way? But how? Man you better unlove the girl and crush your feelings into shreds. This is messed up”.

Me: “How do I unlove her man? What the hell does “unlove” mean? She is the only thing I think of everyday. This is messed up man, fucken messed up”.

Him: “I will not judge you, after all inhliziyo ifuna ukudla kwako. There's something I don't get though, You fell in love with her during their wedding ceremony or”?

Me: “When I first heard her sing in Zweli's welcoming ceremony. I first fell in love with her voice. Then I saw her fetching woods from the forest, she looked badly beaten. We had a small conversation and I completely fell in love with her fully. I had no control of it man, it just happened so fast, I couldn't control my feelings”.

Him: "Damn man this is a mess. The sad thing about it is that Zweli doesn't love her, and he is planning not too for as long as he is married to her. To him this marriage is just a front, it's sad man".

Me: "I know bruh I know. Hearing him belittling her makes my blood boil but I had to keep it together and not act on it. Now all I have to do is to freeze my heart again. Forget about her".

Him: "This is going to put your brotherhood in jeopardy. I think you will have to limit your visit to his house just to avoid seeing

Nobuntu. Every time you see her all the feelings will come back, you are going to freeze your heart as you say but once you see her your heart will melt at her sight again. You should've kidnapped her and ran away with her". I laugh.

Me: "You are one crazy fucker. First thing tomorrow morning I am leaving, I will not be spending one more day here. It was

hard for me to act cool at the wedding, I was pissed but I had to pretend for peace”.

Him: “Do you think she loves you too”?

I think back about the time we were at the forest. I saw no sign of love there or maybe there was, maybe she was hiding it with her pain.

Me: “I don't know man. There is that little hope though”.

Him: “Between you & me I don't think this marriage will work out the bride was so cold, no matter how much she faked it. She even asked to be excused, apparently she is tired”.

Me: “Do you think I stand a chance”?

“A chance in what”? Ben asks approaching behind us.

Me: "Hitting it raw with your wife"

Him: "You wouldn't dare boi, I will skin you alive. Now that 3 out of 5 are married. When are you guys getting married"?

Me & Mngqobi look at each other then Ben.

Mngqobi: "Not any time soon. Marriage it's a trap I'm telling you"

Him: "How do you know because you are not married"?

Mngqobi: "I see it through you. You become a prisoner sometimes. Mika has you by the balls, you are a "yes madam"

man to her" We laugh, and he clicks his tongue giving Mngqobi a deadly look.

Him: "Mxm. Let's go and celebrate maybe you guys can find wives for yourselves. Have you seen how thick these girls are? Well except for the bride. She is a beautiful dark skinned girl, but she is skinny definitely not my type".

Mnqobi: "I bet she didn't even look your way. You are not her type anyway".

Him: "Nxa"!

I shake my head, and we walk back to the yard with Ben throwing his lame jokes here & there. I see the seer standing far looking at us his eyes are glowing. This man scares me, yuhhh...

9

NOBUNTU

I was the first one to see the sun rise up. I didn't sleep last night, I was still recovering from the shock of Nkanyiso being

friends with Zweli. The wedding felt so wrong, I feel like I have betrayed him somehow, I saw the pain in his eyes. I will just have to live with it and ignore him at all cost. I saw the look on his face, he wasn't pleased about any of this at all. I'm dragged out of my thoughts by Zweli who is busy snoring on the bed. Yeap, he made me sleep on the floor last night after breaking my hymn. He just thrust 2x and that was it. He told me straight up that all they want is to see "blood" on the sheets, to confirm that I was still a virgin. I won't lie, it was painful because he pushed himself in without warning me. I always hoped that my first would be special with someone I love, you know, but boo hoo, shit ain't no Cinderella story. This is reality. This marriage is a recipe for disaster, I tell you. Then his mother's words keeps on ringing through my mind, argh. This is going to be worse than my grandmother's place. I get up from the floor and fold my blankets that he has given me and I go and take a quick bath. I get to the kitchen and I find no one, I guess they are all tired from last night's events, they partied almost all night. Anyway, I don't know what they like to eat. So, I take out

almost everything from the fridge and prepare an enormous breakfast since I don't know how many people are here, I also cooked some soft porridge for others, Thanks God, I know my way around the kitchen. Imagine if I was a lazy Makoti, arhhh. The stove gave me hassles at first, but I eventually got it right. I set the long table and put the food nicely, just then MaLanga

and the queen walk in. The queen looks at me with disgust while MaLanga smiles at me.

“Ndlovukazi. MaLanga”, I say bowing my head.

“Ai cha ukhethile u Zweli la. Awuvilaphi makoti ngisho uvukele ne Ndlovukazi kuqala, hhayi ungu makoti oqhotho” MaLanga. (Zweli chose very well. You are not lazy, you even woke up before the Queen. You are a true bride)

I smile but my smile vanishes as soon as I see the Queen's look, she gave me the ugliest look ever. I swallow hard, and try not to mind her. This woman right here, will be monster in-law, she hates me she doesn't even have to tell me.

Me: “Umsebenzi wami MaLanga” (It's my duty)

They both sit down and soon everyone comes down, they are like 20 of them Zweli & Nkanyiso are not amongst them. Zweli

is still sleeping and Nkanyiso left last night, I heard Zweli talking to him. They get settled and look pleased by the breakfast shame, their smiles said it all. I go and fetch the big bowl filled with warm water and hang a dish cloth on my shoulder. I walk back to the dining area and walk straight to the King, he washes his hands and wipes them with the cloth. His smile is never to be missed. I then walk to the Queen, and she also does the same too, the looks are still there though. Let me rather ignore her. I round it around the table and walk back to the kitchen. I dispose the water in the sink and rinse it. I walk back to the dining area.

MaLanga: “Hlala phansi makoti udle” (sit down and eat)

Me: “Uxolo bakithi bengisaqela ukuyovusa u Myeni wami ngeke ngidle angakadli yena” (Forgive me my in-laws. I need to go and wake my husband up, I can't eat without him eating)

King: “Ave alala lomfana. Ulala ngathi umithisile. Khululeka makoti hambo mvusa” (This boy sleeps a lot. He sleeps as if he has impregnated someone. Be free, go and wake him up)

I bow my head and excuse myself going to Zweli's bedroom, I step in without knocking, and he seems like he is on the phone. Judging by his smile, he is talking to a woman. As soon as his eyes lands on me, the smiles vanishes.

“Look I will have to call you back babe. Something just entered my room”. He hangs up and looks and he looks at me with disgust. I don't even smell!

Him: “Ngingakunceda Sisi” (can I help you) I roll my eyes mentally.

Me: “Ukudla kulungile” (food is ready)

Him: “Ngiyeza”. (I am coming)

Me: “I Nkosi ithe ngibuye nawe” (The king said I must come back with you)

Nxa! He clicks his tongue, serves him right.

Him: “Ngilinde la ngiyeza” (wait here I am coming) village girls, sies.

I feel like punching his face, rubbish. He is about to enter the bathroom when I mumble the word “trash”.

Him: “Uthini”? (What are you saying)

Me: “Trap”

I give him a big smile. He shakes his head and proceed to the bathroom. My mind drifts off to Nkanyiso, haibo we Sathane wenzani ungilinga. Zweli comes out after few minutes, I'm sure the others have finished eating. Mxm. We walk out hand in hand, and go to the lounge and as I predicted, yes they are done eating. The table has been cleared, but at least they

dished up for us and there is no one on sight. He yanks his hand off mine.

Him: “Baphi abantu”? (Where is everyone)

Me: “Ubuza ubani”? (Who are you asking)

Him: “Mxm”

We both sit down, we sit opposite each other. I first pray as soon I say Amen, Zweli is halfway through eating. I shake my head and eat my food. We eat in complete silence. What am I going to do after here? Must I go back to Zweli's bedroom or what? I mean everyone is doing something. What about me? Then there's monster in-law! Arh, I will die here angeke. After we are done eating, I tidy up the table as Zweli leaves. I sigh. I take the dishes to the kitchen, I bump into one of the helpers, and she takes the dishes from me and proceed to the kitchen. Why not familiarise myself with the royal house and the yard. As I am busy debating with myself, someone nudges me. I turn to look and it is one of the servants.

“Igama lami ngingu Boniwe ngingu msizi wakho” (my name is Boniwe, and I am your personal helper)

Me: “Msizi wami”? (My helper)

Her: “Yebo. Utshela mina konke okudingayo bese mina ngiyakwenza” (yes. You tell me everything you need and I will do it)

Me: “Oh”.

I don't need a personal servant, I am fine on my own. I can't be walking around with someone next to me, guarding my every move and asking someone to do things for me. I am used to doing things for myself, but I can not defy the royals now, can I?

Me: “Can you please take me on a tour around this place”.

Shit, what if she doesn't understand English?

Her: "At your service your Majesty. Please follow me". A huge smile spreads across my face. Finally someone I can talk too in English.

Me: "I... I didn't know that there are people here in the royal house who know English. I thought it was only the King, Queen and their kids". She chuckles.

We are walking around the garden, it is beautiful shame.

Here: "There's actually a lot of us but as you know the royalties think that we are all dumb, especially the Queen. She is evil, and she treats us like trash. To tell you a secret; she was not happy with the wedding. I'm sure she prayed all week for it not to happen, but she knew that it had to happen or else the King would've killed her" I chuckle.

Me: "She threatened me. The nerve".

Her: "Don't mind her. Just stay out of her way, she is determined to make your stay here a living hell"!

Me: "Thank you for warning me".

Her: "You welcome".

Me: "What will be my duties here"?

Her: "Nothing. They have chefs, cleaners they basically have everything"

Me: "And to think I woke up and made breakfast for everyone, I'm sure the chefs felt somehow".

Her: "Not at all. They were glad that you've given them a day off and just so you know, the breakfast tasted very good. Better than the chefs even". I chuckle.

Me: "You lie. Stop it".

Her: "I am serious girl. At least we ate something different for a change, the chefs will now have to up their game in the kitchen before you take over".

Me: "Arh girl, I don't want to make myself enemies. If you don't mind me asking, how did you end being a servant here"?

Her: "My mom was working here. It happened that she got sick and I had to take over her duties, I had to put food on the table. That's how I ended up here. I've been working here for close to 10 years now. I had dreams, big dreams, but they never came true. It seems like I am stuck here for the rest of my life".

Me: "Wow. How old are you"?

Her: "32 years old. See? I am too old. My life is here".

Me: "Not at all girl. You can still make it in life, age is just a number. You can even get your degree at the age of 40 it's still cool. No one is too old for education. You need a way to get out

of here and pursue your dreams. Why don't you try and talk to the king? That's if you have not yet".

Her: "Iyoh. I am scared of the King, wuuuhhh" laughing.

Me: "I'm sure somewhere deep inside him, there's a soft side. Try and talk to him".

Her: "I will do so. You, what are you going to do"?

Me: "About what"?

Her: "Your dreams. Are you going to further your studies"?

Me: "Of course I will"

Her: "That's good. I'm sure once you get to Jo'burg you will"
I stop on my tracks and look at her confused.

Me: "Jo'burg"?

Her: "Yeap. Zweli doesn't stay here, I'm sure you guys will
be leaving for Jo'burg very soon"

A smile creeps out of my face. At least I won't be staying
here. My dreams of going to the city will come true, I can't
wait to further my studies.

Me: "Why don't you come with us, since you are my personal
servant"?

Her: "The Queen won't allow me".

Me: "Talk to the King and hear what he says".

Her: "I will do so"

Me: "Do you have a boyfriend"?

Her: "Nope, I broke with my ex when I started working here. Oh, look who's here" I look at her direction and I see Nobuhle & Zano they are with Sanele approaching us. They get to us and bow.

"Your royal your Majesty" they say in unison. Chuckling.

Me: "I welcome you my people" We all laugh and Boniwe leads us to the benches.

Her: "I will go and get you guys some refreshments"

Me: "Thank you".

Nobuhle: "Uthini"? (What is she saying)

Me: "Uthi usayositholela okokuphuza"

Sanele: "Lunjani usuku lakho lokuqala la emendweni"? (How is your first day here in your in-laws)

Me: "Ku kahle" (it's fine)

We proceed talking about random things.

★»★«

ZWELI

I am on a group chat with the guys on WhatsApp.

★Sizwe: “Dude your wedding ceremony was the best bruh.

Everything was beautiful but as for your wife, iyoh I won't say anything”.

Thabo: “Lmao, Bruh, that's the ugliest chick ever. Her bridesmaids were more beautiful than her”.

Mnqobi: “That's not funny majita. Enhlek let's lay it down”.

Me: “It is the truth though man”

Him: “You chose her because you want to make fun of her or what”?

Me: "I chose her because I wanted to get my father off my back"

Ben: "But still. Weren't the other girls that you could've chose? I'm sure the bridesmaids were also present in your welcoming ceremony. You should've chosen one of them".

Me: "I couldn't choose a girl more beautiful than Natasha. Never. Besides, she has a very beautiful voice, she will sing us to sleep".

Nkanyiso: "So, you chose her because you did not want Natasha to doubt her beauty"?

Me: "Yeah man"

Him: "Why would she be threatened by someone's beauty though? She has a low self-esteem".

Mnqobi: "She does for sure"

Thabo: "This topic is boring now. Man, when are you coming back"?

Me: "I'll be there tomorrow evening. I've already spoken with my parents, and they agreed".

Ben: "You are bringing your ugly wife with a beautiful voice along"?

Me: "Lol...yeah man, I am".

Him: "I wish I can be there to see Natasha's face when she sees your wife".

Sizwe: “She will just laugh. Tell me man, did you taste the cookie”?

Me: “Not really”.

Them: “What”?

Me: “I just broke her hymn, and she bled and there were stains of blood in the sheet, that's all the evidence they needed that she was indeed a virgin”.

Ben: “Fuck man! I'm sure she was tight down there”

Me: “She was, I forced my myself in, and she screamed iyoh, I pulled out erh. It's not as if like I was going to make love to her anyway, and I am not even planning too”.

Sizwe: “Dude what? Pass her to me then. I wouldn't mind doing the work for you”.

Ben: "Lol...take her man. If I wasn't married, I was going to hit it"

Mnqobi: "You guys are talking shit, yeses! I am out"

Nkanyiso: "See you tomorrow man. I am also out"

Ben: "Later gents, and tomorrow we are, having a welcome back party for you at your house. Your new wife will cook for us and you will buy beers".

Mnqobi: "I wish she can poison the food, arg"

Me: "She is very much capable. These village girls are not to be trusted"

Sizwe: "Lmao...yet you married one? Right. Your girlfriends will cook, it's settled. Nkanyiso bring a date man".

Him: "Sure"

-We bid each other goodbye★

I lie on my back and close my eyes. I am trying to take a nap and Nhlelo ruins it by jumping on the bed, argh. One never have peaceful naps in here. I groan and sit on my butt and look at her, Nhlelo is MaLanga's daughter.

"Wake up Mr hitched. Who knew that one day you will tie the knot"?

Me: "Argh. What do you want Nhlelo"?

Her: "I just came to check up on you, and I am sorry that I couldn't attend your wedding".

Me: "It's fine".

Her: "I hear that the bride looks like a Godzilla. A whole Godzilla
Zweli? Wow, I'm sure your parents were ashamed" I laugh.

Me: "They were not. You should've seen them, they were
so happy".

Her: "Oh wow. So, she is indeed ugly"?

Me: "Yeap, let me show you".

I show her the wedding pictures, and she can't stop laughing.

Her: "She looks like vomit. Why did you choose her again"?

Me: "Her voice. She has a beautiful voice"

Her: "That's it? Because of a voice? Wow"!

Me: “Yeah and I didn't want to choose a girl more beautiful than Natasha”.

Her: “Speaking of her, how did she take the news”?

Me: “She was mad at first, but she came around I've even sent her the wedding pictures. She is very much happy about Langelihle”.

Her: “Her name is Langelihle”?

Me: “It's the name given to her by MaZungu. Her real name is Nobuntu”.

Her: “I hope she has Ubuntu like her name. I mean, she can't be ugly & rude at the same time”.

Me: "I don't care even if she has Ubuntu or not".

Her: "Did Nkanyiso ask about me"?

Me: "Not at all Nhlelo. Not even once".

Her: "Wow. I thought he loved me".

Me: "Nkanyiso doesn't do love. He shags & leaves. He doesn't do relationships, I'm sorry that you became one of his tossed toys. Next time close your legs, even when he greets you".

Her: "Argh! His loss. I was going to make him happy".

Me: "He needs pussy not happiness".

She clicks her tongue and walks out of my room mad. "I chuckle", she thought that Nkanyiso was going to be in a

relationship with her? She is out of her damn mind. Nkanyiso doesn't do love. Once you attach feelings, it's game over. If he sleeps with you once and calls you again, know that your pussy was fire. Arhhhhh. I can't wait to leave this house, I miss my bed and I miss Natasha too.

10

NKANYISO

Today Zweli is coming back, and I am supposed to go and fetch him at the airport. I am not up for it, I don't want to see Nobuntu. I want to try my level best and ignore her at all cost. I need to ask Ben to fetch him, I will give him an excuse that I am caught up on work. I work as a pharmacist and I sometimes drive taxis, my father has a fleet of taxis. I have 4 brothers with me being the 3rd born and there's only one girl. Since she is the last born, she is our princess. My mother is married to another man and, my father is more focused in his taxi business. He doesn't have time for relationships, his words though not mine. I am actually loading off my last load and then I go to my brother's place, Ziyanda he is the 2nd born. I hope his wife is not at home, she is too controlling and rude. My phone rings and it's Amber, one of my fuck buddies I am not in the mood

for her. I let it ring until she hangs up. I arrive at my brother's house and luckily for me, his wife is driving out. I'm sure she is going to buy food for Zweli's welcome back party, after all she and Natasha are friends. I make my way in and I find him in the kitchen marinating meat, I go straight to his fridge, and take out a bottle of Heineken. I sit in one of his high chairs, he stops marinating the meat and looks at me.

“What's eating you little bro”?

“You are only a year older than me. Stop being cocky” He chuckles.

Him: “Out with it”.

Me: “Is it wrong for me to come and visit my brother Just to see how he is holding up”?

Him: “Nkanyiso Mfana wami, khuluma nami ndoda ngizindlebe”. (My boy talk to me, I am all ears)

Me: “Akunalutho ndoda endala” (There's nothing wrong big brother)

Him: “Hmm, asazi. How was The wedding”?

Me: “It was okay”.

Him: “Kuhle ukuzwa loko” (good to hear that)

Me: “What are you cooking”?

Him: “I am just marinating the meat. Philile will come back and cook the pap. You want to join us”?

Me: "Nah, I'm good and you know that I can't stand your woman".

Him: "I know that very well. I hear that there's going to be some celebration at Zweli's house tomorrow evening".

Me: "I know".

Him: "You don't seem eluted by it, why? Did you guys have a fall out or something"?

Me: "What? No. Not at all. We are good, nothing hectic".

Him: "Mbuyazi".

Once he starts calling me by our clan name, he is about to punch the truth out of me. I shake my head. I look at him uncomfortably, I hope he will understand what I tell him.

Him: “Khuluma nami”. (Talk to me) why don't you want to go to the party”?

Me: “I...”

I am saved by his doorbell ringing. I take a deep breath as he attends to it. He comes back with Mxolisi, one of our father's driver. Well, he is his friend. He brought along some few beers, eeh. Are they having a mini braai or what? I hear them talking and my mind drifts to Nobuntu, blocking their conversation out. I see her beautiful smile, and her pretty face, she looks beautiful. She is pregnant with my child, and she is singing a

lullaby for him, her voice so calming. She has this big diamond ring in her finger, we are one big happy family. I think she looks happy with me, than she is will be with Lwazi.

I snap out of my thoughts when I hear something breaking. I find Mxolisi & Ziyanda gazing at me, with questioning eyes.

Mxo: “Mbuyazi omncane ujule kuphi ngomcabango baba”? (Junior Mbuyazi. What are you thinking about)

Me: “Huh”?

Ziyanda: “Kuthiwa ujule kuphi ngomcabango, phendula obuzwe kona”.(Answer the question asked)

Me: “Lutho (nothing) Let me love & leave you guys”.

Mandla: “Awusazami nokuthi uhlale kancane ziyeza ezinye inkabi”. (You don't even try sticking around, the other guys are coming)

Me: “I do not want Philile to find me here. She will kill me” They laugh.

Ziyanda: "You sexed her little sister and ignored her after, she is bound to be angry".

Me: "I strictly told that girl that no strings attached, she agreed so, I don't know what wrong did I do there".

Mandla: "Nc nc Mbuyazi omncane. Stop this thing of yours of sleeping with girls and toss them aside, it will get you killed one day".

Me: "I will once I find the one my heart wants. She is there, but she is not mine, that means I will never stop".

Ziyanda: "Then take what's yours, don't be a coward Nkanyiso. Get your woman. You need some serious stability in your life".

Me: "You think this is easy? You gents don't know anything".

Mandla: “Tshela mina ngizohlanganisa izinkabi zami siyempini”. (Tell me and I will organize the gents, and we will go to war)

Me: “That won't be necessary She is married”.

Ziyanda: “Shiya phansi ndoda” (let it go)

Me: “I am trying”.

My phone rings and I'm sure it's Zweli reminding to come and fetch them. I take it out of my pocket and as I have predicted, it's him. Sigh.

“Zweli”

“You haven't forgotten about fetching us at the airport right”?

Me: “Yeah man. What time must I fetch you”?

Him: "I will text you once we are approaching. We are about to border now, see you man'.

I hang up and hang my head low. This is bad, not unless I fetch them today and not attend the welcoming party tomorrow. Yes, that would work, I will give out the biggest excuse of all time. The door opens and more taxi drivers walk in, it's a full house. I guess I will stick around until Zweli calls me.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

I am so happy that I am going to Jo'burg. At least I won't be in the presence of the rude Queen. I will be far away from her. Finally, my dream of going to the city has come true, I am so

happy. I wonder what awaits me that side, it's going to be a whole new experience for me. Plus I heard that life that side is very fast. I pray that once I get there, I don't change. What's more awesome about all of this is that the King has agreed for Boniwe to come with me. The Queen was not happy, but who cares, I mean the King's word is final and Boniwe is my personal servant. Wherever I go, she comes with. Me & her left the royal house few hours ago, we are doing shopping, we are with the guards of course. The King gave Boniwe his bank card. It's unlimited. We hop from shop to shop and bought clothes, lots

- lots of them. We also bought goodies for the road. Once we are done we pass by the garage and buy “burgers” at steers, I have never seen how a burger looks like let alone taste it, but from my observations it tastes very good. My stomach will be in shock today, hehehe. I will eat it along the way, anyway the husband called the guards and told them to wait for him at the garage since we are running out of time, he is coming along with our bags. It's fine by me as long as I don't get to see the Queen's sour face. He shows up after 30 minutes with his personal driver. We load our shopping bags in his car, Boniwe gives one of the guards the King's black card back. The driver

drives us to Ushaka international airport. My heart is beating out of my chest, it will be my first time in a plane. Imagine a whole Nobuntu Zungu in a plane, this is like a dream come true. Finally, my dreams are becoming alive, look at God y'all.

Marrying the prince is indeed my breakthrough. Boniwe squeeze my hand, I look at her, and she is more nervous than me.

“I feel dizzy. I am about to puke Langelihle”

“Take a deep breath and look at me”

Her: “How is that going to help me”?

Me: “My ugly face will surely make you relax and the breathing will calm you down” laughing.

Me: “That's more like it. Tell you what; block everything out and relax”

Her: "I can't believe that I am going to Jo'burg and it's all thanks to you. You should've seen the other servants faces, jealousy was written all over their faces".

Me: "And the sour grape
how did she take the news"? She chuckles.

Her: "Who is that now"? I laugh.

Me: "The Queen, duh". We both laugh.

Her: "Not very well Buntu. She was breathing fire, but the King put her in place. He told her where to get off" Laughing. "As for sour grape, you've just made my day".

"Yhey phakamisani izinyawo nina zidomu" (hurry up you dummies)

Me: “This one is disrespecting us, yasis. One of these days I will tell him where to get off”.

Her: “He clearly doesn't know us this one. We will show him flames once we get to Jo'burg”.

Me: “No. We need to be the way we are until we settle in. We will have to talk Isizulu when we get there, pretend as if we don't know English. I'm pretty sure that they will gossip about us”.

We both chuckle. The airport is beautiful and there are a lot of people here, yeerr. They make me dizzy. We step into the plane, and we follow Zweli to our seats. We sit down, I am in the middle and Zweli is seating near the window then Boniwe on the other seat we buckle up, well Jo'burg here we come. I wonder what awaits me that side, I am hoping for good things.

★»★«

After hours on the plane we finally land in O.R Tambo international airport, Jo'burg the city of gold. It's just after 18:00, the lights look beautiful. Zweli calls someone, I think it's the person that will be fetching us.

“Lalelani la ke. Especially wena Langelihle. Nginge ntombi mina la egoli engiyithanda kakhulu, wena mele wazi ukuthi uza ekugcineni kuye. Ngikushade ngoba bengifuna ukususa

ubabami emva kwami, hhayi ngoba ngikuthanda. Bese wena Boniwe ngizokufunela indawo yokuhlala eduze nala ngihlala khona, ngizokumikisa eskoleni njengoba ubaba eshilo, futhi uchube izimfundo zakho niyangizwa”. (Listen here, especially you Langelihle. I have a girlfriend that I love so much here in Jo'burg, you must know that you come last after her. I married you because I wanted to get my father off my back, not that I love you. You Boniwe, I will look for a nearby place for you to stay and I will take you to school to further your studies as my father instructed. Am I making myself clear?)

God of Jesus, Abraham & Isaac what is this man saying to me? I mean, he married me to make his father back off? So he

doesn't love me? Wow, why am I even surprised. No one loves me, I will just have to make peace with it. Now, what exactly is my role in all of this shandis? How did his girlfriend take the news? This man right here is fucken insane. The plan was for me and Boniwe to stay together, not this nonsense he is telling us now. I give him a plain look. Everything was all a lie, maybe the sour grape was right about her son marrying me because he pities me. It was not because he loves me. Well, at least I'm in Jo'burg, I'm sure something will come up. Why did he not talk about taking me to school too? Won't he get tired of speaking Zulu with me? Arh, this guy. He is evil, but what I can tell you is

that I will better my life, on my own. I am dragged out of my thoughts by Boniwe pulling me by my hand, we walk towards this other taxi, Zweli is done loading our bags in the taxi with the help of the driver. We get to the taxi and greet the driver, he nods, and we all get inside the taxi. The driver looks familiar, well his lips & nose looks familiar. He has covered his eyes with the cap he is wearing, but still the body structure looks familiar like I've seen him somewhere, just don't remember where until Zweli called his name! Yasis, my stomach started doing flap jacks and my heart beating real fast. At the mention of his name njer my heart leapt with joy, I did say that he looks familiar. By the look of things he is avoiding me, that stings a little but I don't blame him. I am a married woman after all, this is a trap, hha angeke. We park outside this big house. We are

at Midrand, oh wow nice. We step out of the taxi and a door opens, a woman who I assume is the girlfriend comes running, and she throws herself in Zweli's arms. She is very beautiful, she looks like a doll of some sort. She greets Nkanyiso then give us nasty looks.

“Langelihle the ugly duckling and the biggest duck. At least you are beautiful, unlike her”.

“Be nice Tasha and stop with the name-calling it's not cute”.

Her: “Nkanyiso please stay out of it. It's not as if like they understand what I'm saying”.

Zweli: “They have no idea of what you are saying baby, don't mind them” If only they knew.

Boniwe: “Uxolo ukuniphazamisa besisacela ukuyophumula sihambe ibanga elide”.(Sorry to disturb, can we please go and rest, we've been on the road for a long time)

Tasha: “Yoh nolalaphi mara I did not prepare your rooms, I only prepared one”.

Me: “Cha kulungile, sizolala sobabili akuna nkinga sizaze sibhubhe sisalele” (It's okay. We will sleep together, we will end up dying in our sleep)

They all turn to look at me, well at least Nkanyiso & Boniwe know that I know English as for these two, ha.haha. They look confused. I think I just threw a sarcastic punch right there.

Boniwe: “Besisa cela bandla hhayi kabi”.(can we please rest not in a bad way)

Nkanyiso: “Let me love and leave you guys. Have a goodnight”.

Zweli: "See you tomorrow dawg and don't forget to bring a date"

Him: "Sure man. Makhosazana busuku obuhle nakini"
(ladies goodnight to you too) He walks away.

I watch him leave until he is out of the yard. Zweli & Tasha are already inside the house. Boniwe & I pick up our shopping bags and make our way inside the house. The kitchen looks beautiful, everything is silver with a touch of red. Here we are waiting to be given orders in this kitchen, looking like lost puppies.

Boniwe: "Hhayi ke sijwayeleka kabi la" (we are being taken for granted)

Me: "Tell me about it. The girl has a stinking attitude for days"

Her: "Just like the Queen. They can make a mean team, sour grapes" I chuckle.

Her: "Seems fun in here. Your room is ready and please take a bath before getting into my sheets and wear socks. I don't want your feet tearing up my sheets, move it".

Me: "Askies"?

Her: "Igumbi lenu lokulala lilungile" (your room is ready)

Us: "Siyabonga Sisi" (Thank you)

Her: "I am not your sister. I am not relatives with ugly beings, geez. Langelihle, you are ugly very ugly. On the pictures you looked less ugly but now that I am seeing you close, you too ugly and no amount of make-up can save you. Ugly duckling".

Me: “Sicela usikhombe igumbi lethu lokulala sisi omuhle ukusindlula” (can you please show us our room)

Her: “Ngilandeleni” (follow me)

“Bitch” I mumble as we follow behind her. We are actually heading outside she is swaying her none existence arse, mine is bigger than hers. We giggle. We step inside this other room, it is not big just average. My hut was bigger than it. We put our bags on top of the double bed and Tasha walks out. We burst out laughing after that.

Boniwe: “I hate her already”

Me: “Hate is a big word Boniwe”.

Her: “But it's true. Did you hear all the things she said about you”?

Me: “Yes, I did, and I am not bothered by it. I've been called ugly all my life and I've long accepted that”.

Her: “You are beautiful Nobuntu. Don't let them tell you otherwise”

Me: “I know love, I am beautiful in my own way, after all God created us differently”.

Her: “That's the spirit. Let's go and bath, but I am going in first”

Me: “Yes big sis and I'll follow after you”.

This room is so dull just like my hut back in the village. At least my hut had few of my artworks, making it look beautiful. This one has a bed only and the wall is plain white. Pshhh....

11

ZWELI

I wake up the following morning tired. Tasha really overworked me last night, I am not complaining though. It was one of the best sessions I've ever had in a while. I look on my side, and she is snoring, how I missed her beautiful face. I removed her leg slowly on top of me and climb out bed and go to wash my face. I walk to the kitchen to drink water, I hear voices outside. I wonder who it is because this house is very much secured, you don't just come in. I hear giggling, oh right. I've even forgotten about them. Why are they up so early anyway? I unlock the door and I find them standing against the wall laughing. They do not even notice me, whatever they were talking about was sure as hell funny. I clear my throat, and they jump scared, now it's my turn to laugh.

“Siyaxolisa Nkosana azanke sikubone” (we are sorry my Prince we did not see you) Boniwe.

“Ngibize ngo Zweli. Nivukeleni ekuseni kangaka”? (Call me Zweli. Why did you wake up so early in the morning)

Her: “Besidinga ukucala ngomsebenzi wethu woku cleaner, futhi u Nobuntu mele akwenzele ukudla kwa sekuseni”. (We need to start with our cleaning duties, and Nobuntu here must prepare your breakfast)

Me: “Ekuseni so”? (So early in the morning)

Nobuntu: “U 10:10 manje Zweli, solo sivuke ngo 04;30 sageza saceda. Sifike la emyango wakho ngo 06:00 sa nqonqoza kodwa azanke nivule, salinda la emnyango ke ukuze nivule. Nivuka ngalezi khathi la emadolobheni vele? Bese nidla skhathibani ukudla kwa sekuseni”? (It's 10:10 ten right now, we've been awake since from 04:30, we bathed and finished. We got here at your door at 06:00 and waited for you guys to open. Do you sleep till this time here in the cities? Then what time do you guys eat breakfast)

Him: “Khuluma Sisi yini inkinga yakho”? (Talk sis, what's your problem)

Her: “Kahle kahle umsebenzi wami yini kulo muzi”? (What are my duties exactly in this house)

Me: “House chores”

Her: “Angivanga” (I did not hear that)

Me: “Wuuhhh hhayi yenza ukudla bese uyabuthabutha la endlini” (Make food first then clean around the house)

Her: “Manje mele ngiye nasegumbuni lakho loku lala mina? Futhi ungishadele ukuthi ngibe isisebenzi sakho”? (Must I also clean your bedroom? Did you also marry me to be your house helper)

Me: “Yebo Sisi. Unenkinga ngaloko? Nakube unayo ngingakumikisa emuva le emakhaya uhlaze umndeni wakho. Uyazi ke uthuthi inkosi izokubulala kanye no mndeni wakho, isinqumo esakho”. (do you have a problem with that? If you do, I can always take you back to the village and embarrass your

family. You know that the King will kill you along with your family, the choice is yours)

I see her widening her eyes, she did not expect such a bomb to be dropped. She looks at Boniwe who also look shock as hell, they look at each other for a few minutes then bring their eyes to me.

Her: “Haike sengamane unghindisele baba ngamane sife”.
(You can always take me back. We rather die)

Boniwe: “Kahle ngamawala Langelihle. Bese ewami wona umsebenzi yini”? (What are my duties)

Me: “Ukulekelela u Langelihle ngayonke into” (is to help Langelihle with everything)

Her: “Habe”!

Nobuntu: “Ai ke akunankinga Zweli”.(There's no problem then)

I step aside and they make their way in. I chuckle and make myself a cup of coffee.

“Let them not burn down my kitchen. Do they even know how to use an electrical stove”? Langelihle scoffs.

She kisses my cheek and I see Langelihle rolling her eyes and Boniwe holding in laughter, as if they heard what she said.

Me: “Boniwe knows how to use one. She was a servant at the palace”.

Her: “So, why is she here? I thought you were only coming with this ugly thing you call a wife”.

Me: “She is her personal servant”

Her: “What? Not in this house. Here they are both maids.
Izisebenzi, finish & klaar”.

Me: “They know babe no need to rub it in their faces”.

Her: “They should've already started preparing breakfast”!

Boniwe: “Haiké ngathi sizo nyelwa la”. Langelihle chuckles.

Her: “Uhlekani wena nobubi”? (What are you laughing at you ugly thing)

Nobuntu: “Haiké Sisi omuhle ukuthi ngihlekani akufuni wena loko”. (What I'm laughing at its none of your concern)

Boniwe: “Ngisayenza ukudla, ningeva niyogeza” (I am preparing food, you can go and take a bath so long)

Tasha: “Lalela ke wena farm Julia. Angeke ngizwe ngawe ukuthi ngenzeni kwami, siyevana”? (Listen here. I will not be told by you what to do in my house, are we clear)

Her: “Uxolo sisi kodwa awunuki kamnandi”. (Sorry sis, you don't smell nice) Langelihle laughed.

Tasha: “What did you just say? This is not the farms, I will slap you so hard that you regret being here. I am your boss, better learn some respect”!

Me: “Xolisa Boniwe njengamanje. Usithathaphi isibindi sokukhuluma ne ntombi yami kanjalo”? (Apologize to her right now. Where do you get the audacity to talk to my girlfriend like that)

Her: “Ngiyaxolisa madam”

Tasha: "That's more like it I want full English breakfast and no grease".

Her: "Cacisa sisi" (be clear)

Tasha: "Yoh Zweli, these illiterate of yours will be the death of me! Jesus, my mouth is even painful from talking Isizulu. It's

draining really. Talk to them or better yet enrol them at college or something"!

Me: "Ukudla kwakhe kungabi namafutha".

Her: "Ohhh. Ithi ngicalele ngenze ukudla ke" (let me start preparing the food)

Nobuntu: "Bese izinto zoku cleaner zitholakala kuphi"?
(Where must I find cleaning material)

Me: “Tasha uzokukhomba”. (She will show you)

Tasha: “Ngifuna ku clean la endlini yami, ngizelwa izivakashi ezibalulekile and anikamemangwa”. (I want the house clean, I am hosting very important guests. You are not invited)

Nobuntu: “Angihlangene lapho mina sisi, cela ungikhombise bese ngiyacala uku cleaner. Sengiladelwe futhi. Okunye ke asithandi izinto thina usibheke kahle”. (I don't care about that. Please show me where to get the cleaning material, I am

already late, and another thing we don't like things take a good look at us)

Her: “Uyadelela wena nobubi nxa” (you are so disrespectful you ugly thing)

She walks away and Langelihle follows after her. I foresee a big cat fight amongst these three women. I chuckle and walk outside for a smoke.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

I am finally done cleaning the house, it was not that dirty but there was dust here & there. The couples have locked themselves in their room after I cleaned it and washed the stained sheets, thanks God there were no used condoms it

wouldn't be a good sight, it will seem like disrespect to me, after all I am the one he is married to. Whoa, kana I am just a maid with a faded ring in all of this! I head to our room and I find Boniwe eating, my plate is next to her. I sit down on the bed and let out a big sigh, she laughs.

“Ai ke the first wife is showing us flames. Akadeleli akadeleli uyanya maarn”!

“Yoh, tell me about it”!

Her: “I've already made us a greasy breakfast phela we are not nursing our figures and maintaining a small body” I chuckle.

Me: “Thank you for the greasy breakfast, it is what I needed”

Her: “You welcome love”.

Me: “How did you make her not so greasy breakfast”?

Her: “I've put everything in the microwave, no oil”

Me: “I'm sure it tastes dry” She laughs.

Her: "She is dry herself, she looks like a biltong" We both laugh.

I take my food and eat silently, my mind is still stuck on what Zweli said. So he only married me just to be his and his girlfriend's maid, how cruel is that? I understand that he loves his girlfriend, but for him to turn me into a maid it's not on. I thought that I came here to better my life but it seems like I am back at my grandmother's house, the only difference is that there's electricity here and I sleep on the bed. I guess I was destined to slave around for people for as long as I breath. On the other hand I can't stand Zweli's girlfriend's insults, she is just too much. She thinks that she's the next best thing after a fried chicken, mxm. He shouldn't have married if this was part of his plan

Advertisement

he shouldn't have! I need to keep myself busy, mostly definitely to further my studies.

Boniwe: "I wonder who are those important guests that are coming over, I'm sure they are rich just like them and the women have painted faces".

Me: "I'm sure it is their friends"

Her: "Does that mean we are not going to eat today"?

Me: "Seems like it. You should've cooked enough to last us the whole day, I do not want you dying of hunger. As for me I am used to not eating all day and I don't mind".

Her: "Don't worry I will make a plan before the guests arrive".

Me: "We need a TV and cellphones, we need to upgrade".

Her: "True. We will ask Zweli to take us to town tomorrow".

Me: "Will that manyala of a husband even agree"?

Her: "I don't know but, we are going to try to pray that he agrees" I nod and lie on the bed, Boniwe joins in.

Her: "Lihle..."

Me: "Please call me Nobuntu I don't like the Langelihle name, I don't even know what was beautiful on that day".

Her: "You were" I chuckle.

Me: "Thank you for the vote of confidence"

Her: "You are welcome. Can I ask you something"?

Me: "Shoot".

Her: "Argh it's nothing forget about it"

Me: "Boniwe just ask away".

Her: "Okay. What would you do if a guy asks you out, let's say one of Zweli's friends ask you out on a date"?

Me: "I would turn down the offer obviously. I can't date in the same circle, I will be seen somehow, a loose girl maybe".

Her: "Lets say this one guy in particular, a handsome one"

Me: "Boniwe. What are you on about? I am trying to make sense of what you are saying, but I am not grasping anything".

Her: "I think he likes you and I saw how he was stealing glances at you through the rearview mirror".

Me: "Who are you talking about"?

Her: "The taxi driver that fetched us. He couldn't take off his eyes off you. You've charmed him" I chuckle.

Me: "Okay. Time to nap, we are bored".

Her: "So, you are trying to tell me that you did not see anything"?

Me: "Nope, I was too tired to notice anything".

Her: "He loves you. I saw it in his eyes".

Me: "Have you decided which cellphone you want to buy"?

Her: "I will decide tomorrow, but I still say pay attention to him. I have a feeling that he is the one for you not this nonsense of your husband Zweli".

Me: "He has a girlfriend, you heard Zweli telling him to bring a date".

Her: "You can be in a polygamous relationship" I laugh.

She is out of her fucking damn mind. I nod and drift off to the land of thoughts, there land of happy thoughts, where there are no tears and sadness, just happiness galore.

★»★«

ZWELI

Natasha, Sbahle and Crecentia are busy making salads. Ben & Mandla are busy marinating the meat, Thabo is making fire. The others haven't arrived yet, I am done setting up music all I need

to do now is to refresh, and get ready for the welcome home party. My friends are the best I tell you. I go and take a quick bath then wear my shorts & vest with sneakers, I am not going near the fire. I check on the alcohol and it is coming along just fine, Thabo did stock up on a lot. Only a few of my friends are invited along with their girlfriends and side chicks of others

obviously. In no time the house is full and people are dancing away. Mngobi & Nkanyiso are the last ones to arrive with their dates, I am not even surprised that they are late. We are used to them arriving late. We all greet each other and the girls join the others in the lounge.

“I haven't seen your ugly wife around. Where is she”? Ben.

“I'm sure she is sleeping by now. Tasha told them not to come to the welcoming party, she said ‘important guests’ are coming, as if you all are” laughing.

Thabo: “Them ”?

Me: "And her personal servant"

Him: "She came with her servant? Is she hot"?

Me: "She is way out of your league Thabo and yes she is".

Voice: "She is what"?

Ai its Crecentia, she is Thabo's girlfriend. She is one boring human being, I don't even know what Thabo saw in her honestly. She is not that beautiful, she is a yellow bone version of Nobuntu, but far better.

Thabo: "She is very ugly".

Her: "Who? Zweli's wife"?

Him: "Yes her".

Her: "Where is she anyway? I want to see her".

Ben: "Her ugliness you meant"

Her: "That too, I heard that she is very ugly so, I wanted to be the judge of that"

Me: "Sleeping".

Her: "Isn't she supposed to be helping us with cooking? She is the wife after all".

Me: "Your best friend told them that they are not invited".

Her: "Them? Her & who"?

Me: "Her and her personal servant".

Her: “She has a servant?! Someone who makes her food, wash her clothes and everything else”?

Me: “Yes, but not in this house of mine. Here she is a maid together with Langa”.

Her: “Whoa, whoa. You're making your wife a maid in your house? That's crazy Zweli. Is your mind functioning well”?

Me: “Yes it is, thank you very much”.

Her: “It doesn't. You are cruel wena. You shouldn't have married her if that was the case then, I am so disgusted by you. Sies. And Natasha is fine with all of this”?

Me: “It was her idea after all”.

Her: “Wow! Unbelievable! Both of you are dumb, yerrrrr. Let me guess, she is also the reason why they are not here right”?

Me: “Why are you questioning me? Go and ask your best friend”.

Her: “With absolute pleasure. Imagine someone who have been introduced to your ancestors as a maid, I'm sure they are turning in their graves. Natasha is not recognized by your

ancestors let alone known by your parents in case you've forgotten”. She clicks her tongue and walks away.

Mnqobi: “I will go and check on the meat”

Nkanyiso: “And Athile needs my attention”.

Ben: “I have a wife to attend to”

Now, it is only me, Thabo and Sizwe.

Me: “And you guys? Don't you have anything to do or women to attend to”?

Thabo: “We are fine here”

Me: “Next time reprimand your woman. She can't talk to me anyhow she wants. I am not you”!

Him: “Damn right you aren't, because you wouldn't handle her.

Excuse me” He clicks his tongue and walk away.

Now, I am left with Mandla & Sizwe who are not planning of shifting, mxm.

★»★«

NATASHA

Crecentia pulls me by arm and leads me to the balcony, she closes the sliding door.

“What the hell Crecentia maarn”!

“What nonsense is this that I hear? How could you make Zweli's wife a maid? Are you out of your mind”?

Me: “How is that any of your business? Who gave you the right to meddle in my affairs”?

Her: “Zweli the minute he told me that his ‘wife’ is a maid and it was your idea”. Me: “Yeah it was, so”?

Her: "How can you make a woman that have been introduced to Zweli's ancestors a maid? Aren't you scared that they might punish you? They don't know you, you are like a mere stranger to them".

Me: "Fuck the ancestors, I am Zweli's soul mate and I don't even know why I am explaining myself to you. Stay the hell away from my relationship Crecentia".

Her: "Soul mate my foot, and you should be aware of ancestors. They might rain terror on you, rhaa"!

She clicks her tongue and walk back inside the house. Who does she think she is? Crencetia can be too much at times. I fix myself and take a deep breath then walk back inside, the mood is already sombre. Crecentia is nowhere to be seen, I guess she left. Good riddance to rubbish.

12

NOBUNTU

I am woken up by someone banging the door, argh. Who could that be? I hope it's not Natasha. I look at Boniwe, and she stirs a little then pull the blanket over her head, I chuckle. The person knocking is very persistent. I get off bed and walk to the door, I turn the key and open the door a little. I see a girl standing there with a big smile plastered on her face, she is very beautiful. I open the door enough for her to get in then close the door after her.

“Hi I'm Makhosazana”.

“Nobuntu”

Her: “Great meeting you Nobuntu. I am sorry to just barge in your room like this, I just wanted to come and see you” I stare at her blankly.

Her: “Actually, I came to meet you”.

Me: “Angikuzwa sisi” (I don't understand)

Her: “Ngiyaxolisa. Ngithe Ngize ngizokubona” (I am sorry. I came to see you)

Me: “Ufuna ukubona ububi bami”? (You want to see my ugliness) she laughs.

Her: “Cha Sisi. Ngizele nje ukuzokubona futhi awukho mubi, bayahlanya laba” (No sis. I just came to see you and you are not ugly. These people are crazy) I chuckle.

Me: “Usudlala ngami ke manjer. Kodwa ngiyabonga nawe umuhle” (You are playing with me now but thank you. You are also beautiful)

Her: “Ngiyabonga. Kuhle ukukubona ngizophinda ngibuye nokudla kwenu ngoba ngiyazi ukuthi lo sathane ngeke aniphakele” (Thank you. It is nice seeing you. I will come back again with your food, because I know that that devil won't dish up for you) I laugh.

Me: “Haibo, kahle ngamagama” (Stop with the names)

Her: “Uxolo. Indaba uyangibhora” (She bores me)

Me: “Nakakubhora manjer uzoyenzani la”? (If she bores you then what are you doing here)

Her: “Ngiphoxwe ubhuti wami ukuthi ngize la” (My brother forced me to come here)

Me: “Askies” (sorry)

Her: “Kulungile yazi. Ithi ngihambe phambi kokuba ubhuti wami angizingele” (It's okay. Let me go before my brother comes looking for me)

Me: “Hawu, akazi ukuthi u la”? (He doesn't know that you here)

Her: “Yebo. Ithi ngiphuthume, ngiyabuya. Ungalali” (Let me hurry, I am coming back and don't sleep)

Me: “Ngizoyenza njalo” (I will do that)

Her: “Unayo I phone”? (Do you have a phone)

Me: “Cha”

Her: “Weeehhhh makoti. Sizoyenza icebo”.(we will make a plan)

Me: “Bese u bhuti wakho uyavuma” (and your brother will agree)

Her: “Muyeke loyo, ngiyakwazi uku dealer ngaye” (Leave that one to me, I know how to deal with him)

Me: “Nawusho sisters” (if you say so)

Her: “Uvuse no Sisi lo olele” (also wake the woman sleeping)

Me: “Ngizoyenza njalo” (I will do that) She stands up and walk out.

I go and lock the door and head back to bed, I think I have just found myself a friend, she is a nice person. I look outside through the slightly open curtain and there are a lot of cars, at least the music is not so loud. The perks of living in the suburbs. There he is looking handsome as ever with his black outfit, he is on the phone with someone. I can't tell what are his expressions because he has his back on me but I know that's him. He is perfect, if only I was beautiful and a model of some sort. I think those are his types, not the farm Julia's.

“Like what you see”?

Arh, I did not even hear her waking up.

“Go back to sleep”

Her: “He is handsome Buntu. He is every girl's dreams”.

Me: “Iyoh. Anyway I had a visitor while you were sleeping”.

Her: “A visitor? Who was it? Was it a man”?

Me: “It was a girl, her name is Makhosazana. You love men too much wena B”.

Her: “Haibo, this shows that I am not a lesbian. What did she want”?

Me: “To see me”.

Her: "Just to see you? Did that biltong send her"? I chuckle.

Me: "No. Actually, no one knows that she was here. She sneaked out, and she said she will bring us food".

Her: "A minor from heaven Madoda. She is for keeps".

Me: "Ai wena, Ng'lambile" (I'm hungry)

Her: "Eat me hun plus I'm edible".

Me: "Sies wena. You look like you taste sour".

Her: "Want to try me honey"?

Me: "Voetsek" We both burst out with laughter.

Her: "We need a TV here"

Me: "You do, I have never watched TV in my whole entire life, that would be something new to me".

Her: "Don't worry wena babes. You will be within, stick with me and I will take you places".

Me: "Yes wena farm julia. Show me flames, nyis me" We look at each other and laugh again.

Me: "You are so stupid"

Her: "That's why I was placed to be your servant because you are more stupid than me" laughing.

Me: "You are such a bore"

Her: “And he is looking straight here. He is looking at us, actually looking at you”.

I turn to look at the window and yes the boyfriend is looking straight into our window!

Me: “He doesn't see us right”?

Her: “How would I know? Maybe he heard us laughing”.

Me: “And it's all your fault”

We look again, and he is not there, thanks God. I look at Boniwe, and she is busy batting her lashes, she is crazy this one.

★»★«

NKANYISO

I swear I heard voices of people laughing in the outside room or maybe it was just my mind playing tricks with me. I can't believe that Zweli is actually doing this, treating his wife like a maid, it's shocking. I am not even enjoying this party. As I enter inside the house I find Makhosazana dishing up, you can't separate my sister with food shem, but why is she dishing up for 2 people because as far as I know, her boyfriend is not here or maybe she is dishing up for one of the girls. I go and stand behind her.

“It's for you and who Makhosi”? She jumps.

Her: “Hhayi wena you scared me. Don't you ever do that again, and I am dishing up for my friends”.

Me: “Friends? You have friends here? Why don't I know them”?

Her: "Because I don't want you knowing them. You love skirt too much" I chuckle.

Me: "I am a man after all Makhosi, I am bound to love skirts".

Her: "You will get sick and die. Why don't you just settle down Bhuti? You are 32 years old for Christ's sake".

Me: "I just haven't met the one yet. Wait, there is someone that I met but she is married".

Her: "That's bad, I guess you will have to find someone else to like".

Me: "I don't want someone else I want her. I thought that it was just a heat rash but it turned out that it's more than that. It hurts that I yearn for someone I will never have".

Her: “Haibo, a whole you hurting? Wena Nkanyiso? Who would've thought that one day you will finally admit that you love someone, hhe God loves us all for real”.

Me: “Uyaphapha maarn and don't you dare mention this to any of our brothers or else, hhe”.

Her: “Haike, your secret is safe with me big brother. Do I maybe know this person”?

Me: “Nope you don't know her and so is everyone else”.

Her: “Mhhhhm, a misery woman she is. I will find out who it is anyway, you know my digging game is on point and I always come up with treasures” I laugh.

Me: “Good luck on your digging quest little one, hope it bears lots & lots of treasures”

Her: "Want to bet on it"?

Me: "How much"?

Her: "R1000"

Me: "Let's shake on it kideo"

Her: "Give me a week"

Me: "I'll be glad too. Let me go and check out on the boys"

Her: "But you never checked up on Athile ever since you guys got here".

Me: "She is having fun with the girls, she doesn't need me".

Her: "I like her though".

Me: "Good for you".

Her: "She can make a good wife yazi".

Me: "To who? If to me then forget about it. I have my eyes set on someone, I am just waiting for this loser to make one wrong move and I step in" She laughs.

Her: "Hhe Mr Knight in shining Armour, step up brother step up wena staircase".

Me: "Argh maarn, uyaphapha wena".

Her: "Mbulazi".

I chuckle while shaking my head, this child is too much for her age.

Her: "Bhuti when are we leaving"?

Me: "Around 20:00. Why do you ask"?

Her: "I want to head somewhere quick fast bhuti".

Me: "Head where"?

Her: "Somewhere bhuti and I will be back before you know it. The ladies here are not even conversing with me, I am bored".

Me: "Fine but be back before half 7. You have like an hour and couple of minutes left".

Her: "Yes, sir" She takes out another plate and start dishing up again.

Me: "Who exactly are you dishing up for"?

Her: "Me, Me & Me. Leave bhuti your girlfriend will dish up for you".

Me: "Where exactly are you taking these plates"?

Her: "Awume(wait) Mr private investigator". I shake my head and pretend to walk away...

I see her taking out a tray and placing the food then picks it up and walk out. I follow her, and she knocks at the door of the same room that I heard laughter from earlier on. She gets in and the door closes, by the look of things the curtain is closed. I smile alone, at least she did not go outside the yard. I won't even ask her anything because she will blatantly lie. I walk back inside the house and I find Natasha, Londiwe & Athile dishing up.

Athile: "There you are. I've been looking for you all over the house".

Me: "I went outside for some air"

Her: "So, me and the girls we were talking

Advertisement

and we decided that later on we are hitting the club, are you fine with me going"?

Me: "Of course I am. You can go".

Her: "Thank you babe" she smiles.

Natasha: "And you guys will join us later"

Me: "I will not make it. I already have plans"

Athile: "Plans? What plans babe because I don't remember you mentioning them to me"

Me: "That's because you are not my girlfriend. What I do, with whom, when or why doesn't concern you. Stay in your lane if you still value what we have going on or else kuzoshabalala njengapho You get me"?

She nods with tears threatening to come out of her eyes. She has already caught feelings and she knows the deal. Her time is up. Damn, I hate when it comes to this part. I walk to the gents and I find them chatting & laughing, all I want to do. Is to just go home and relax. I am not feeling this party at all.

Mnqobi: "I take it you did not see her judging by how sour your face looks" He says standing next to me. He hands me of can of Heineken.

Me: "Thanks man".

Him: "You did not? I'm sure she is sleeping"

Me: "She's not sleeping, I heard them laughing earlier on and not so long ago I saw Makhosazana entering their room, she had food with her. She actually told me that she is dashing somewhere fast fast. I thought that she was going to sneak out to her boyfriend, boom she went straight to that room".

Him: "Some light at least. Now, smile and pretend to be happy. The gents are noticing that you are not yourself, and they are starting to ask questions".

Me: "I don't give a fuck about them. They have the same thing I have in between their legs, just that mine is bigger than theirs" We both burst out with laughter.

We sit down and the ladies start serving us food. Athile practically throws me the plate, food particles land on my pants, wawu. The others look at me and I just shake my head and chuckle. I place the plate on the grass and continue drinking my beer.



NOBUNTU

The food tastes so amazing who ever cooked, sure knows how to stir them pots. Makhosazana is such a bubbly soul, I like her. Right now we are listening to her telling us about her boyfriend. Judging by the way she talks about him, he sure does make her happy. She is 27 years old and works at Sport scene she is a store manager. Nkanyiso aka boyfriend is her brother, she comes after him. She has three more brothers namely, Nkosikhona, Mbuso & Ziyanda. Nkosikhona & Ziyanda are the ones married, so she says.

“Njengoba uMbuso engagananga njer, ngingazithathela yena phela nami angiganile” (since it seems like Mbuso is not married, can I take him seeing that I am also not married)

Me: “Weeehhh, sewufuna ngokuzidlisa ngabafana base goli”
(You want to get chowed by Jo'burg boys) Makhosazana
laughs.

Her: “Haike uMbuso uyazihlonipha akamani a soma some
njer noma sesiphi I skirt, akafani neze no Nkanyiso”. (Mbuso
respects himself, he doesn't go around and court any woman,
he is nothing like Nkanyiso) I see Boniwe eyeing me with a
smirk plastered on her face.

Boniwe: “Kusho ukuthi u Nkanyiso udinga intokazi
ezomufaka endleleni neh”? (It means he needs a woman
who will straighten him)

Her: “Njer. Kodwa ayikho intomhi ezomufaka endleleni, zonke
lezi ntombi azitholayo akazithandi” (there is no woman who will
straighten him, he doesn't love all the girls he finds)

Boniwe: “Kwakubi loko”. (That's bad)

Her: “Kodwa uthi ukhona lo amthandayo inkinga wukuthi lo sisi loyo uthethwe. Angazi wagcina nini ukusho ukhuthi kunomuntu am'thandayo, phela yena udla andlule. Kodwa nakakhuluma ngale ntokazi engaziwa amehlo wakhe akhombisa uThando” (but there is girl that he likes, the problem is that the girl is married. I don't know when was the last time he said, there's someone he loves. But when he talks about this particular girl, his eyes show love)

Boniwe: “Ncoooah, ave ine nhlanhla leyo ntokazi. Cabanga njer bakuthande ngendlala ongayo, kusho ukuthi unalo uthando ned ufuna ukulinika lo elimfanele. Ezinye izintombi ziyathandwa la ngaphandle, uyabona mara Nobuntu”? (That woman is very lucky. Just imagine being loved the way you are, this means that he has love, but he wants to give it to that special woman. Some women are loved out there, are you aware Nobuntu)

Me: “Yakuzwa Sisi omdala. Awusho ke Zana. Uthini uMbuso akana hhe or unentombi”? (I hear you big sis. Tell me here Zana, Mbuso doesn't have a girlfriend)

Her: “Unayo kodwa ise melika, angisaboni nokuthi basathandana. Uyamfuna yini”? (He has one but she is in America, I don't think they are still dating. Do you want him) I chuckle.

Me: “Lutho sisi bengibuza njer” (I was just asking)

Boniwe: “Ufunwa yimi” (he is wanted by me)

Makhosazana: “Futhi nizofanelana, ithi ngikukhombe ama pictures wakhe” (plus you will make a cute couple, let me show you his pictures)

Her: “Ngikhombe bonke abo bhuti bakho mhlambe no Nobuntu angathola” (show me the pictures of all your brothers, maybe Nobuntu can get 1)

Makhosazana: “Bengizomunika uNkanyiso ned manjer ushadile u Nobuntu, bebazoyenza izithandani ezihle nabo” (I was going

to give her Nkanyiso, but she is married, they would've also made a beautiful couple)

Boniwe: “Ngempela” (True) She looks at me and sticks out her tongue, I give her a stare, and she chuckles.

Boniwe: “Hhai ke sengikhethile Mina. uMbuso ngowami, baba sekhaya” (I've already chosen. Mbuso is mine, the head of the house)

Makhosazana: “Wuuuh ngizomazisa” (I will let him know)

Me: “Ucinisile anjalo ke” (she is being honest) laughing.

They continue looking at the pictures, hhayi shame Makhosazana's brothers are handsome, jealous down, and then Zana does the unthinkable, she called Mbuso.

Boniwe: “Awe ma bengidlala Mina” (I was joking)

Makhosazana: “Bhuti”

Him: “Thunjana lasekhaya” (Last born)

Her: “Ukahle”?

Him: “Akunankinga sisi” (There's no problem)

Her: “Konumuntu ofuna uku khuluma nawe athi umchazile”
(there's someone here who wants to talk to you, she likes you)

Him: “Mameshana. Uthini kimi Makho”?(What are you saying to me)

Me: “Njengoba ngisho bhuti” (exactly)

Him: “Awu suka madoda ngibonwa yini na, awudlali ngami njer wena”? (You not toying with me)

Her: “Lutho” (not at all)

Him: “Awung'zwise izwi ke” (let me hear her voice)

Boniwe is busy fanning herself, hau Becky Lynch is nervous, hebanna! Zana gives her the phone, she is shaking her head. I chuckle, the wheel turns.

Her: “Sa...sawubona Mbulazi”

Him: “Yebo nkosazana kunjani? Ave unelizwi elimnandi kodwa” (you have a beautiful voice) She squirms and hangs up then fan her face again, and Zana is in stitches.

Her: “Izwi lakhe ma.E izwi lakhe” (his voice guys)

Me: “Eyakho ke Le ndoda” (Now that's your man)

Her: "Hhayini" We laugh. Oh, well, the day is going well than I thought.

Lol...yazi there's this particular reader who knows my posting routine, thank you for paying attention.

13

NOBUNTU

{A MONTH LATER}

To say things are better I would be lying. Things have gone from bad to worse, I am now a full time maid for my husband and his girlfriend. I am practically reliving my village life, just that with this one it's too modern, plus I don't get a beating or being scolded at. Sometimes I get day off's, well not really though, argh. Boniwe moved out few days ago, I am so happy for her.

Finally, some breakthrough for her. I was very heart broken when I watched her border the taxi, goodbyes are never good and I'm too bad when it comes to them. Makhosazana got her a job as cleaner in one of her father's company and, guess who is the manager? Hehehe none other than Mr Mbuso himself. She started yesterday, can't wait for her to take me out for lunch once she gets her first pay. She called me earlier, and she

sounded nervous over the phone. She said she almost peed on herself when she saw Mbuso. Luckily for her, Mbuso doesn't know her. That was a big relief for her, I don't think it will be for long though because Makhosazana is trying to hook them up. I'm sure she showed Mbuso her pictures, we took tons of them the last time she was here. Speaking of Makhosazana, she has become a best friend to me and a little sister to Boniwe. We share this very strong bond, in them I found family that I never had. Anyway, Zweli brought us smartphones few weeks back and, he also brought me a TV, and installed DSTV since I am not allowed to watch TV in the house, the only time I step into the house is when I do my house chores that's it. I don't wine & dine with them, not by a long shot. Anyway, today the couples are going to one of their friends braai. They host braais every month, more like a couples outing. I am so bored, I have nothing to do. I wish I brought my beads along, they would've kept me busy. I can't even go out, I am stuck in this room, but I am used to it. My phone rings and it's

Makhosazana, I have like 4 numbers on my phone. Boniwe', Zana, Aunt Ncumisa, and manyala husband who hardly calls.

“Zana”

“Hey Buntu. What are you doing?”

Well, she is the only person who knows that me & Boniwe actually know how to speak English. Boniwe gave that away this other time and, we were forced to come clean. That's why she decided to ask his father to hire her.

Me: “Nothing, why”?

Her: “Good. I am taking you out for lunch” I look at the time and it's just after 12:00am.

Me: “Where are we going”?

Her: "Stop asking questions woman. Get ready I will be there in 30 minutes"

Me: "What must I wear"?

Her: "Anything and, you need to do something about your hair" I chuckle.

Me: "What can I possibly do to my hair? I'm forever on my doek. Who am I doing my hair for? I sigh. "No one will notice me anyway"

Her: "Leave that to me, and someone will definitely notice you"

Me: "Will Boniwe join us?"

Her: "Yes. It's almost her lunchtime. See you then" she hangs up.

I laugh and rampage my closet. Oh, my room now looks like a real room. I have a TV, sound system, single couch, wall wadrobe, a 2 in 1 stove. A mini fridge, to name a few house essentials. I settle for a floral jumpsuit. I chuckle, I look so funny wearing it. Hahaha, guys even Sdumo looked better in it. I mean, I am skinny after all, a biltong that I am. Argh, enough about my body. I go and take a quick bath, there's a bathroom outside with installed geyser. I was so shocked when I saw hot water coming out from the tap. Boniwe came running to my

aid, when she heard me screaming so loud, after all I am used to cold water coming out from the tap. Anyway, Boniwe explained everything to me that was after she laughed at me. I am so grateful for her, she has taught me a lot in terms of using electrical appliances. I am done bathing. Okay, okay, this will be my first time officially going out. Ever since I got here, I only went to town 2x when we went to buy the house essentials. I comb my afro, I think it does need some straightening, actuality it will be my first time doing my hair properly. Benny&Betty have been riding with me ever since like forever. I wonder where Makhosazana is taking us. The couple went to work, they

will only be back after 18:00pm and, I should be done cooking by then. They change menus every week, their meals must always include green salads. Phela she is watching her weight.

★»★«

THAKASILE

Ever since Nobuntu left things have never been the same again here at home. Sanele is more of a loner now, he comes back from work, takes a bath then sleep. He sometimes sleeps without eating, Nobuntu's departure really took a toll on him. I am now doing Nobuntu's chores, they are not easy at all and gogo is forever on my case. She is taking out her stress on me, she pretends like she doesn't miss Nobuntu, but she does big time. Most of all her cooking & cleaning. Cooking is not my best trait, she never taught me how to cook. Her teaching me as old as I am, is really not working out. It's a disaster, I guess she

thought that Nobuntu was going to stay here for the rest of her life. That's why she did not see the need to teach me how to cook, cleaning is easy. Yhey, I can't even kill a chicken let alone perk out its feathers, it's bad. She is the one who does cooking most of the time

Advertisement

sometimes Sanele cooks. Life is not the same. Going to the forest to look for woods it's also a mission for me. I always come back with sticks not logs. I remember the first time I came back with them, yhey I got beaten up so bad. Ever since then I started chopping big logs, Nobuntu have been going through the most at the hands of my grandmother. Now she is living the best life. She is now a princess, and she sleeps in money, I'm

sure she's even a slay Queen now. Heard that they moved to Jo'burg, that could've been me yet life argh. She robbed me that chance, but I am not giving up on the Prince. He will be mine one way or the other.

“Yewena Thakasile zizowasha lezitsha yini? Awusheshe mele upheke futhi. Ukhohliwe ukuthi sizelwa yizivakashi? Shesha maarn” (hey Thakasile, will the dishes wash themselves?)

Hurry up and you also have to cook. Have you forgotten that we are going to have visitors? Hurry maarn)

By visitors, she means her Ben 10. Ewuuu, this grandmother of mine she is just nasty.

“Yebo gogo” huffing.

I go to the kitchen and start packing the dishes, once I'm done I open the buckets to get water, and they are empty. Great just great. Now I have to go to the water dispatcher to get water, I'm sure there's a long line. By the time I get back the guests would have long arrived. Let me rather start with cooking, I will see the dishes later. Arh and, I also have to make fire. Gzus. I

have never imagined myself doing this, it always looked so easy when Nobuntu did it. Here I am now doing the exact same thing and, it's not easy at all. I wish Sanele was back already.



NOBUNTU

We are at mall of Africa, this place is so huge. We are going to have brunch with Makhosazana and her cousin Zothile, then we go window shopping. We will find her cousin at Rocco mama's, since she is there already. Boniwe is busy with her phone and smiling, I wonder what's making her smile, or rather who? We arrive at Rocco mama's and her cousin spot us, she waves her hand we walk to her table. We exchange greetings and sit down. This Zothile is looking at me rather somehow, I don't know if she is looking at me because I look familiar, or she too

is looking at my ugly self, as per usual. She is making me uncomfortable. There are forms on the table that we are supposed to fill, why are we filling them? I mean we are not at school, we are here to eat.

“I can help you with filling up the form, I don't mind” she says with a fake smile.

“Ngi right” I take the pen and start filling the form.

Her: “Do you even understand what you are filling there or you just want to confirm your stupidity?” I look at her, and shake my head.

Zana: “Zothile behave. We are here to eat and catch up, not what you're doing”

Her: “If you expect me to apologise to her, then I'm sorry I won't”

Zana: “Just stop being rude. That's all I'm asking” she hisses.

Her: "Fine. Whatever" she rolls her eyes.

Boniwe is still focused on her phone, she is not here with us.

Zana: "Boniwe"

Boniwe startles and looks at us confused. I chuckle and she gives me a stare.

Her: "Urh...what are you guys talking about? Sorry, my phone is keeping me occupied"

Zana: "Who is keeping you occupied?" She furrows her brow.

Her: "What? Oh, it's just one of my colleague" she looks guilty.

Me: "You have friends already? You sure are damn fast".

Zothile: "Where is she working?" She asks with an attitude.

This girl has serious issues with us. Or maybe she plainly doesn't like us, after all first impression last as the saying goes.

Zana: "She works at my father's company"

Her: "So, she is the new cleaner?"

Zana: "Yes she is".

Her: "Oh, I see. What does she do?" She says pointing at me.

Zana: "Nothing".

Her: "Nothing as is nothing at all?"

Boniwe: "Excuse me girl. What did they say your name was again? Argh, never mind. Do you maybe have a problem with us?"

Her: "Problem with you? Girl, why would I have problem with you? I mean. You are not worth my time" she rolls her eyes.

Boniwe: "We are clearly worth your time because for the past 5 minutes, you were on our case. Listen here love and listen to me very carefully" she gives Boniwe an attitude.

Boniwe: "We did not come here because we are bored or what" well, I only came here because I was bored, maybe not her. "We came to have lunch then go window shopping and do our hairs then go our separate ways. We did not come here to entertain your moody and derogatory remarks flat arse. It's either you have decent brunch with us or you leave, better yet why don't you go to foschini, and ask them to help you with finding the right foundation for your face. Nxa, nonsense!"

Me & Zana look at each other. Zothile just turns into a tomato, she is angry the pecks of being a yellow bone. Iyoh.

Zana: "Okay. Let's get this over and done with we've already wasted time"

Zothile: "I think I will just leave" she stands up and grabs her bag along. "I will see you around Zano".

Boniwe: "Thanks God. Now we can have our lunch in peace" she smiles at her.

Zana: "I will call you" she nods and walks away. She then turns to Boniwe. "And you? What was that all about?"

Her: "If you did not see anything wrong with what transpired, then I don't know".

Zana: "I am sorry about her behaviour. She is usually not like this".

Her: "It's okay. You don't have to justify her actions".

Me: "Now tell us. Who was keeping you occupied on your phone?" Zana focuses on her.

Her: "It's one of my colleague. I told you guys"

Me: "We keep secrets from each other now?"

Zana: "Yeah, what happened to 'no secrets' between the 3 of us?"

Her: "Eish girls. I just don't want to jump the boat so soon, I don't want it to sink before I know where it's heading"

Me: "What are you saying?"

Her: "I think I might've met someone"

Us: "What?" She looks around.

Her: "Keep it down would you"

Zana: "Sorry. It's just that is so sudden, don't you think?"

Her: "We are friends for now" she blushes.

Me: "Whoa and he is making you blush. Do we maybe know him?" She nods.

Me & Zana look at each other. Zana breaks into a smile, we know exactly who she is talking about.

Zana: "Don't tell me that it is who I think it is" Boniwe shakes her head and chuckle.

Me: "Oh wow. Who would've thought, you finally got him. I am so happy for you."

Her: "It's nothing serious guys we just friends, and he is my manager"

Zana: "So, what if he is the manager?"

Her: "Work terms & conditions. No dating at work"

Me: "If you do then you are fired?" She nods.

Zana: "That can be fixed. When are you guys making things official?"

Her: "When I am sure that he is the one for me. I don't want to be heart broken again, my ex-boyfriend broke my heart. I don't want to suffer the same fate with him"

Me: "He is not your ex-boyfriend though. He is him"

Her: "Either way. I am guarding my heart, the thing is when I love, I give my all. I invest my time and energy in the relationship."

Zana: "Eish yah neh. As, much as he is my brother I can't guarantee you that he won't hurt you. Take your time in knowing him, don't rush anything" Boniwe smiles.

Her: "Thank you girls. I needed this talk, you guys are the best."

Zana: "Always a pleasure big sister" we laugh.

Her: "Hhayi wena. You should say 'sister-in-law" Zana laughs.

Me: "Hawu, we're talking marriage already?"

Her: "Shut up"

Zana: "We're thinking ahead" we all erupt in laughter.

★»★«

NKANYISO

Mbuso is busy checking his phone. We are at the rank, it's his lunchtime, so he came to chill with us. When he got here, he was smiling his best smile. The only woman who brings out such smile, is none other than Siyasanga. His girlfriend.

“Nkabi nini ubuka uma khalekhukhwini, ulinde ucingo oluhalulekile”? (Hitman you are busy checking your phone, are you waiting for an important call)

“Lutho nkabi yami”(nothing my hitman)

Me: “Then why do you keep on checking it?”

Him: “I'm checking time”

Me: “Since when do you check time on your phone?”

Him: “Mamelake mfana wami, angiphenduli kuwe”(Listen my boy I do not answer to you) I nod.

Me: "I hear you brother. Uyam'thanda loyo wes'mame?"(Do you love that woman?)

Him: "Ngeke u zwise mfana wami. Usase mncane kabi"(You wouldn't understand, you are too young)

Mandla: "Nkabi ubani igama lalo sisi?"(what's the name of that woman?)

Him: "Hhayi nkabi akusi u daba olugalelwe wena lelo"(It's not your business)

Mandla: "Kodwa inkabi yona isemathandweni"(but you are in love) I laugh.

Him: "Ngizokusakaza ikhanda Mandla"(I will bash your head)

Mandla: “Kodwa nkabi ulaka olungaka ngenca yothando pho”(too much anger because of love) the gents erupt in laughter.

I shift my focus on them and keep busy on my phone. A WhatsApp text comes through from Makhosazana.

★We are passing by your taxi aisle with someone, look on your right★

I avert my eyes and I see them, arh she looks beautiful. She has braids now, bringing out her melanin face out.

“Awu nawe nkabi encane usesibalweni? Naze nancuma bo”(you too Junior hitman?)

Ewww Mandla yinkinga madoda...

14

ZWELI

As soon as I knock off I went and picked up Natasha at the salon. My day was hectic today, I just need a hot bath then hit the bed but with Natasha around, I might as well forget about it. I find her already waiting for me with her best friend Gina.

“Hii Zweli” she smiles.

“Hello Gina. Are you good?”

Her: “I am well, thank you for asking”

Tasha: “Urh babe, can we drop her off seeing that Ziyanda is not here yet and, it's not safe for her to wait alone”

Me: “No problem” She gets in the car.

Her: “Thank you guys. I wonder why is Ziyanda late, this is so unlike him”.

Tasha: “Maybe he is still at work”

Her: "I guess you're right" she shrugs. "So, Zweli how is the wife?" I huff.

Him: "My wife is right next to me. Which one are you talking about?"

Her: "The first wife. The one that you married".

Me: "She is not my wife. She is my maid there's a difference between the two" she shakes her head.

Her: "I see. How is she taking being a maid? I mean, girl has a ring on her finger and you guys exchanged vows in front of the pastor and your fa..." Tasha cuts her short.

Tasha: "Shut up Gina if you don't have anything good to say. We are doing you a favour by giving you a lift and, you here asking Zweli shit?"

Her: "I'm sorry if I offended you anyhow. I was just trying to make a conversation".

Tasha: "There are a lot of things to converse about. Mind the business that pays you and, leave ours alone" she clicks her tongue.

Her: "Sorry" Tasha rolls her eyes. "You can drop me off here Zweli, it's fine. I don't want to piss your woman off".

Me: "No. I will drop you off at your house. I can't leave you here, as Tasha said it's not safe' relax" Tasha gives me the WTF look. "Please don't start with me Tasha, I am not in the mood"

Gina: "Thank you Zweli" I drop her off and hoot as I drive off.

Tasha: "What was that all about? Why did you defend her?"

Me: "I am not doing this with you. I had a long day" she huffs and folds her arms.

Women. All of you are too complicated, I will never understand you. I'm sure you don't even understand yourselves too.

Tasha: "Are we still eating out?" she asks as soon as we step inside the house.

Me: "Yes. We just need to freshen up".

Her: "Let's just order in. I can see that you are tired".

Me: "First let's see if Langelihle haven't cooked" I open the warmer and our plates are there. "Well, she did cook"

Her: "Hit it up. I hate to admit it, but she is the best cooker ever, she cooks like a chef".

Me: "Couldn't agree with you more there. You should ask her to teach you" she laughs.

Her: "Even if she teaches me. Her food will still taste better than mine" now it's my turn to laugh.

Me: "But I will enjoy it. Trust me" I see her blushing.

Her: "So charming. Why don't we just hire her to cook for us when it's our chance to host our friends over?"

Me: "That's not a bad idea, but we will have to pay her"

Her: "What? It's her job to cook. Why must we pay her?"

Me: "No it's not her job to cook for our friends. Her job is to cook for us not anyone else but us. Her cooking on our hosting months, she will be going beyond her given house chores".

Her: "It makes sense if you put it like that"

Me: "Now for that shower. Let's save water and shower together" she smirks.

Her: "I like the sound of that. Catch me if you can" she is already ascending the stairs.

I chuckle and run after her. She is already in the shower when I finally get into our room. I strip off my clothes and join her. She hands me the shower gel with a smirk in her face. I squeeze it in my hands and I start washing her back. She moans, arh this woman I already have a boner. I move to her boobs and massage them. She is a size 36c, She turns around and looks at me...

She looks at me straight in the eyes, then take my member into her hand, and start massaging it, giving it a hand job, groaning.

I move my hands on her back until they reach her ass, I work my finger in the line that separate her buttocks. I move it up and down, she moans and nibble on my ear. She goes down on me leaving trail of kisses on my skin. I balance my body on the shower glass as her lips take in my dick. "Fuck" I curse, she gives me a blow job of a lifetime. I push her head in, now I can

feel my dick inside her, she loves to deep throat. When she gags, she turns me more on. I can feel my dick grows in her mouth, I am about to ejaculate. Then she plays with my balls. "Fuck it... I am cumming babe" I shoot my load of cum in her mouth. I retract my dick, and she swallows some, while some dripped to her boobs. She licks my dick clean. I help her stand up. I turn her around, she balances her hands on the glass. She doesn't like being muffed and, when I ask her why she doesn't being muffed, she never gives me a straight answer, I decided to let her be. I enter her from my behind, she pushes her arse towards my dick. I go in slowly, I play with her boobs as I increase my pace, she moans & screams my name. I slam in harder and nibble in her ear, she loves it when I do that. I fuck her faster as she continue screaming my name. I can feel her body tense up, I know that she is about to reach her climax, I hit her g-spot, she loses it. Wuuhhh woman and drama. I thrust in a few times and I can feel my dick growing again inside her pussy. "I...am cumming" she says in a low town, more like a whisper. "Wait for me I'm right behind you" I whisper in her

ear. Her moans and my groan blend together and before I know it, she came first and I followed after her with three thrust. I stayed buried in her pussy, kissing her back.

Her: "Food is getting cold"

Me: "Party popper" I retract my dick from her pussy, and we take a quick shower, removing the stench of sex, argh.

Her: "We have all night together, stop being grumpy" I chuckle.

Me: "I am not grumpy woman"

Her: "Who are you trying to convince?"

Me: "Mxm" we step out of the shower and lotion our bodies then wear our robes.

We take our food from the warmer, and we start eating. I turn on the TV and channel O is on.

★»★»

NOBUNTU

I am busy creating social media accounts. Boniwe helped me with installing WhatsApp, now I need to install Facebook, Instagram, twitter, Telegram & Snapchat. Zana suggested that I also download Tik Tok & likee to keep myself entertained with the videos. In no time I am done installing everything. I really don't know why am I creating them because I don't have any contacts. I only have Boniwe, Zana, manyala of a husband and aunt Ncumisa's numbers. Its all just a waste of time, well at least I will beat the boredom. My phone rings and it is Zana.

“Zana”.

“Have you managed installing all the apps I told you to install?”

Me: “Yes I have”.

Her: “Good. I will add you on Facebook and follow you on Twitter & Instagram. You can follow me on Likee & TikTok”

Me: “Is it really necessary for me to have all these apps?”

Her: “Very necessary. Let me go
my man is here and I'm about to get myself whipped” I chuckle.

Me: “Don't do something I wouldn't do” she laughs.

Her: “Sis. You need to get laid, bye” she hangs up. I laugh, mxm
yah ne.

Zana is something else, iyoh. Since I have Airtime let me just call Aunt Ncumisa, I hope she is not sleeping. I am about to hang up when she answers.

“And you are?” is this how she answers her phone? Wow, it sounds rude or maybe, it's just my imagination.

“Hello aunt Ncumisa”

Her: “Buntu? Is that you sisi?”

Me: “Yes it's me auntie”

Her: “My God. I am so sorry for how I answered you, that's how I answer numbers I don't know” I chuckle.

Me: “Fair enough”

Her: "How are you? How is marriage treating you?" I sigh.

Me: "I am okay and marriage is just that. How are you?"

Her: "You do know that you can tell me anything right? If you are not happy then come back, my door is always open for you".

I really do want to tell her about my marital problems, but I have dreams to fulfil here in Jo'burg. Furthering my studies is on top of the list, maybe once I've settled I will tell her. I need

this to equip my life, so that when I leave Zweli I will have something to back me up.

Me: "I will let you know once I'm unhappy ncan, you will be the first one to know. I was just checking up on you".

Her: "Thank you for calling Sisi. I will save your numbers as soon as you hang up"

Me: "Aunti, can I ask you for a favour?"

Her: "Talk sisi".

Me: "Can you please go to the village and go to Bab'Mhlaba. Ask him to give you his land line number, I want to call Sanele via it."

Her: "That won't be necessary Sisi. I will buy him a phone, then go and give it to him".

Me: "I would really appreciate that. Thank you very much ncane"

Her: "You miss him?" I smile.

Me: "A lot ncane. I'm sure he thinks that I've forgotten about him"

Her: "I doubt. He will understand that you were settling in"

Me: "Okay Ncane. I love you"

Her: "I love you too sunshine, and don't forget about school. Goodnight".

Me: "Goodnight to you too Ncane" she hangs up.

I log into Facebook and I already have a friend request from Zana & Boniwe. I accept their invites. Boniwe suggested that I also read Facebook stories, they keep you busy and

entertained. She mentioned a few, I search them, and they pop up. First story I'm reading is Half A man, the title seems interesting. I get into the blankets and indulge in reading.

★»★«

BONIWE

I am woken up by my phone vibrating under the pillow. I move my hand under the pillow and I answer. Did not even check who is calling me.

“Hello”

“Nkosazana” I blush.

This is actually his first time calling me. We chat on WhatsApp most of the time.

Him: “Ngikuvusile?” (did I wake you up?) I nod, as if he can see me.

Me: “Yebo”

Him: “Uxolo. Ungakwazi ukuphuma ngila ngaphandle”
(sorry. Can you please come outside)

What? This guy can't be serious. How did he know where I live?
Argh, Makhosazana! I will kill this girl I swear.

Me: “Uyadlala angisho?” (you playing right?)

Him: “Cha phuma phela nkosazana or mhlambe ufuna ngingene?
Angina nkinga naloko ngingakwenza” (get out princess or do you
want me to come in? I don't mind) I chuckle.

Me: “Bengifisile ukuphuma kodwa angikho endlini, ngiku
Nobuntu” (it was my wish to come out, unfortunately I'm not
at home. I'm at Nobuntu's)

I have to play hard to get. I don't want him to think that I am yes sir woman, and I don't want to always avail myself to him. A part of wants to go out and see him, and also here what he has to say. I just want to look at him, and focus on him you know that's all I want, but the other part is not keen. It is defying that.

Him: “Eww kwazwe kwakubi loko. Sowuzolala kahle Mashiyamahle, ungiphuphe phela” (that's too bad. You will sleep well, don't forget to dream about me) I chuckle.

Me: “Okay. Bye” I hang up.

People I think I am in love, oh my, but then I heard that man from Jo'burg are players. Zweli is a proof that rumour anyway. Argh, men. Hektik and very stressful bunch. The doggies. Let me call Nobuntu she must know about this.

“Ngilele ufunani”? (I am sleeping, what do you want?) I laugh.

Me: "Wake up wena. Your uncle was here"

Her: "My uncle? Which uncle"? I laugh. You can tell by her voice that she is confused, wuhhh this farm Julia!

Me: "I forget that you can be slow sometimes. I mean, Mbuso was here"

Her: "What? When? What did he want?"

Me: "He wanted to see me"

Her: "I hope you said No" I laugh.

Me: "Of course. How are you taking me? I want to make him sweat a bit, he has to work to win my heart. I don't want him to think that I am loose, hha.ah no". She chuckles.

Her: "Few weeks in Jo'burg and you already know how to make a man sweat? I yes you girl, strategise. You must also give me tips" I laugh.

Me: "Phela we have to keep up with the trends. You also need to let loose, this is a city of gold, and yes I will definitely teach you. I hope you don't want to make manyala sweat." She laughs then I hear her sigh. "What's wrong"?

Her: "The in-laws are coming tomorrow afternoon."

Me: "What? Why didn't you tell me"?

Her: "I was going to call you, but then I remembered that you are working now I didn't want to bother you. Besides, you just got the job, and now this. Talk about bad timing."

Me: "You were supposed to let me know the minute you knew Buntu. Remember that only the king knows that I'm at college

of which it's not true, not the Queen. I will think of an excuse to skip work. You need me there.”

Her: “Thank you Boniwe.”

Me: “I am just playing my role. What did the biltong say about that? I'm sure she was very angry thinking about the fact that you're going to share a bed with her man. I'm sure she will come back, and burn the sheets, and that's if you didn't tear them with your cracked heels” She laughs.

Her: “I don't know how she took it or how commented about the issue babe because Zweli told me over the phone few minutes ago.”

Me: “What? His audacity!”

Her: “I wonder how are we going to survive this. The fact that I will have to share a bed with him makes me cringe, and I'm sure he too is breathing fire wherever he is. Ai, biltong will be strong”.

Me: "That's going to be hard, but it will be fine. You will just have to tolerate each other until his parents leaves".

Her: "I guess you're right. I will see you tomorrow Mrs Dube"
I laugh.

Me: "Voetsek you charcoal" she laughs.

Her: "Love you too Jojo tank" I laugh and hang up.

A message comes through on my phone, and it is none other than Mbuso. I don't even bother opening it, because I know it's the same message every night. I switch off the light, and get into bed. This room is bigger than Nobuntu's, I'm just 30 minutes drive away from her. Actually I am staying with Khaya, Nobuntu's personal driver. Zweli is trying by all means that Nobuntu doesn't taste the royal feel, but from tomorrow until the royals leave things will change. It's going to be a long day tomorrow, with the Queen around, and the endless ordering around. Hhe I foresee a lot of drama taking place tomorrow, I

hope they won't be visiting for long. 3 days will do them good, we have lives to live now, and dreams to fulfil.

15

NOBUNTU

I am woken up someone banging the door, I wonder who it is so early in the morning. I climb out of bed, and attend the door, I open, I find Boniwe standing there with a big smile plastered on her face. I let her in, and I go back to bed. She pulls the covers off me.

“Haibo wake up its 08:00. Since when do you sleep till this time”? She is opening my curtain allowing the sun in my room, arhhh. I feel like screaming at her!

“I slept late. I've been busy reading Facebook stories as you've suggested, hhayi these writers are talented shame. If it's not a too much for you, can you kindly please make yourself scarce or keep quiet or do something because I want to continue with perfecting my beauty sleep”. She laughs.

Her: "Stop lying. I called you around 22:00 and you sounded as if you've just woken up from sleep. As for beauty sleep? Babe you don't need it. You need dick". I narrow my brow, this girl.

Me: "You right. I ran out of sleep just after talking to you, and no I don't need dick I need food".

Her: "Your loss. You missing out". I chuckle.

Me: "When last did you get laid"? Laughing.

Her: "I wish I can let you perfect your beauty sleep, but you can't. We must go to town and buy certain foods for the Queen. She doesn't eat anything, and her food must have brand names" I roll my eyes, and laugh.

Me: "It seems like you also need some dick girl"! She rolls her eyes, and I laugh. "Food is food njer, hhayi your Queen its such a drag. Anyway, what excuse did you give your boss at work"?

Her: "I resigned" she shrugs.

Me: "You did what? Why"?

Her: "She doesn't understand that I have other commitments. She doesn't understand that before my job, I am a royal servant" she is insane. "So I resigned"

Me: "You didn't have to resign. You should've just told her that you are not feeling well. You have a terrible stomach bug" she chuckles.

Her: "Go and take a Bath. Yapping won't take us to town" I huff.

Me: "But we don't have money to buy those 'certain foods"

Her: "Oh, don't worry about that. One of the drivers will meet us in town, apparently he has your black card with him. They gave him weeks ago".

Me: "That so-called driver has been having my card all along? When did he leave the Bundu's, I mean the drive to here is rather long".

Her: "He doesn't stay far from here".

Me: "I don't understand. Is he of here or"?

Her: "Nah. He arrived the same day as us, but your husband rented a room for him and told him to stay there. We won't be needing his services Instead he hired him as a security in his company". Wow!

Me: "Rha usijwayela kabi u Zweli. He brought us here just for fun"? She chuckles.

Her: "There's more. Wena just go and take a bath time is not on our side, and don't forget your fake ring" laughing.

Mxm. I throw her with a pillow, and go and take a bath leaving her making my bed. I wonder how did Natasha take the news, I'm sure she is losing her mind wherever she is. Now, the main question is "what's going to happen to her? Will she continue staying here, and take my place as a maid or is she going to stay with a friend"? Argh, this set up is just messed up. I hope

Zweli's parents won't be staying the whole week, I can't be in the same room with sour grape. She gives me chills, and she hates me. I will really not survive with her around. Sigh. I step out of the bathroom, it doesn't even help that the bathroom is outside. What if I bump into someone? But who will I bump into, because there's only 3 of us who lives and the walls are high. I can even model naked, wuuuh I'm kidding. I am very insecure about my body, I mean I have bruises, especially on my back, I also have a long scar underneath my left breast. That is where Thakasile stabbed me with a beer bottle, she was fighting me for a dress that was given to me by my neighbour. It was one messy fight, they ganged up on me with her friends. I

couldn't even fight back, and as usual I'm the one who was wrong. It was embarrassing, the villagers were just watching, and not helping, mxm. I get into my room and I find clothes already laid out for me in bed. Boniwe is nowhere on sight, I wonder where is she. I am busy lotioning my body when door flies open, I turn to look who it is, and its Natasha. I ignore her presence and continue lotioning my body.

“Yewena nobubi. Don't think that since the royal family is coming, you're going to warm your ugly arse in my man's bed”!

“Cacisa sisi”. (Be clear)

Her: “Ngithi mina ungacabangi ukuthi njengoba kuza basebu khosini, uzolala nendoda yami”.

Me: “Awusho ke sisi ngo lalaphi”?

Her: “Kwelinye igumbi” I chuckle.

Me: “Ngokwazi kwami unama gumbi amathathu wokulala. Elakho no Zweli, amabili wezivakashi”. (According to my knowledge, there are 3 bedrooms. The main one, which is yours & Zweli. Then 2 for the guests)

Her: “Uyaphi ngalendaba? Ngoba abazali baka Zweli bazolala kwelinye igumbi” (where are you going with this? Because Zweli's parents will sleep in one of the rooms) I laugh.

Me: “Ave uyis'dhlahla wena ntombazana. Abazali baka Zweli beza naba ncedi babo okumele balale emagumbini wabo” (you are one stupid girl. Zweli's parents are coming with their servants, who are supposed to sleep in their rooms) laughing.

Her: “Umbhedo ke lowo! Bese mina ke? Kwenzakalani ngami”? (That's rubbish. What about me? What's happening to me)

Me: “Hambo buza I soka lakho sisi, angihlangene lapho mina” (go & ask your man. I am not involved)

Her: “Ungalokothi upotapote indoda yami siyevana? Uwenze isiqiniseko sokuthi ulala kude kunaye” (don't you dare touch my husband, are we clear? Make sure you sleep far away from him) I chuckle.

Me: “Ng'yakuzwa sisi usungang'phumela ke manjer” (I hear you. You can leave now)

She looks at me from head to toe, clicks her tongue and walk away. Ey, this girl. If only she knew that I am not keen in sleeping in the same bed with Zweli. She wouldn't be fuming like this, oh well. Boniwe steps into the room all smiles...

“Are you ready to go? The driver is here” I nod.

We step out of the room, and walk to the black Mercedes, I chuckle. This means that the only time I will be driven around, and actually treated like royalty, will be the time only when

the royal family come? This is crazy. I just want my black card.
We step inside the car, and we drive off.

★»★«

NATASHA

This is so not happening. I didn't sign up for this shit! But then, what was I thinking? I mean, I am the one who allowed Zweli to take a wife from the village. I did that because I love him, and I don't want to lose him. I regret agreeing to it, we should've just got married in court as he once suggested. He has given me 2 options regarding this visit of his parents.

1; “I become a house helper” basically he means, switching roles with that ugly wife of his.

2; “I go away for a few days until his parents leave” I don't even know for how long his parents are going to stay, argh.

I can be a house helper, and monitor mubizana's moves, but that will scream desperation. I'm sure his parents are strict, I guess leaving for a few days will do. Thinking about the fact that Zweli will be sharing a bed with that ugly thing makes me mad. I will have to change the bedding once I come back, her village scent must be untraceable in my bedroom. I hope that Zweli's parents won't be staying for more than a week, I only hope. I get done packing, and text an uber, I need to learn how to drive, this is not on honestly. I pick up my luggage and exit the house. Am going to crash with Londiwe, until the in-laws leave. I can't go home without a valid explanation as to why I'm there. My mom will literally flip, gosh.

★»★«

ZWELI

My parents visiting doesn't sit well with me. They know I like my own private space, why the sudden visit? But then I can never deny them coming here. I will be severely punished. My father will summon me back in the Bundu's very fast. Yazi it is too soon for them to come and visit. Natasha is not happy about this, but then there's nothing we can do. I've given her 2 options, I hope she takes the one of being a helper just to be close to her. I don't want to share my bed with Langa, she will sleep on the floor. At least we I have enough blankets. I look at the time, and it is just after 13:00pm. My parents are set to arrive at 17:00pm, at least I have some time left. My phone rings and its Natasha.

“Babe”

“Love. I just wanted to tell you that I've already left. Londiwe agreed for me to come and crash with her”

Me: "Alright babe. I thought you were going to choose wanting to stay, but I respect your decision. I will make sure that I cut their visit short".

Her: "Why would you want to do such a thing babe"? Chuckling.

Me: "I don't imagine myself spending time with Langelihle. She is going to suffocate me, argh". She laughs.

Her: "You chose her. Deal with it. I love you babe, got to go my ride is here".

Me: "I love you too".

Her: "Don't do something I wouldn't do. I've recently changed the bedding".

Me: “Ewww

I don't want to kill myself. I'm still young, you know” she laughs.

Her: “There are condoms underneath the pillow, they will come in handy”

Me: “I won't be needing them. I'd rather go to a brothel, and buy vitamin P”. She laughs.

Her: “Someone's daughter is going to be sex starved, shame poor wife” laughing. “Later babe”.

After talking to Natasha, I pack up my stuff, and exit my office. I need a bottle or 2, I need to face my parents, as much as they annoy me, but they are still my parents. I text the guys to meet me there. I need to unwind.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

We are finally done with shopping, we are now having lunch at Nando's. My feet are killing me, these heels are not making things any easier for me, I ended up buying slippers. I am not used to heels. I've been wearing flat shoes all my life, even on my wedding day I was wearing namba skhambe. This heel thing is so foreign to me. Boniwe practically bought the whole mall, mostly lingerie for herself. You should've seen my expression when she picked it up, especially what she calls "thongs". Dude, you are naked when wearing that, as for me I did not even bother myself buying them. Why would I wear something so revealing in my bruised body, especially with the belt/whip marks on my butt. It was definitely a No for me, I ended up choosing bikinis, they don't look comfortable but then, who am I to complain? I need to explore a little. Ever since we got here Boniwe has been glued on her phone smiling & blushing. This Mbuso guy is driving her insane, I hope she doesn't lose herself in all of this. The waiter comes, and takes our orders. I

didn't even know that Nando's have waiters, haiké. I order their peri-peri quarter chicken, and Boniwe orders boutjie bowl I don't think she even knows what that is. Wuuhhh, who cares? We are experimenting.

“Can you kindly please put your phone down & focus on me. I am pleading with you”. She chuckles. I don't think she heard what I said, ai I guess 2 can play this game.

I also take out my phone, and log into Facebook. I am surprised to find so many friend requests, I mean I don't even know all of these people. Hmmm, let me accept them. I accept all 103 of them, as I am busy browsing through the feeds I receive a message from a woman named Crecentia. The first thing I do is to go through her profile, damn sis is beautiful guys. Her skin is flawless, and her weave looks expensive. There are pictures of her and her boyfriend, her boyfriend looks familiar. I've seen him somewhere. Oh, yes, he was at the wedding, he was one of the grooms men. I respond to her message...

★»★«

“Hey girl”

“Hello. How are you”?

Her: “Good, thanks and how are you”?

Me: “Good too”.

Her: “I'm Cresentia”.

Me: “I can see your name. Can I help you”?

Her: “No, not really. I was just greeting” now, this is weird.

Me: “Oh, okay”.

Her: "Want to do lunch sometime"?

Me: "But I don't even know you. Why would I want to do lunch with a stranger"?

Her: "Lol, I know that I am a stranger, and you don't know me, but I promise you that I don't bite. I want to be your friend, can you at least try to think about it"? .

Me: "I will get back to you shortly".

I log out. I wonder why that girl would want to befriend someone like me I am way out of her league. What if she is best of friends with Natasha, and Natasha is the one who sent her? I don't want to associate myself with anyone that is close to Natasha, it's enough that I share a man with her already. Boniwe still haven't touched her food, I shake my head, and finish up my food... I stand up grabbing my bag along, Boniwe will find me in the car once she is done flirting with Mbuso. I am tired, all I need is to take a nap before the royals come.

★»★«

BONIWE

Mbuso is such a flirt, and I think I am falling for him. I like the fact that he knows how to keep a conversation going, one never gets bored while chatting with him. He even made me forget that I came with Nobuntu. I put my phone down, and I am shocked not seeing Nobuntu. Her bag is gone too, maybe she went to the ladies room, let me eat while waiting for her to come back. My phone beeps indicating that I received a message, it's from Nobuntu. I view it, and read it.

★Finish flirting there, the husband just called. The in-laws are on their way, and we haven't even started with cooking. I've been waiting for over 30 minutes for you★

Lord, I feel so bad right now for neglecting Nobuntu, I mean, I'm the one who dragged her here. I must apologize to her,

then there's that royal family visit thinking about it pisses me off. Walking to the car is much faster now, I hop in and I find Nobuntu busy with her phone. I clear my throat, I really need to apologize.

“Urh...m, Buntu”. She looks at me. “I am so sorry for ignoring you, please forgive me I just got carried away chatting with Mbuso”.

“You owe me no apology, and you don't have to explain yourself to me. Khaya you can drive”. She responds to me while busy with her phone, Wow.

Khaya roars the engine to life, and he drives us home. The drive is so awkward, Nobuntu is not talking to me she is busy with her phone. Khaya hardly utters 2 words, and my phone battery is low. Disaster. We arrive at Zweli's, we offload the shopping bags in the car, and take them inside the house.

“We are going to cook mince & spaghetti, something quick & easy. I am too tired to stand before the stove, not unless you have something else in mind”.

“I don't. Mince & spaghetti will do, I will also add mashed potatoes, and green salad”.

Her: “We are sorted then. Let's go, and freshen up. I think you should do the same too” she walks away. Let me start cooking then I will go and freshen up.

30 minutes later I am done cooking, the food is ready. Time for me to go and freshen up. The door flies open, and Zweli is the first to get in then followed by the King & Queen, their children, last but not least the seer. This man scares me, I won't lie to you.

“Basebukhosini niwamulekile” Welcome royal family. I bow my head...

“Siyabonga” the King responds with a smile. The Queen's eyes are darting around the house.

“Ukuphi u Langelihle”? (Where is Langelihle) that's the first thing that comes out of her rusty mouth.

Me: “Uzoba nathi manjer. Ninganena phakathi”. (She will be with us shortly, you can come one in) I lead the to the lounge.

It's going to be a long night...

16

ZWELI

We are having dinner in the lounge, my parents must know that I don't have a dining area. The TV is switched off, silent befalls us. The seer is sitting on the floor right besides Nobuntu's feet. He has been giving Nobuntu stares ever since he got here, making her uncomfortable. The very same stares he once gave Nkanyiso. I wonder what is he doing here, he better not start trouble.

“The food was lovely. Thank you Boniwe” my father complements the food.

“It's only a pleasure your Majesty” my mother claps hands and laughs. I am shocked too, so Boniwe knows how to speak English. All along she has been making me a fool? I wouldn't

be surprised if Nobuntu knows English too, but she is too rural to know it.

Her: “Only a month in Jo'burg, and all of a sudden you can speak English? I guess is true when they say Jo'burg changes

people, I got to witness that first-hand tonight. Thank you for the great food by the way”.

Boniwe: “Thank you my Queen. Dessert?”

Buhle: “Not for me, thank you. I am watching my figure”.

Nhlaka: “You know I can never say no to sweet treats, I have a sweet tooth after all” Boniwe laughs.

Her: “No wonder you so skinny” they both laugh.

Mom: "The dessert won't bring itself from the kitchen to here now, or can it"?

Her: "Apologies my lady let me get right on it" she bows her head and walks away.

Dad: "Was that necessary Khethiwe"?

Her: "Please Don't start with me Nqobani".

Dad: "Is everything okay princess"? He asks Nobuntu whose mind is far away. I nudge her.

Me: "My father was asking if you're okay". She gives me a blank look, oh shit. I clear my throat. "Ubaba ubuza ukuthy u kahle na"?

Her: "Oh, yebo baba ukukhathala nje kuphela" (yes, just tired)

Dad: “Zweli, why is Langelihle still talking vernacular? Didn't I tell you to take her to school”? I look down. “I am asking you a question Zweli, answer me dammit”! He roars.

Mom: “Why must she go to school? It's not like she will do anything with her life once she's done with school. I mean, she will get everything she wants. She is going to be a housewife just like me”.

Buhle: “A educated housewife mom that's what you are, and you know that everyone in the family is educated. How is she going to lead the masses when she doesn't know English? How is she going to lead her nation in future”?

Her: “She will do just fine. What she needs to do now is to focus on giving us an heir, she has to prove that she is woman enough to bear us a son”. The seer Sneer's upon hearing what my mother is saying, and the room becomes cold instantly.

We all look at him, and his eyes are too dark than how they normally are, this is weird. He looks at me, it's like his searching for something in my eyes. He shakes his head.

Dad: "Is everything okay seer"? He nods.

Buhle: "I don't think he approves what mother is requesting in terms of Langa giving us an heir. Langa is still young, she has a life to live until her time comes to rule her nation. I for one, don't want an uneducated sister-in-law. I need someone to talk too, Zweli please consider enrolling her in college even if its night school".

Dad: "I agree with Buhle. Zweli you will have to register Langelihle at school, I've given you an order and you failed to do it. Take Langa to school or I cut off your allowance end of discussion".

Mom: "Mxm. Where is Boniwe with that dessert? I am about to lose my appetite".

Me: "Let me go and check up on her"

"No need for that I am here now".

Mom: "What took you so long miss English"?

Her: "I was busy perfecting the dessert, making it the way you like it".

Her: "Hehehe, wonders shall never end" she laughs and claps her hands. "I am watching a movie straight".

Nobuntu is in a foul mood, I wonder what changed because she was fine all along.

Mom: "Awushoke Langelihle, what is your long life plan"?
Nobuntu just looks at her blankly.

Her: “Uthini Khethiwe”? (What are you saying) We all avert our attention to her. Did she just call my mother by her name? I mean, I've never called my mother by her name all my life!

Mom: “Ungibiza ngegama? Ubiza mina iNdlovukazi nge gama? Uyeyisa wena makoti ndini”! (You calling me by my name? You call me a Queen by name? You are very disrespectful) Nobuntu tilts her head looking at her.

Her: “Akusi igama lakho lelo Ndlovukazi? Ngokukhulu ukuzi thoba bengisacela ungibuza lombuzo bowung'buze wona futhi nge Sizulu”. (Isn't that your name my Queen? With all due respect, can you kindly please ask me the question again in Isizulu)

Mom: “Yerrre ungidinile Yeva! Yekela futhi, Rha”!

Her: “Manje uthukutheliswa yini Ndlovukazi? Bengisho nje ukuthi ngicela ungibuze lombuzo ngesizulu. Phela angifundile

mina” (why are you angry now? I was just telling you to ask me the question you asked me in Isizulu. I am not educated)

Me: “Langelihle Sekwanele manjer. Angeke ngikuvumele ukhulume no Ma kanjalo, akusi iphutha lakhe ukuthi awufundile”. (It's enough now. I will not allow you to talk to my mother like that, it's not her fault that you are not educated) she laughs.

Mom: “Awuna mfazi la, unedodi izihlelele, sies. Akahloniphi nokihlonipha, yerr”! (You don't have a wife here, its rubbish only. She doesn't even have respect) Nobuntu chuckles.

Her: “Ngokukhulu ukuzithoba Ndlovukazi. Inhlinipho nginayo inkinga kukuthi ak'si wonke umuntu afanele ayithole. Kuthiwa hlonipha omncane ukuze naye akuhloniphe, kodwa wena awukwenzi neze loko” she sighs. (With all due respect my

Queen. I do have respect, but the problem is that not everyone is meant to get it. There's a saying that says; respect a young

person in order for them to respect you, but you are not doing that) she looks at all of us, and shakes her head.

Her: “Ngiyaxolisa baba makung'kuthi kubukeka sengathi ngiyeyisa, angizenzi ngiphocwa isimo. Bengasacela Uxolo phambi kokuthi ngikhulume amazwi angahlalikhahle emuntwini”. (I'm sorry dad if this is deemed as disrespect, situation is forcing me too. Can I please be excused before I say something I might regret) I am stunned! This farm girl is disrespectful, yerrrr, maybe I made a mistake by choosing her.

Dad: “Ungakhululeka ndodakazi kucacile vele ukuthi awusimnandi emoyeni” (you can go my daughter it is evident that you are not emotionally well) Nobuntu smiles.

Her: “Ngiyabonga baba. Senizolala kahle”. She stands up, and walks away. I look at my mother, she is angry.

Mom: “What did that girl feed you Nqobani? Didn't you hear how she disrespected me, and you kept quiet”?

Dad: "I will not do this with you Khethiwe". Mom scoffs and looks at dad, hhe...

Boniwe: "Let me go and check up on her".

Mom: "No. I will go". She is already on her feet.

Buhle: "You want to anger her more"?

Her: "I'm going to fix this, its all my fault".

Dad: "I am so proud of you for being the bigger person". Mom smiles, and walks away. This is not good, something is going on between those two.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

Soon as I get into Zweli's room I lock the door, and sit on top of the bed taking a deep breath. The Queen is working on my last nerve, I know that she doesn't like me, but for her to act like a harlot was not on. It was disgusting, gosh. She needs to understand that she's in my territory now, I will not allow her to talk to me anyhow she feels like. A knock comes through at the door, I wonder who it is. I stand up, and attend to it. The Queen pushes me inside as soon as I yank it open.

“Yini lento bewuyenza wena? Why ungihlambalaza? Ngiyabona ukuthi liyakuhlakaniphisa igoli, sewukwazi nokuphendula. Humble makoti my foot! Ngiyabona nokuthi sowukhululekile empilweni yomfana wami. Lalela ngikutshele la ntombazana ndini, lenjabo yakho le eyesikhashana. Izokuphelela maduze njer”. (What is that you were doing? Why are you embarrassing me? I can see that Jo'burg is making you clever, you can even answer back now. I can see that you've wormed yourself in my son's life. Listen here girl, this happiness of yours is short-lived. It will end soon) I laugh.

Me: “Haike Ndlovukazi ikami phela la. Ngizoyenza noma yini engiyifunayo. Ngikhulume ngendlela engifuna ngayo, njengoba

wenza kakho. La, kukhala esami isichathulo. Nakung'kuthi ucedile ukukhuluma bona oze ngayo”. (This is my house. I can do anything I want. Talk how I want, just like you do in your house. Here, we live by my rules. If you are done saying what you wanted to say, you can see yourself out) she laughs and claps her hands.

Her: “I've never been this disrespected by a young girl before! Ey, uyadelela ntombazana ndini! Ngiyacala nqa ukudelelwa ngalendlela, wehhh baba ke”! (You are so disrespectful! This is my first time a young girl disrespects me like this)

Me: “Yonke into inesisacalo sayo Ndlovukazi, sacela ungiphumele ngidinga ukuphumula”. (There's always a first time for everything. Please leave my room I want to rest)

I feel my cheek burning

Advertisement

damn this woman slapped me.

Her: "I will not tolerate you disrespecting me like I am your mate you trash"! She slaps me again, her slaps are painful yoh. Tears threaten my eyes.

Me: "Phuma la! Ngithe phuma la"! I yell at her. She spits on my dress, and slaps me again. Tears are already running down my cheeks.

Her: "You piece of trash. Ugly bastard"!

Me: "Ngithe phuma mthakathi ndini"! I push her outside the room, as soon as she is out. I close the door and lean against it. Tears freely stream down my cheeks, when will I ever find peace?

"Okay, Okay Buntu. You are stronger than this baby girl. Stop crying, and wipe your tears. Chin up, and wear your crown, don't let that sour grape get to you. Kill her with a smile" I keep on

mouthing these words trying to ignore the pain that I am feeling deep inside me. I walk to the bathroom, his bedroom is connected with his bathroom. I wash my face, and look at myself in the mirror. All I see is a broken girl with visible and

unseen scars. A girl who never experienced what happiness feels like, a girl that life is rejecting. That girl is me. I wipe away my tears, and wash my face again. I wear my pyjamas and get into bed, this is a bad idea, I wonder how will Zweli feel sleeping next to me. My heart is so heavy, sigh. I wanted to sleep on the floor, but there are no free blankets I will ask to borrow me one as soon as he gets here.

★»★«

I guess I drifted off to sleep because Zweli is waking me up with light slaps. I slowly open my eyes then sit on my butt, and rub my eyes.

“Ufunani la phezu kombhede wami wena hlazo lentombazana”? (What are you doing in my bed you disgrace of a girl)

Me: “Ngiyalala” (I'm sleeping)

Him: “Embhedeni wami? Yehla njengamanjer angikufuni duze nami”! (In my bed? Get off my bed right now, I don't want to sleep next to you)

Me: “Ngiyolalaphi ke”? (Where am I going to sleep)

Him: “Phansi, ujwayele angisho”? (On the floor, you're used to it right)

Me: “Ngeke ngikwazi”. (I can't) chuckling.

Him: “Ngizokusiza ke mina”. (I will help you then) he comes to my side, and remove the blankets off me, he takes my leg, and yank it making me to fall butt flat on the floor. “Thatha

ingubo eyi one, and sort yourself out”. I take the duvet, and lie on the carpet, it is so thick. I think I like it.

Me: “Eles'lima alaziwa. Liyeza elakho ilanga” (your day is coming)

Him: “Mxm”.

This is harder than I thought, how can I seek help from God, when he is busy ignoring my cries? Argh, I've even stopped praying, it's all useless. This is my life, I will just have to accept it. I cover myself with the duvet muffling my sniffs, he might snap at me for that.

★»★«

BONIWE

Things became awkward at the table after Buntu left. I don't know what her story is with the Queen, but I sense some bad blood between them. She did tell me that the Queen threatened her once, but I did not know that it was that deep for her to even talk to her like that. No one and I mean no one ever spoke to a Queen like that, she feels very disrespected. She deserves it though, rha. Finally, she stood up for herself. The King is not happy about what transpired, he will be strong.

“Your room it's so beautiful Boniwe”.

“Thank you Buhle”.

Yah, I am sharing this room with Buhle until they leave.

Her: “Yazi I don't like how my mom addressed Langa earlier on. I mean the poor girl did nothing. It's a good thing that Langa stood up for herself, she had to put that old hag in line” I laugh.

Me: “Haibo. She is your mother Buhle”.

Her: “I know that. I just don't like how she treated Langelihle, what she did was wrong. Now she wants the poor girl to pop babies for my brother instead of bettering her life or going to school, she is sick in that head of hers” sighs. “Tell me here, what will happen to Langelihle once Zweli takes a second wife, of which happens to be of royalty? All royalty descendants are educated. Do you think they will take Langelihle serious? No. She will always be seen as the ‘illiterate wife’. They will make fun of her”.

She is telling the truth yazi, but Nobuntu is educated. I saw her grade 12 certificate, she did well. Pretty well, she is not dumb.

Her: “Anyway how does she feel being married off at a young age? This royalty thing is bullshit”.

Me: “How do you think she feels? I mean, she was not asked if she was okay with marrying the Prince. She was sidelined from the wedding preparations, they actually made decisions on her behalf. She was not involved in any of this, no one cared about

her feelings in all of this, but why would they care? She is an illiterate girl from the village. I guess that answers your question” she sighs.

Her: “H for Hektik. I doubt she is even happy in this marriage, she needs to continue doing her bead work, and go to town to sell them. I have no doubt that people will support her, her hand work is beautiful”.

Me: “All she needs is to further her studies, that's all she desires”.

Her: “Further her studies? Did she attend school before”?

Me: “Yes. She even completed her grade 12 she has a certificate. I am telling you this because I can see that you have her best interests at heart”.

Her: “Are you trying to tell me that she is not illiterate, that she actually completed school? If that's the case then why is she pretending as if she never went to school”?

Me: "She is giving them what they want. The impression they want, she is just waiting for the right time to burst their bubble".

Her: "You know what, we are going to register her for distance/online learning. Do you know what she wants to study"?

Me: "I don't know".

Her: "What was her subject stream in high school"?

Me: "Sciences" she smiles.

Her: "Perfect. I will register her tomorrow, but we must go to town, and buy her a laptop. We are bringing the school to her. Don't you want to register too"?

Me: "I am considering it since I resigned from work".

Her: "You did what? Why"?

Me: "My manager didn't understand that I have other responsibilities, so I resigned" shrugs.

Her: "You still want to work"?

Me: "Yes".

Her: "Good. Before we leave, I would've sorted a few things here. I also have to look into my project of building a school in the village, it's time we give back to the community. The Queen is not happy about it, but dad gave me a go ahead. I am so excited about it yazi, finally something that will benefit the villagers in terms of work, yabona". Argh, I am so impressed ngo Buhle. She is nothing like her mother.

Me: “That will be a very good thing for the community, it's a start of something great”.

Her: “I am so excited. I am ready to make a change in our community, Nhlakanipho will also help where he can, plus he is having talks with the municipality to install electricity and water in the village”. She smiles.

I pray that everything goes well with their projects, the sour grape is very evil. She needs a cleansing ceremony. She needs to be cleansed with cows, chicken, goat, rhinos Enhlek everything. Ishuuu... She is evil.

17

NOBUNTU

I am the first one up as usual. I couldn't sleep a wink last night, I've been turning and tossing the whole night. What Zweli did last night was very cruel of him. He is treating me like I am not his wife, he doesn't love me yes, but that doesn't give him the right to treat me like trash. He has no right at all. The sour

grape is much more worse. This life thing is like game of throne's, I don't know how but it definitely is one. I am standing in the kitchen with a cup of coffee in my hand, lost in my own thoughts when all of a sudden I feel a heavy presence. That can only be the seer, his presence is always felt. What is he doing here? I thought I was the only one awake, guess there's only one way to find out.

“Nobuntu” he calls my name. I turn around, and look at him. “All will be well. Everything will come to pass you just have to be strong, and soldier on. The thorns are going to prickle your feet, but you must go on, never stop moving. He will find you, he is close yet far”. I look at him for some time.

Me: “Tell me here; why is everything bad happening to me? Why don't I know the feeling of being happy and care free? Was I born to suffer, and cry for as long as I live? Will God ever allow me to test how happiness feels like, will he? What did I do to go through this”? I can feel tears threatening to make their presence felt.

Him: “It's all because of your ancestors. They punishing you for your mother's sins” I look at him wanting him to tell me more.

“In order for you to be happy she must come back, and make things right. She, too, is suffering wherever she is, but she is too stubborn. She doesn't want to listen to the ancestors, and do right, until then you will not be happy”.

Me: “My mother is alive? Where is she? What must she make right? Why are the ancestors punishing me and not her? I mean, I did not wrong anyone”!

Him: “Your mother is alive, but I don't know where she is. The ancestors haven't shown me her whereabouts as yet. They are punishing the both of you, but mostly you. You have a pure heart Nobuntu while your mother is the opposite of you. She is one evil woman, she takes after your grandmother”.

Me: “Can you please tell me all that you know about my life? Do you know who my father is”?

Him: “All in good time Nobuntu. Perseverance is the key, kuzolunga sisi hold on” this man is just unbelievable, RHA! Why

can't he just give me a straight answer? "It will never work out between the 2 of you. You will forever be cat and mouse, it is not binded by the ancestors. They don't recognize it, look deep within you and you will find it. You have the key, dig deep. The wounded one will be healed by your heart. Your tears will soon be tears of joy. Look closely, and be careful of the snake it is just waiting to strike". I look at him in awe. This man is just not making sense right now.

Me: "So, I am stuck in this lifeless marriage until my so called-mother makes things, right? Vele vele, I will not know happiness? I don't even love Zweli. I'm in love with someone else, this marriage is restricting me from being with him"! Huffs.

Him: "I know that. One day everything will be clear, that day will be when your mother comes, and makes things right. Oh,

and the feeling is mutual. You will give him what he always wanted, but never had. He is not an easy person, you the only one who can tame his anger. Perseverance. The Queen's day is coming, I know what she did. The ancestors are aware of

everything” He hit his stick on the floor twice, and walks outside.

I am shocked! What just happened? Enhlek what was he talking about? This man and speaking in riddles. Who is the snake now? It must be the Queen, she is the only one who spits poison. Okay, I found out that my mother is alive. That's actually a good start, but shit is so damn stressing. I have lots of questions, my mind is in a marathon. I need answers, seems like there's a lot to be unravelled. That woman called my mother better come back to her senses, and make things right. It frustrates me that she is the one who is blocking my happiness, she is evil. I am suffering because of her, she is selfish. And again, who is the wounded one? What must I dig deep, argh! I throw the cup in the sink.

“Hhey what did the cup do to you”? Boniwe asks me laughing.

“It did nothing. I am just not in a good mood honestly”. She laughs.

Her: "It's 07:00 in the morning, and you already not in a good mood? Is it that manyala of a husband"?

Me: "And a lot more. Why are you up early anyway"?

Her: "Breakfast".

Me: "No. They must go, and eat out. I can't stand sour grape" she chuckles.

Her: "You are funny. Unfortunately the royals don't eat out, not unless it's their anniversary. So, you are stuck with them". I sigh.

Me: "When are they leaving"? She shrugs. "Not any time soon I guess. You better start with that breakfast".

Her: "Right on it".

Me: “Sis, I saw a bottle of wine. Have you tasted alcohol before”?

Her: “Nope”.

Me: “How about we taste the wine? We will replace it”.

Her: “If we won't get caught, why not? Bring it on”.

Me: “Open that cabinet next to you, I will bring glasses”

Her: “Why is it so dark”?

Me: “Let's just drink, you can ask questions later”. She chuckles, and pours the wine for the both of us. I take a sip, and wow it tastes bitter!

Her: “Yerrr, what is this nonsense? It is so bitter” I laugh.

Me: "Robertson's dry red"

Her: "It is not nice, ewuuu"!

Me: "You are damn right. Let's put it back where it was".

Her: "Lets just pour it down the sink".

Me: "It ain't ours. It's biltong's" laughing.

Her: "No wonder she is skinny".

Me: "Let me help you with making breakfast before everyone wakes up".

Her: "Thank you".

The family soon join us, but it looks like they are going out.

Good.

Boniwe: “Good morning everyone, breakfast will be served soon”.

King: “Oh no. We are going to eat out, Zweli is taking us out for breakfast. I thought he told you”.

Her: “It must've slipped his mind”.

Queen: “Can we go now”? I am feeling suffocated” she looks at me.

Buhle: “But we are waiting for Zweli ma”

Her: “We have drivers. Zweli will follow us”.

Nhlaka: “You don't even know where we are going. Let's just wait for Zweli, what's the rush”?

Her: “Where the hell is he anyway? Even as a married man he is still not punctual with time”?

King: “What's your problem so early in the morning Khethiwe? Why all this drama”? She scoffs.

Her: “You know how I hate being late”!

Buhle: “Boniwe & Langa, are you not joining us”?
Boniwe shakes her head. “Wena Langa”?

Me: “Ngikhishwa yisisu, ngeke ngikhone ukuhamba”. (I have a stomach bug I can't come along)

Her: “Ube right yezwa”! I nod smiling. Buhle seems like a humble person, she is friendly though I don't know her that well. Nhlaka hardly smiles, he is so cold

Advertisement

but he has a good heart. The Queen rolls her eyes.

King: “Uphole makoti, sizokubuyela nekhambi edolobheni” (get well, we will come back with medication for you from town)

Me: “Ngiyabonga baba” bowing my head.

Queen: “Zweli!” she is making noise, grrr...

“I am here mom no need to shout. Ready to go”?

Her: “Nxa! Let's go, another minute here I will surely die”!
She looks at me from head to toe then walks away. I chuckle.

Me: "Enjoy". They all look at me "I heard it on TV" shrugging.
Buhle laughs, and shakes her head.

Her: "We sure will" they all walk out.

Boniwe: "Phew some fresh air finally" I chuckle.

"Don't prepare lunch, we will be out the whole day" Zweli tells us appearing behind us.

Boniwe: "Okay". He nods, and walks away.

Me: "They will be gone for whole day, right"? She nods. "Why don't we go out too, I mean my driver is available right"?

Her: "Where do you want to go? I thought you have a running tummy". I roll my eyes.

Me: "You will see. Let's get prepared, but let's eat breakfast first".

Her: "What's your plan"?

Me: "We are going to gamble" she widened her eyes.
"Kidding maarn, you will see".

Her: "Whatever happens we must not get caught".

Me: "I swear". Chuckling.

★»★«

ZWELI

I am dedicating this day to my family, I am trying my outmost best to avoid Langelihle. I can't stand her, I tried but I failed. Sharing a room with her was the last straw, I chose her yes, but I regret it now. She is very disrespectful, she pretended to be this shy girl kanty she is a snake. The way she talked to my mother yesterday and calling her by her name was purely disrespect. Who does she think she is calling my mother by her name? I don't remember me calling her by her name, not even

Buhle & Nhlakanipho. A commoner like her did, such disrespect what annoys me more was the fact that my father did not reprimand her. She was out of line.

“Where are we going exactly”?

“We are going to Z&B restaurant for breakfast dad then we will go to Carnival city”.

Nhlaka: "I still say that we should've just eaten breakfast at home then go to that carnival city. You just like wasting money".

Me: "I am not wasting money Nhlaka, I am spoiling you".

Mom: "So wena Nhalaka, you rather want us dying from that breakfast"?

Buhle: "What could possibly kill you? You're just being dramatic as usual"!

Her: "Is that a way to talk to me like that? Did Langa rub her rudeness on you"?

Dad: "That's enough! I am tired of this dog & cat game of yours. You guys are behaving like school kids"!

Buhle: "Even school kids are better. Blame your wife, she is the one with an attitude".

Him: "I don't care who did what. Let us all be civil towards each other for Christ's sake, last night dinner was too awkward let's not repeat what happened last night".

Me: "We won't, dad".

Mom: "It was awkward because Langelihle was present".

Nhlaka: "Why are you bringing up her name? You started her. What did that girl ever do to you to hate her this much"?

Her: "I don't hate her".

Buhle: "You do, and I am so disappointed in you Zweli. You couldn't even defend your wife last night, is that how dad raised you"?

Mom: "Don't you dare involve my husband in all this. Zweli was taught not to defend women who are disrespectful"! Buhle chuckles.

Dad: "Why don't we just turn back and go home because I can't stand this bickering! Khethiwe you are behaving like a teenager, and Buhle stop back chatting your mother".

Her: "I'm sorry dad. After today, I am going back home I have had enough drama to last me a lifetime"!

Nhlaka: "I am with you there sis. Spending another day here will bring me stress of which I don't want. I am exhausted

because of this bickering, it's not even 2 days her but there's drama already. This is not healthy".

Me: "You guys can't leave. I thought you were going to spend the whole week here".

Buhle: "That was the plan, but I don't want to be in the presence of toxic people" she rolls her eyes. "How far are we from this Z&B restaurant of yours"?

Me: "3 minutes".

This place is fully packed, and it's still 08:00 but the place is already full. The driver parks the car, and we all step out of the car and walk towards the door. There are waiters standing by the door, one of them greets us. Doesn't she know that you have to bow when greeting the royalties? Dad and the others agree, I just look at her and click my tongue. She walks us to our table, we get settled.

"My name is Snikelelo, and I am your waitress for the morning. Would you like to order anything while you go through the menu"? She looks pretty young to be a waitress, not young as

in young, but you can see that she is the same age as Langa & Buhle.

Dad: "The best coffee you have in the house, 3 sugars and no powder milk". She writes that down.

Mom: "Same as my husband, but 2 sugars".

Buhle: "I will have a milkshake"

Nipho: "Cappuccino" now is my turn.

Me: "Do you know who we are"?

Her: "I am very much aware of who you are. Why are you asking"?

Me: "Your behaviour doesn't say so though".

Her: "Are you going to order or? I really don't want to keep the King and the Queen waiting your Majesty" she smiles.

Me: "I demand to see your boss right now"! Yelling.
Everyone looks at our table.

Dad: "What are you doing Zweli? Why are you embarrassing us like this"?

Mom: "He ain't doing anything, he is just exercising his customers rights. Call your manager right now girly" She chuckles.

Her: "And you madam better come clean about what you did before your skeletons crawls out of the closet. Sir, I will get you the manager. The rest of you your orders are coming" she bows her head, and walks away. She is very rude.

Dad: "What is it that you must come clean with Khethiwe"?

Her: "I don't know what she is talking about she is crazy, I mean she doesn't even know me". That was weird...

"Good morning my name is Zubenathi, the owner of Z&B restaurant. How can I be of assistance"? I look at her, and she looks very familiar. All I can tell you is that she is the most beautiful woman I have ever seen, Natasha doesn't come close to her. Her presence is felt. She oozes lots of confidence, I feel intimidated with her presence. Arh, she is the girl who had a sex tape, I remember now.

Me: "I have a complaint about one of your waitress".

Her: "What's the complaint about"?

Me: "She disrespected us".

Her: "Elaborate further, I have a meeting to attend to".

Me: "Do you even know who we are? Is that meeting important than us"?

Her: "I don't know who you are and I don't care, and yes the meeting is more important than you. Now, be a good boy and state your complaint so that we get this over, and done with".

Dad: "It's nothing really ma'am. Apologies for wasting your time".

Her: "Apology accepted your Highness" I look at her.

Me: "So, you know who we are? Why did you act like you don't know us"?

Her: "Boy, you have some growing up to do. Your mind is full of wire cars, when you are man enough you can come back and lay your complaint. Also drop that attitude, it will be your

biggest downfall. Breakfast is on the house, your Majesty I would like to take my leave now”.

Dad: “Thank you for the wonderful gesture Zubenathi, you may leave”. She nods, and walks away. Her heels clicking across the entire floor, she walks with pride.

Nhlaka: “Dad, are you sure that Zweli will be able to lead his nation with this attitude of his? He loves embarrassing us, all that was unnecessary”.

Dad: “I am so disappointed in him honestly, I did not raise him like this”.

Buhle: “Mom did say that the city changes people, look, it has even changed her favourite son. It's a good thing that someone finally told you to grow up”.

Mom: “You are ganging up on my son now? He did nothing wrong, that girl was plain rude”.

Buhle: “You better start telling us about your skeletons ma, than to defend your precious son here”

This is a disaster, I thought that we came here to have a peaceful breakfast with the family, but here we are fighting.

I can't help it but wonder, what are my mother's skeletons or that girl was just crazy.

18

BONIWE

I am surprised when the car pulls up in my workplace. I look at Nobuntu.

“What are we doing here”? She giggles.

“We are here to get your job back”.

Me: “I don't really want the job, and besides I'm the one who resigned I was not fired” she tilts her head.

Her: “Was it in writing”?

Me: “No, telephonically, I called her on her phone”.

Her: "Then that was no resignation. I've researched about the process of resignation. You can resign via E-mail or hand deliver

your letter, I'm sure your bosses don't even know that you've resigned".

Me: "They will believe her since I called her"

Her: "But there's no proof that you actually told her that you've resigned, not unless she was recording your call of which I don't think she even did". I smile.

Me: "You might be on to something. Since when did you become this clever"?

Her: "Technology sis. Let's go and get you your job back".

Laughing.

Me: “If I do get my job back, when will I start, I mean with the Queen in that house it won't be easy going out”.

Her: “This thing is simple, you will tell them that you are going to school they will believe you since the King told Zweli to take you to school, and that manyala won't even dispute that”. She bats her lashes, I laugh.

Me: “Beauty with brains” she rolls her eyes. “Let's get this done, and over with then go home before sour grape comes back” laughing. We step out of the car, we are with 2 guards and Khaya the driver.

The security here did not give us any hassles, but why would they when I'm with a future Quenn royal guards with their blue uniform? Plus they saw the royal cars sticker. I am so nervous about this, I don't know what the outcome will be, but I'm hoping for the best. We find Sihle at the reception, and greet her. Sihle has attitude for days, she looks like a clown with her make-up, she is drinking her morning coffee with a lot of sugar.

“Good morning Sihle” she rolls her eyes at me, told you that she has attitude. “I said good morning Sihle” she huffs.

“What do you want Boniwe? And why are you not in your cleaning uniform”?

Me: “Is Mazana around”?

Her: “She is in her office, and who are these people that you are with”? She scans all three of them, I can see her being shocked. “Oh my, Oh my God. I am so sorry your Majesty, I didn't realize that it was you” she steadies herself.

Nobuntu: “I've noticed, but if you keep up with this attitude you will not go far. You will be stuck as a receptionist all your life, if you may excuse us”.

Her: “Apologies your Majesty. You may proceed, and I promise to be more friendly” she says smiling. Mxm, snake. Nobuntu

nods at her, and we walk straight to Mazana's office, greeting fellow workers here & there. I knock, and she yells for us to come in. I slowly open the door, and we walk in, by the look of things she was ready for us. It's obvious that Sihle called her.

“Good morning Boniwe. Princess. Welcome to W.M.S company, how can I be of assistance”? She looks nervous, and her voice is breaking.

“You discuss matters with your clients while standing”?
Nobuntu asks her so much to her annoyance.

Her: “I am so sorry, it's just that we've never had a royal member coming here before. Please sit down. Anything to drink”?

Nobuntu: “Nothing for me thank you. I am here because of Boniwe's job”.

Her: “Oh, no, she can take all the time she needs. Her job will still be available, after all before this job comes you. Her job is

very much secured there's nothing to worry about" she is smiling, and she just secured my job. I guess Nobuntu's presence threatened her, I mean she did not even do much.

Her: "Oh, okay. That was unexpected, can we get this in writing as an agreement, we don't want any misunderstanding when she comes back to work".

Her: "With absolute pleasure" she fiddles with her table drawer, and she comes out with stack of papers. She takes one and writes something then pushes it towards Nobuntu. Nobuntu takes it, and browse it.

Her: "Can I please have a pen to seal this, it looks genuine. Should you not keep the end of your deal we will sue this company millions, have I made myself clear"? She nods and hands Nobuntu a pen. Nobuntu signs the papers then stands up. "It was nice doing business with you, have a good day".

Her: "Likewise, and have a good day too. Boniwe see you when you come back", all I can tell you is that she is pissed, but scared to act on it. I am just happy that my job is secured.

We bid her goodbye, and exit her office. Haike their lunch will be me today, pshhh. As we are walking I see Mbuso approaching, he is with Maletsatsi his assistant. I guess he doesn't see me because he walks straight into his office, well, that's okay.

Nobuntu: “Well, that was easier than I thought. I thought you said that she is very rude, and have attitude for days”. I chuckle.

Me: “She does. It's just that your presence made her reserved, she was intimidated by you”. She laughs.

Her: “Who gets intimidated by me though”?

Me: “Clearly Sihle & Mazana. It was my first time seeing them uncomfortable in someone's presence, phela they are used to speaking their mind”. She nods.

Her: “Where to now”?

Me: "Let's go to mall of Africa ". She laughs.

Her: "You're going to buy shoes again"? I laugh.

Me: "No. I am going to buy something good, then we will pass by adult shop and get something".

Her: "Sies maarn Boniwe. You will go alone at adult shop, I need to research courses". I laugh. Nobuntu is so innocent yazi, Zweli doesn't deserve her. I will set her up on a blind date, Hehehe it's going to fun, I text Makhosazana to meet up with us.

★»★»

NKANYISO

I decided to pop by my father's company to see Mbuso. Mbuso is one person who never visits, let alone call just to check up on how you holding up. He is one selfish bastard, but he I still fuck with him he is my brother after all. This company is known for office morning gossip, but today there's too much gossiping going on, it's like something vast happened. I knock into my brother's office, he takes time to answer I wonder what is he

busy with. He opens after 5 minutes fixing himself, his assistant walks out quickly fixing her wig without even greeting me. To think that I also tapped that, agh. I chuckle while shaking my head

Advertisement

I go straight and open the window. Strawberry smell fills the entire office...

“Really Mbuso? You never learn do you”? He sits down.

“Ufunani la”? (What are you doing here)

Me: “I am here to see my brother it's been a long time”.

Him: “And there's a reason for that. What can I do for you”?

Me: “As I said before, I am here to see you”.

Him: “I am good as you can see. You can take your leave now”.
I chuckle.

Me: “I am not going anywhere, I am chilling with you today. You can't avoid us forever Mbuso we are family”.

Him: “Bullshit! We are only family when you guys want something from me, blood suckers”!

Me: "Have I ever asked you for anything"? He spins his chair around, and gives me his back. I can hear him sighing in defeat.

Him: "No, you've never asked me for anything, but your family are blood suckers".

Me: "I am not here to talk about the family, I'm here to catch up with you. I want to know what's new in your life, and what is today office gossips because I know that something big happened. Who came by? The president maybe"? He chuckles spinning his chair around.

Him: "What would the president be doing here? He has far more things to do than come here wasting his time".

Me: "Tell me more".

Him: "Tea or coffee"?

Me: "Tea with your blueberry muffins". He nods, making a phone call.

"Good morning Lerato, can you please bring us blueberry muffins with 1 cappuccino and tea" he hangs up.

Me: "Office gossip". He laughs.

Him: "A royal wife stopped by for a visit".

Me: "Whose royal wife, and who was she visiting"?

Him: "I don't know, but she was with Boniwe one of my workers, and Royal guards. They were visiting Mazana" the only

royal bride I know who is close with Boniwe is Nobuntu. What were they doing here? So, I missed them just by few minutes? Damn.

Me: "What were they doing here"?

Him: "I think it had something to do with Boniwe's job. I mean, I did not even know that she is a royal servant. I am shocked to say the least".

Me: "Wow. I guess this should be one of the office's best highlight" Laughing. "So, did you see the future Queen"?

Him: "From a distance yes, and she looked really beautiful. A melanin Queen" a smile escapes my lips. "Whoa, and that smile? Do you perhaps know her"? I chuckle.

Me: "Yeah, he is Zweli's wife".

Him: "What? As in Zweli your best friend"? I nod. "Don't tell me that you like the girl Nkanyiso, and Zweli doesn't deserve her"!

Me: "I did not say anything Mbuso".

Him: "Your eyes are saying another thing. I don't blame you though, she is one of a kind. It's amazing that there is someone out there who managed to penetrate your hard heart, someone who actually melted it".

Me: "I don't know what you are talking about. Where is Lerato with those muffins? I am starving". He laughs.

Him: "You're reverting from the topic at hand, I see through you Nkanyiso. Don't worry, we will get you your woman young one before you impregnate your fuck buddies. Even if it means going to a traditional healer we will". I laugh.

Me: "That's extreme. I don't want something that will backfire in the future, erhh".

Him: "Such a coward! Wiser man will snatch her away from you, and you will not do anything about it".

Me: "I will cross that bridge once we get there". He nods. Truly speaking I will go on a killing spree for Nobuntu, too bad I can't kill Zweli. That seer will see right through me plus he is creepy.

Him: "The bridge will fall apart before you even reach it, don't be slow. Get that girl, and knock her down. That way she will be binded to you forever".

Me: "You are stupid wena! Even your workers don't take you serious, we've been waiting for muffins since forever".

Him: "Maybe she saw you coming in, now she is scared to bring that coffee. You've hurt her Mfana, you should've told her on

the word go that it's just fucking not catching feelings contest. This girl had plans for the both of you". I scoff.

Me: "You think I don't tell them that? I do, and they end up catching feelings. I don't think they understand the word 'fun". He laughs.

Him: "Do you blame them? I hate admit it, but you are one handsome bastard. These girls see a boyfriend material in you if not husband, shame poor souls. I wonder why haven't they used Mutu on you".

Me: "That's because I am not weak like the rest of you, that's why I'm a handsome bastard. Lerato better move on, I am so over her". We both laugh. Mbuso can be stupid, futhi ke Him & I are no different, he too uses girls and toss them aside. We are cut from the same cloth.

Him: "And this royal bride"?

Me: “Ey, that one is off limits bafo. That is one woman I will wife her without thinking twice. She brings out my smile effortlessly”. He chuckles.

Him: “Damn Nyiso. You are really whipped, I mean you now know how to smile. Phela you were forever cold”.

Me: “Mxm. Fuck you. Call Lerato and tell her to bring our blueberries”. He laughs.

Him: “Let me try calling her again”.

Me: “If she is not here in 5 minutes she must consider herself fired”. He chuckles and call her.

Him: “We are still waiting for our tea Lerato”.

Him: "Don't give excuses. If you are not here within 5 minutes consider yourself fired"! He hangs then looks at me. "Lerato is one of my best, I will not fire her".

Me: "Of course you won't. I just want her to bring the muffins, I'm sure you also sleep with her".

Him: "She is not my kind of whiskey, I don't do slim woman". I chuckle.

Me: "But your assistant is slim"

Him: "I like her because of her mouth game" nc nc nc.

The door flies open and steps in the clumsy Lerato, argh, this girl. Why is she clumsy?

"He... Here is your tea and muffin" she places the tray on top of the table, and stands there looking everywhere but me.

Mbuso: "Thank you Lerato. You may leave" I take one of muffins and look at it then shake my head.

Me: "On second thoughts I will just drink the tea, you can leave".

Her: "Why are you treating me like this Nkanyiso? What did I do for you to hate me this much"?

Me: "Who said I hate you? You & I don't have anything that links us together, so I have no reason to hate you".

Her: "Wow! You are unbelievable Nkanyiso! You are one cold hearted-bastard, I hate you"! I chuckle.

Me: "Thank you for voicing out whatever was in your heart. You know the door, right"? She looks at me with tears in her eyes. "Is your boyfriend not doing you like me? Anyway sisi, what we had has been long over. Get that into that R2000 weave of yours. We are done, stop acting like I owe you

something. Leave"! I bang the table. She jumps in shock, and leaves the office crying banging the door behind her.

Mbuso: "That was hectic! Stop giving these girls good, rather go and buy a prostitute. Leave innocent girls alone. It seems like they can't keep the end of their deal".

Me: "I will just lay low with fucking these girls, they catch easy. Ai". He chuckles. I lean on the seat, I need to fix my life if I want Nobuntu to be mine. I will have to do it for myself also.

★»★«

NATASHA

Zweli is not keeping his promise of calling me after 2 hours, the last time I spoke to him was in the morning. It frustrates me more that I can't call him I don't even want to think of the worst right now. He will never do me like that, I refuse to

believe that. Londiwe is back from her gym session, I don't even know why she goes to the gym because her body is perfect.

“Still nothing”? I nod.

Her: “Maybe he is still bonding with his family, I mean he did say that he will be taking them out. Don't worry, he will call once he is free”.

Me: “I just can't help it but feel like he is with Mubizana playing all lovey dovey, it's just a feeling I can't shake. If that girl thinks she will take my man away from me then she has another thing coming. I will not let her win”.

Her: "Isn't the anything else we can talk about except Zweli's wife? I am sick and tired of you whining the same thing every second, I'm sure that girl doesn't even give a fuck about you. Geez, your obsession with that girl is no longer cute, it's sickening". I laugh. Wow, even Londiwe is turning against me? Hhe wonders shall never end, chai.

Her: "I am going to bath we are having lunch with the girls".

Me: "I know. I am even done bathing".

Her: "And please do us all a favour, don't mention Mubizana, just don't. We are tired of you. If I didn't know any better, I would say that you are threatened by her presence". She ascends the stairs. Wow! Is all I can say, what just happened?

19

NOBUNTU

We are home finally. I am dead tired, and thanks God that the family is not back yet this gives me time to breathe some more. Boniwe went straight to my room, at least she did not buy

clothes this time, but she bought sex toys. She bought 4 different vibrators, there's one that looks scary. That one is for those who like it rough because it looks like it has pricks. Sigh, I pre-heat the morning breakfast I hope we are not going to cook today. I take out my phone, and take some few pictures then upload them on Facebook. The conversation I had in the morning with the seer is still ringing in my head, he said a lot of things that don't make sense. What's so hard for him to tell me the truth? And again if my mother is really suffering wherever she is, why doesn't she just do the right thing? Or maybe she is scared that something will happen, secrets will be brought to light? She is one selfish mother fucker right now including the so-called ancestors. They are all just a bunch of selfish fuckers, mxm. Well, at least in the end I will get my happily ever after with Nkanyiso, phela the seer said the "feeling is mutual" hhayi guys this means we are meant to be, that were there only fruitful words the seer uttered, but there's still a long way to go before we are officially together. Not unless my mother comes,

and do right, unless I go back to the village and ask that witch about my mother. Wait, I can always call aunt Ncumisa maybe she might shed some light for me, after all she is from my mother's side. I am so suffocated in this none existence, loveless, sex less marriage, actually I am fed up with everything. It's time I tell Zweli & Natasha where to get off. I am sick & tired, really. My life should be my first priority right

now, they've been making me a door mat and it will stop shame. I take out the food from the warmer and walk to the lounge, hhe I brought wine, Namaqua. This one taste better than biltong's one. I switch on the TV. Boniwe comes in, and her eyes are red it's like she's been crying, she sits next to and takes one sausage.

“What's wrong”? She sniffs.

“Nothing”.

Me: “It can't be nothing Boniwe, it's evident that you were crying. Is it Mbuso”? She nods tears streaming down her chubby cheeks. “What did he do”? Wiping her tears with the sleeve of my dress.

She hands me her phone, what I see is not good for her eyes, it's baaad! It's a picture of Mbuso in bed naked with some girl, they look too cosy. There's a caption underneath it.

★Stop sending my fiancé your nudes they're not appetising. I am enough for him, don't embarrass yourself any further★.

I read it over & over again. Nudes? Why would Boniwe send Mbuso nudes? This is absurd! Hhayi, I go through her chats, and wow she just did not send her nudes to Mbuso only, but to two other men. There's one profile picture that catches my eye, I take a closer look and wow! I am unable to breath, so not believing what I'm seeing, hhe Boniwe. Someone please pinch me, and tell me that I am dreaming, this can't be real I refuse. Sis is basically exchanging nudes with the King! A whole King nina, my father-in-law. Sour grape's husband, I don't even know how I will look at him after this, gross. Who the hell are you Boniwe? I hope they never sexed, but then again, you don't just send nudes to someone you've never slept with, right? Sies maarn! Hhey, she better not get hold of Nkanyiso's number. She is gevaar when it comes to man.

Me: “Nudes Boniwe? You send men nudes”! Handing her back her cellphone. “Why would you degrade yourself like that”?

Her: "I don't know what came over me Nobuntu, I really don't know. I thought that he loved me, I mean he never showed any signs that he has a fiancé. A whole fiancé Nobuntu. I am such a fool, you know".

Me: "I hate to say this, but you are too forward lately. You've changed so much within a short space of a month, all because of this Mbuso of yours. You better block & delete him, and stay away from him. He is not good for you". She nods. "Do it now Boniwe". I am so tempted to ask about her and the King, but then that will make me a noisy person, I snooped around her phone without her permission for Christ's sake. What will happen should the sour grape find out about this? Ishhuuuu, I don't even want to think about it.

Her: "It hurts Buntu. My heart is so broken, I don't even know what to do" she is crying.

Me: "Were you guys dating for real? As in a serious couple"? She shakes her head. "Now, why would you send Mbuso nudes if you guys aren't dating"?

Her: “Stop questioning me Nobuntu! I told you why. So, why are you annoying me with the same question”? I chuckle.

Me: “Girl, have some wine this one tastes better than biltong's one. You really need it, it will numb whatever you're going through. This should be a lesson to you to stop sending men nudes, well not unless you guys are married. Indaba usuke waphapha kakhulu wena. This is Jo'burg baby girl, don't lose yourself any further than you already have, wise up”. I give her the bottle. She takes a big swig, I look at her and laugh.

Ey Boniwe was really going with a speed of 280, she was too forward. Look at the results of her forwardness, maybe she is also having an affair with the King hence the King agrees to anything she says. Weehhh, No. Hha.ah this girl ishhuuuu, she is a bunch of skelms and men what what. I can't deal shame with her, she is a disaster.

★«★»

ZWELI

The day turned out better than how it was in the morning, we had fun, no lies about that. The drive home was lively this is what I wanted. The seer have been sitting in the car all day, I don't think he likes Jo'burg that much. If it was up to him he would've left for the villages already, I'm just happy that he did not start any trouble. Stepping inside the house there was no sign of Langelihle or Boniwe, it is dead quiet. I place the food take always on top of the table counter.

“Some quietness, now I can come back to this every day” mom says stepping inside the house, and heading straight to her room.

Dad remained in the car with the seer, I wonder what the seer wants to talk about with him since he requested that he stays the seer. I go to my room, I better not find that girl sleeping in

my room or else, hhe... I am welcomed by an empty bedroom, well this is good. At least I don't have to worry about seeing her, flip Natasha I've completely forgotten about calling her every 2 hours. Ai, she must understand that I am with family, and I am trying my utmost best to make them feel at home. Let me just call her, I know she is angry with me.

“Oh, finally, he remembered that he has a girlfriend”.

“How are you”?

Her: “How am I? Are you really asking me that”?

Me: “I had a long day, I am not keen on your tantrums right now. You can hang up if you don't want to talk to me then”.

Her: “You are with her right? How is she? Is she good? Does she scream like I do? Tell me how is she Dammit”! She is angry, and for no apparent reason.

Me: "Call me when you've calmed down" I hang up, Natasha is being insecure right now. Let me take a bath then go, and join the family. I hope dad is done talking with the seer.

★»★«

BONIWE

I wake up from my pass out with a mother of all headaches from the wine I've been drinking. I swear I drank it more than Nobuntu. Honestly, I am so heartbroken by those pictures. Mbuso never mentioned anything about having a fiancé nor did

I suspect that he had one. I mean, he was giving me all the attention, this is just not happening, to think that I was ready to give him a chance. It hurts more that I found out via pictures that he has a fiancé. What was I thinking sending him nudes? This is all Makhosazana's fault

she's the one who advised me to send Mbuso nudes to make him crave me, and be the only thing he thinks about. Why would she advise me to send nudes to her brother knowing very well that he has a fiancé? I am such a fool, I pray that they don't put them on the internet. I will not survive the embarrassment, you know how such things go viral on social media. Nobuntu is sleeping peacefully next to me, something or let me rather say someone at the couch catches my attention. I look closely, and it's Buhle she has her back at us, she is busy with her phone. When did they come back, and why didn't Buhle wake us up? Oh, shit! We are in trouble. I wake Nobuntu up shaking her roughly, she ain't barging.

“Langa wake up”! My voice grabbed Buhle's attention because she is now facing our direction. “Hey Buhle. When did you guys come back, and why didn't you wake us up”? She smiles.

Her: "Hello Boniwe. You guys were sleeping peacefully, and I didn't want to wake you up. We've been back for almost 30 minutes now".

Me: "Yoh! Nobuntu wake up maarn the royal family is back, vuka" she stirs in her sleep, and Buhle chuckles.

Her: "Just let her rest, the parents know that she is not feeling well, and if you are worried about cooking don't be. Zweli bought takeaways".

Me: "Well, that's a relief. Did you manage to buy the Laptop"?

Her: "Yes, I did and I bought her few course books, she will choose whatever course she likes. I am also willing to pay for her registration fee, then we will go and get you your job back". She smiles.

Me: "She would be so happy about this, finally her dream of furthering her studies had come true. You don't have to worry

about my job, there was a misunderstanding now it has been fixed, my job is secured”.

Her: “That's good”.

Me: “Now, who was keeping you busy on WhatsApp”? She chuckles.

Her: “No one”.

Me: ”Hmmm, yet you were smiling like a retard”. She laughs.

Her: “I was not chatting to anyone I was stalking my crush”. She blushes.

Me: “What? You have a crush? Who is he? Maybe I know him”.

Her: "I don't know if you do, but his name is Nkanyiso he is Zweli's best friend". I widen my eyes, she can't possibly be

crushing on Nobuntu's future husband wiibo! I have to do damage control.

Me: "Nkayiso? Girl, that boy is a man-whore. He uses girls, I've seen him changing girls like underwear. Girl, he is bad news. His sister even told us about his shenanigans, he is bad news. You don't deserve a guy like him, you deserve much better than him. He will use you, and throw you away like a used condom. Be wise, stop stalking him, let go of him he is bad news. Imagine him using a royal Princess? I also heard that he has a tendency of doing sex videos with girls, and post them on the internet. He is basically exposing you, the journalist will fry you my girl, imagine your parents seeing your face in newspapers with bold demeaning words? Thread carefully, he is bad just like his big brother. Do you want a guy like that to be your boyfriend"? She shakes her head. "Then stop stalking him. Just let him be, wena uyi diamond yena u Zero". She chuckles.

Her: "Thank you Boniwe for opening my eyes. I heard that Jo'burg guys are bad I thought it were only rumours. I will

stop stalking him, and focus on my projects, I will find the one who loves me, right”?

Me: “Of course. He will make you his centre of attention. Now, block that fuck boy he is not good for your health. She nods.

Her: “My brother did warn me about him I thought that he was lying, but now that you confirming it. I will have to let him go, actually let me just block him now” you guys should see the smile on my face right now. “All done”.

Me: “I am proud of you. Let's go and see the family now. I want to hear all about your day”.

Her: “It was a disaster, Zweli was acting like a child. I liked how that owner from the restaurant told him off, you should've seen her Boniwe. She didn't even flinch in our presence, and she didn't seem bothered by it. Yazini, she is my role model from now. That woman doesn't take nonsense from anyone, I'm sure she is not even dating”. I chuckle.

Me: “She sounds hectic”.

Her: “She is, and she is very intimidating, I loved how she carried herself”.

Me: “Okay, Mrs confidence let's go”. We laugh as we leave the room. I am trying so hard not to think about Mbuso, I will have to use the same advice I gave Buhle, I need it too.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

I make my way inside the house after waking up from my nap. When I woke up Boniwe was not in bed, I'm sure the royal family is back. Argh, another night with the sour grape. I find everyone sitting in the lounge, I greet everyone, and they greet back except the sour grape of course. Buhle & Nhlakanipho are not amongst them, I wonder where are they. I sit down next to Zweli, this pretending is starting to annoy me.

“And the woman of the house is finally awake, it must be nice being you”. Argh, this sour grape. Let me just ignore her.

Me: “Nihambe njani baba”? (How was the trip)

Him: “Sihambe kahle kakhulu Langa. Wena unjani manjer”?
(It was fruitful. How are you now)

Me: “Angikabikho right”.

Him: “Uthi awukhulelwanga mara”? (Ain't you pregnant)
I chuckle.

Me: “Cha baba. Futhi angoboni ukuthy ngizokhulelwa maduze nje, ey simatasatasa njani”. (No dad, and I don't think I will fall pregnant any time soon. We are very busy)

Queen: “Wuhhh, my son better think of babies. I want cute grandkids, not mini gorillas”. She looks at me smiling. I roll my eyes.

Me: “Hawu Zweli, awufakazi ngani”? (Why are not putting in your input)

Him: “Njengoba usushizo nkosikazi, simatasatasa” (As you've said my wife, we are very busy) I chuckle. The king have been looking at me not even blinking. “Kunenkinga yini baba”? (Is there a problem)

Him: “Bengisacela sokhuluma eceleni sobabili” (can we please go, and chat just the two of us)

Queen: “Kutheni ningakhulumeli la? Nifihlani? Sonke sifuna ukuzwa ukuthy nikhuluma nithini”. (Why don't you talk talk here? What are you hiding? We all want to hear what you guys are saying)

Him: “Lendaba ifuna mina no Langelihle”.

Her: “Ngeke kwenzeke loko”. (That will not happen) I chuckle.

Me: “Ithi ngogeza, ngiyabuya baba sizokhuluma”. (Let me go, and take a bath I will come back, we will talk) I am already on my feet making my way to Zweli's bedroom. I sit on the bed, and play with my phone. The door opens, and it's Zweli he looks angry.

“Yewena Langalelihle! Yini lento bewuyiyenza”? (What is it that you were doing)

Me: “Ukhuluma ngani”? (What are you talking about)

Him: “Lento oyenzile! Uyadelela wena farm girl”! I laugh. “Uhlekani”?

Me: “Ey, not tonight Zweli. I am not doing this with you, I am not in the mood to entertain your nonsense. Move out of the way, nxa”! I push him to the side, and grab my comforter on top of his laundry basket. He is shocked, moreover confused

about me knowing English. I couldn't care less about him, I am tired of Zweli, and how he treats me.

Him: “You... You know how to speak English? But how? I mean, I was convinced that you don't know English”. I chuckle.

Me: “Not all ‘village girls’ are illiterate as you've assumed, some of us did go to school, and completed our matric. I am not dumb as you and that girlfriend of yours think I am, you guys are such a drag. Anyway, when she comes back we are going to change the rules. I am sick & tired at the both of you, plus your mother treating me like I am rubbish”!

Him: "You've played Me! You fucken made me believe that you are illiterate, do you think I am a fool"?

Me: "I did not play you. You assumed that I don't know English, and you believed it. So yes, you are a fool". Chuckling. "You should've got to know me before making your own assumption, pshhh". He looks at me not even blinking. He better phantom this shit, it will be better for everyone.

Me: "Tell your dad that I will talk to him tomorrow I am not feeling well. Goodnight". I make myself comfortable on the floor, and cover myself with the comforter. Now, that felt good. I've finally found my voice.

20

BONIWE

Love is wicked by Brick 'n lace, that's my alarm waking me up at 04:00am just how I set it. I wake Nqobani up, shaking him. He mumbles something in his sleep, he looks cute when sleeping. He may be old, even older than my father, but he knows how to work a girl out I don't even know how he does it. It all started when I walked in his bedroom finding him naked masturbating with a magazine in his hand, porn magazine to be

precise. He was facing up, knees up and playing with his shaft. I froze, I couldn't even move an inch. I liked how he played with himself, wuhhh the Queen was not at home that day. Of which makes me wonder where was she, and that was 2 years ago. Hearing him groan made me wet, I ended up playing with myself. Fantasizing about the King, and how he would make feel should it happen that he makes love to me by mistake. My concentration was on him, he me gave that urge taking me places I've never been too. His groan was now louder compared to his previous ones, it was no rocket science that he will ejaculate soon. My finger was really failing me that cold morning, but I had to fantasize about the King to make myself cum. Well, I did not even reach my climax when I heard him touching my boobs standing before me stark naked. A smile

crept out of his face. Gosh, he raked my body from head to toe and pulled me towards him. He squeezed my butt making me feel somehow. I quickly freed myself from his hands, and left his sight and ran to one of the toilets, locking myself in. I leaned against the door as a huge sigh of relief escaped my mouth, I closed my eyes, and replayed every scene that happened few moments ago. His pictures were so vivid & large, his hands caressing my butt. Every time I masturbate I would think of him making love to me. I don't know why or how, but I started disliking the Queen. The King pretended that nothing happened for few weeks, he was actually his normal self. While I on the

other hand was a complete mess. I wanted to feel him, ai. Seeing him and the Queen playing all lovey dovey, and showing each other affection sickened me, until 1 night whereby I decided to drug both of them. Well, I drugged the Queen mostly. I knew that the drug will wear off quickly on the King, since I did not overdose it.

“Dammit Boniwe! Why didn't you wake me up”? That was him half shouting bringing me back to life. I just look at him.

Me: “I tried, but you were not waking up so I just let you be”.

Shrugging.

Him: “You should've tried harder or do you want us to get caught? Do you know the consequences of what will happen should we get caught”? I nod. “Now why are you acting like a highschool girl”? He is done wearing his clothes.

Me: “I'm sorry”.

Him: "Are you still on the pill"? I nod. "Good. I don't want any mistakes, you know what will happen should you try to double cross me or fall pregnant. I will deposit your money when we get to the village".

Me: "When are you leaving"?

Him: "2 hours from now". He kisses my forehead. "Be a good girl, and don't run after these young Jo'burg boys". I nod, watching him going out through the door. Arhhhhh, this is frustrating.

I lie back on the bed, and sigh. Why can't he love me like he loves Khethiwe? I deserve him, not Khethiwe, I will have to find a way to make him to take me as a second wife. Oh, as I was saying before the King disturbed me. I sneaked inside their room after maybe 3 hours everyone was in their respective rooms, I stripped the King naked, as for me I had a tiny robe in my body. I was not wearing any underwei, easy entry. I played with his shaft, and this old man reacted to my touch. Just where I want him. His eyes flew open, and was about to speak when I shut him up with a kiss. He couldn't resist me, that night we made love, raw love. The Queen did not hear anything she

was too deep in sleep, she was clueless. And that's how our relationship or should a say sexship started ladies & Gentlemen. He would come to my room 4x a week, and we would make love all night long, but in order for him to come to me he had to drug the Queen. Few months down the line the Queen started complaining that the King is no longer the same man he was, he has changed. He even stopped touching her, argh. She was just a cry baby. After weeks they've finally managed to fix their issues, jealousy crept in once more. I would lash at everyone for no apparent reason, until I slept with one of the drivers. He was not the best, but he was good in his own way. That was when I stopped lashing out on people, but the jealousy was still there. Sighs, that's just life guys. I am one messd up being, just unlucky in love.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

I don't know if I was dreaming, sleep walking or it was real. I saw the King coming out of my room outside fixing his belt, I've just finished drinking milk. I woke up thirsty, when he entered the house I hid under the table until I was sure that he was out of sight. Wow, so it's true. Boniwe is indeed sleeping with the King, unbelievable. I wonder for how long have they been sleeping together futhi they send each other nudes ai.

Waking up to an empty bedroom is one good feeling. Zweli was not in bed, his bed was neatly made. I get up from the floor, and fold my comforter putting it on top of his laundry basket. I wash my face, and exit his bedroom. The house is dead quiet, I

wonder where is everyone. I was hoping to find the King, I guess he is still sleeping. I'm sure he had a hectic night with Boniwe, no wonder she brought all of those sex toys. I switch on the kettle, I need a cup of coffee.

“Morning”

Me: "Morning".

Him: "So you really know how to talk English? I thought that it was that wine you've been drinking".

Me: "Where are your parents"? Taking out a cup from the cupboard.

Him: "Left"

Me: "Left? Left to where"?

Him: "To the village".

Me: "K". He chuckles.

Him: "What rules are we going to change because as far as I know, we did not set any rules together".

Me: "Let's wait for your girlfriend first. Coffee"?

Him: "You want to bewitch me? Woman, please. I don't want to die". I laugh.

Me: "If I wanted to bewitch you I would've done that a long time ago, after all I am the maid".

Him: "You want to make me fall in love with you by force? That will never happen! You couldn't bewitch me then because you never offered me anything to drink, but because we were ordering you too". I chuckle.

Me: "Did I hear you say make you fall in love with me? A whole me fall in love with an arrogant bastards like you? I mean, I've never even dreamt of you, so why would I want to

torture myself by being in love with you? You think way too highly of yourself” rolling my eyes.

“Honey I'm home. You have no idea of how much I've missed you”! Hehehe... He couldn't wait telling her to come back home the parents have left, I mean it's 07:30 after all. Zweli walks to her, and they share a kiss.

Her: “Mubizana ngibuyile sisi, bekunjani ukulala nendoda yami”? (Ugly I am back, how was it like sleeping with my husband)

Me: “Hello Natasha. Welcome back, and it was not appetising your husband sucks in bed”. She stares at me for some time, blinking then she drops her bags on the floor.

Her: “Bu... But how”?

Me: “That doesn't matter. Now that you are here we have things to change around here”. She laughs.

Her: “Wow! This is unbelievable! First you talk English, now you want to change things in my house? Are you crazy”?

Me: “You tell me. Since you guys made me a helper against my will, you will have to start paying me for my services” Natasha laughs. “And you think this is a joke”?

Zweli: “Pay you for doing what you're supposed to do as my wife”? I chuckle.

Me: “That's the problem. I am your wife, not your house helper nor your girlfriend's. I should be looking after you, not the two of you. I am pretty sure the King will be very thrilled to know that you actually live with another woman, and happily in love

Advertisement

while I am slaving for the both of you. What do you think he will do should he find that out”? Smirks.

Him: “You wouldn't dare tell him Langelihle. You know why”? I shrug. “Because you're scared of him”/ I laugh.

Me: “No. You're the one who is scared of him not me. Let me show you that I am not scared of him, boy”. I take out my phone and punch in his numbers putting the phone on loud speaker.

“Langelihle” I see Zweli widening his eyes, he just did not believe that I will actually call his father”.

Me: “Unjani baba”? (How are you)

Him: “Ngiyaphila, ingabe kunenkinga”? (I am good. Is there a problem) I look at Zweli, and he shakes his head.

Me: “Cha baba. Bengithi nihambe kahle”. (Not at all. I was wishing you a safe journey)

Him: "Siyabonga Makoti sizakuthinta nasifikele, bye".
(Thank you, we will let you know when we've arrived)

Me: "Kulungile baba bye" I hang up, and look at them. "So"?

Him: "You are one sick twisted bitch! When did you become so cruel"?

Natasha: "I've always known that this ugly thing was trouble. She pretended to be a good little girl from the village, little devil. Bloody blackmailer"!

Me: "Are you going to pay me for my services or should I stop doing my duties"?

Him: "You are demoted from your duties. I will bring my old house helper back. Is that all"?

Me: “No. I also want allowance, I am the wife after all not some random barbie doll girlfriend. As I will be going back to school I want an advanced smartphone maybe a samsung galaxy A20 or A90, plus a laptop, and I need Brazilian weave. Then we will stay out of each others way, and go about with our lives”.

Him: “What? You must be out of your damn mind woman”!

Natasha: “Zweli doesn't have money to waste on someone like you”.

Me: “Are you my husband? Did you maybe marry me? If not then shush, because I am talking to my husband not you. So, husband, do we have a deal”?

Him: “Once I give you all that you've asked for, are you going to stay out of my way, and not show your ugly face every chance you get”? I nod. “I will draft up a contract”.

Me: “That's music to my ears”. My smile right now is noticeable!

Natasha: “Are you really giving in on her demands Zweli? Can't you see that she is crazy”?

Me: “So, you want to chow my husband's money alone? Girl, you need some namaqua. Zweli, I will be waiting for the contract. Now, everyone will be happy about the rules changing let me go, and wake Boniwe up”. I smile at them, and walk out.

Before I can even turn the handle, I stop midway when I hear Boniwe moaning, haibo. I peep through the key hole, and she is masturbating screaming the King's name. What the actual fuck! This woman is not normal, I no longer know her. Well, is not as if like I did know her. Erh... Now, I am debating with myself whether to knock or just wait for her to finish masturbating. I have no other option but to call her.

“Nobuntu” she is breathing heavily.

Me: "I am... Urhm, are you sick because it's unusual for you to sleep till this late".

Her: "I am not feeling well, and I did not have a goodnight sleep last night. I was awake most the time".

Me: "Oh, get better. I will go, and look for painkillers for you" I chuckle, and hang up. She thinks that I did not see anything, shame amamenemene. Walking back inside the house, the couple is not in the kitchen. I'm sure they are gossiping about me in their room, argh, at least tonight I will be sleeping in my room. How I missed my bed, I wonder what is it that the King wanted to talk to me about it sounded important. My phone rings, and it's Zana.

"Zana".

"Hey Buntu. Is Boniwe near you"?

Me: "She is sleeping. She is not feeling well".

Her: “Oh, it's just that I've been trying to call her but my calls aren't going through”. Her calls ain't going through? How though, because I just spoke to Boniwe few minutes ago.

Me: “Try calling her again, maybe it's network. You know how Telkom network tend to get”.

Her: “Okay. Let me try her, thank you” she hangs up.

Why would Boniwe not take Zana's calls? Oh, wait, Zana is Mbuso's sister I guess she is mad at her too. But why didn't Zana tell Boniwe that Mbuso has a fiancé? Hhayi maarn, this doesn't make sense at all. Zana wouldn't send Boniwe straight into the lion's den deliberately, right? Oh well, guess we will never know. Let me just drink my wine, and mind my own businesses. No man, I suspect foul here.

“Who the hell do you think you are demanding things from my boyfriend”?

Me: “I am the wife. The one whom his parents know, and you are”? She just stares at me. “Nobody. Let's just stay out of each others paths if we want to get along just fine, and co-stay in this house. So, how much will you charge me for manicure & pedicure”? Batting my lashes.

Her: “Since you've found your voice, you think you are all that, and shit”!

Me: “I'm a dark chocolate dipped in honey with strawberry toppings, and a dash of red wine. Want to add something”? She clicks her tongue, and walks away. I laugh. Oh well, cheers to me.

★»★«

ZWELI

Natasha step inside the room fuming with anger, I thought she was going to prepare food for me. Here she is empty ended.

“I will kill that bitch Zweli! Do you hear me”!

Me: “What bitch now”?

Her: “That thing you call a wife”.

Me: “What did she do”?

Her: “She insulted me calling me all sorts of names, she went as far saying that I've bewitched you” sniffing.

Me: "She said all that? What did you do to her"?

Her: "I did not do anything. I found her in the kitchen stealing my wine I reprimanded her, and that's when she started insulting me".

Me: "Her nerve! I must have a talk with her" I get off bed, and go to the lounge. I find her drinking Natasha's wine, with legs on top of the coffee table, TV volume on full blast. The disrespect! I take the remote, and turn off the TV.

Her: "I know that this your house, but don't disrespect me like this. You could've asked me nicely to turn down the TV volume".

Me: "You are so full of it. Why did you insult Natasha, and accused her of bewitching me" she laughs. "You think this is funny"?

Her: “Imagine me insulting Natasha, what a waste. I only told her to stay out of my way, and I will do the same, so that we can all get along. Haike, and she runs to her saviour. Anyway, I want to study pharmacy” she sips her wine.

Me: “What the actual fuck”?

Her: “It's your duty to help me further my studies, I'm sure you don't want your dad to cut off your allowance. See to it that you enroll me somewhere where they offer pharmacy, and tell your girlfriend to choose her fight wisely. Now, be a good boy and switch on the TV”. One of these days I will kill this woman, Yerrr she needs to move out. In fact she must never step inside

this house, I will get her everything she want. She better fucken stay out of my way.

Her: “The Tv”. I click my tongue, and throw her with the remote. I walk back to my room, and Natasha stands up when she sees me.

“How did it go”?

Me: “I've brought in a devil herself in my life, Yerrr this woman will be the death of me! Yohhh, hhayi Natasha we must get her everything for her room. I no longer want her in this house, yohhh. She is one stressful being”!

Her: “Told you she is one rude bastard. Find out what's missing in her room, and we will go to town and buy everything she needs”.

Me: “Let me cool down first or else I will kill her” I sit on the bed, and take my hands in head. What did I get myself into?

★Insert 21★

NOBUNTU

My phone rings, and it's the King calling I guess he wants to let me know that they've arrived safe.

“Baba”

“Unjani sisi”?

Me: “Good thanks, and you”?

Him: “Hau. You now know how to speak English? Since when? Or maybe you always knew it you were just pretending”? I chuckle.

Me: “Google Translate it's helping me a lot”.

Him: "Keep it up. I was letting you know that we've arrived safe".

Me: "That's good to hear. Urhm... You left without us talking. What did you wanted us to talk about? It sounded very important".

Him: "It doesn't matter any more. I want you and Zweli to come down here in 2 months time, we have few issues to iron out".

Me: "Between me and Zweli"?

Him: "Everyone. This will be one important family meeting, you guys have to come. All I want to say is that be prepared for whatever you are going to hear, see, and find out".

Me: "Are you my father"? He laughs.

Him: "No Langa I am not your father" I sigh.

Me: "Phew that's better, but I wouldn't mind even if you were my father".

Him: "That's good to hear, I also wouldn't mind having you as a daughter. You are a good child Langa, don't you ever change no matter the circumstances".

Me: "You are scaring me now. What is really going on"?

Him: "Very soon you will know".

"Baba the elders are here" that's Nhlaka in the background.

Him: "I've got to go Langa, talk soon, and take care".

Me: “Will do baba. You, too, take care, and pass my greetings to everyone” I hang up. I wonder what's going on. Whatever it is, It is big, and the way the King said it I am pretty much convinced that something big is brewing, and it involves me somehow. But what? I hope they are not going to tell me that I am the King's daughter, iyoh, that would really... Argh, I don't even know what say. But then if he was really my father he wouldn't have allowed me & Zweli to get married, right? I mean, it is so wrong I'm sure even the ancestors would've punished us. That means we would be half siblings. Ewww, incest. It's gross, thinking about it makes my skin crawl. I only hope that I am not his daughter, imagine if me & Zweli were in love then boom. The family breaks such news to us, I wouldn't even think twice about killing myself.

“I am leaving. You can have your room back”. Boniwe says with her suitcase in her hand, standing at the passage.

“Feeling better now”?

Her: “Yes, thanks for the pain killers they really helped me a lot”.

Me: “You welcome. If I may ask, why are you in a hurry to leave”?

Her: “I have to prepare for tomorrow I am going back to work, so I need to wash & Iron my uniform”.

Me: “Oh, are you leaving with Khaya”?

Her: “Yes, let me go you know how impatient he is” I nod.

Me: “Before you leave, did you change my bedding”?

Her: “Why would I change your bedding? It's not as if like I was doing something illegal”.

Me: “But you were masturbating, and you” ... Sighs. I had to stop myself from saying that he also slept with the King, my mouth was ready to spew such words. “You are expecting me to sleep where you were masturbating? How do you take me mara Boniwe”? She shies away from my gaze.

Her: “I am sorry, but how did you know that I was masturbating”?

Me: “Your moans were so loud, now go and change my bedding, and you must take it with you, I no longer need it”.

Her: “I will get right on it. I am sorry once more”.

Me: “I know. You don't look okay, what's wrong? Still, heartbroken about the picture you saw of Mbuso”? She nods tears streaming down her cheeks. “Do you love him”? She nods. Wiyibo.

She loves Mbuso, yet he sleeps with the King. What if she loves the King too? If she can send both of them nudes, what can stop her from loving both of them equally”?

Me: “It will get better with time babe, but I suspect a foul play here” she sits down next to me.

Her: “What is it”?

Me: “Makhosazana wouldn't give you a go ahead of hitting it of with her brother if she knew that his brother has a fiancé. She doesn't look like the type that can send you into a lion's den with the hopes of you getting hurt. I think some random girl, probably his ex or fuck buddy sent you that picture. You might be even surprised to find that it's an old picture, and Mbuso doesn't even know that someone sent a picture of him in bed with someone. Whoever sent it wanted to hurt you, and of which she succeeded in doing. Are you understanding what I am saying mara”? She nods. “I am not saying forgive him or something, but confront him. Ask him about the picture he might clarify it for you. And please call Zana she is worried sick about you”.

Her: "You mean that I must hear his side of the story"? I nod. "I'm sure he has been trying to contact me, poor guy doesn't even know anything. Thank you Buntu".

Me: "Is there anything you want to tell me? Something you regret doing maybe"? She narrows her brows.

Her: "There's nothing that I want to tell you, and there's also nothing that I regret I did. Well, I only regret sending Mbuso nudes that's it. Everything else I don't regret doing... Let me go, and change your bedding then I leave".

Me: "I am coming with to keep you company".

Her: "No. Stay. I will be fine" she smiles at me, erh. Why doesn't she want me to come with? What is she hiding?

Me: "I insist. I am coming with you, why don't you want me to accompany you to my room, have you hidden something"?

Her: "What? Oh, no". Chuckling. "I am not hiding something from you".

Me: "Who are you trying to fool? I am not dumb Boniwe, It's either you're hiding something or you want to leave without changing my bedding that smells like sex, of which will make me question your hygiene".

Her: "Geez, Buntu. What's with you? What can I possibly hide in your room"?

Me: "You tell me" folding my arms standing before her.

Her: "Fine. Let's go". She rolls her eyes, and wheels her suitcase. I follow behind her. I watch her take off the bedding slowly, it's like she doesn't want me to see something. Too bad for her I am not shifting my gaze away from her. A thought crosses my mind, what if she is hiding the King's underwear, she wants to masturbate with it or better yet bewitch him to

love her more than the Queen? Not that she is capable of witchcraft, well, that's if she is not after all I don't know her that well. I chuckle at those thoughts, ei Boniwe is a layer of cabbage leaves bahlali.

Her: "What are you laughing at"?

Me: "Something that just crossed my mind. How hard is it for you to remove the bedding"?

Her: "You're making me uncomfortable Buntu" I laugh!
This woman.

Me: "Askies"?

Her: "Exactly what I said".

Me: "You are crazy! Since when are you not comfortable around me? I mean, I've seen you naked many times. Now,

what's uncomfortable in changing the bedding? Boniwe, in all honesty, what's going on”?

Her: “No... Nothing is going on. Almost forgot Buhle has bought you a laptop and courses books. She said you will choose any course you want”.

Me: “Argh, she is such a Darling. I will have to call her, and thank her she has helped me a lot. Now, back to you. What is

exactly going on? What are you hiding? And please don't tell me about Mbuso”.

Her: “How many times must I tell you that I am not hiding anything! What more do you want from me”?

Me: “Change the bedding then if you're not hiding anything Boniwe. You're behaving like someone who is up to something”.

Her: "I can't with you staring at me". I chuckle. She is being hot headed, and she is frustrating me.

Me: "Are you sleeping with the King"? She chokes on nothing

Advertisement

then chuckles.

Her: "Wh... What? How do you take me Buntu? Can't believe that you're asking me such nonsense. I am not sleeping with the King"!

Me: "Then why did he spend the night here, and sneaked in to the house @ 04:10"? She freezes, yes, gotcha bitch.

★»★«

BONIWE

My heart is beating out my chest, my lips become perched. I am unable to breath. How did she find out? I was pretty sure that no one will notice anything, guess I was wrong. What was she doing at that time anyway? My secret is out. Now that she knows, what is she going to do about it?

“His vest is right next to you. Mara Boniwe, how could you”? She brings me back to life. I swallow nothing, my mouth is dry.

Her: “Talk to me Boniwe. This is me Buntu. I won't judge you or anything, I just want to know why”. I sigh.

Me: “I... I love him. He knows how to satisfy my needs, and knows how to treat a woman. He is my dream man”.

Her: "What about Mbuso"?

Me: "I love him too. He listens to me, and advices me unlike the King. I love them both they are different in their own way".

Her: "Hha. You are playing with fire Boniwe. Stop whatever you're having with the King, and focus on bettering your life. Also stop stringing Mbuso along knowing very well that you see no future with him. This might backfire in the long run, and secrets have a way of coming out. I don't think you love both these men you're just using them for your own selfish benefit".
I chuckle.

Me: "What do you know about love? You don't know anything about love because you've never experienced love, especially a man's love. I mean, even your own family didn't love you. No one actually loves you".

Her: "And I give no shit about them. They are all a nonentity to me, their existence don't mean shit including yours too. I may

not know how being loved feels like, but I'm sure as hell it doesn't feel like opening legs in order for men to love you. Love is not about sex. You have issues wena, and stop justifying your bitching ways, nxa". Oh, wow. Did she just talk me like that? Hhe. "What are you going to do with the King's vest"?

Me: "None of your business. Now that you know about me and the King, what are you going to do about it"?

Her: "None of your business. Finish with the bedding since you've found what you were looking for. I don't like what you did Boniwe. Having sex on my bed with the King really? That's disrespect on another level". I sigh.

Me: "I know that I am wrong. I am sorry, I promise you it will never happen again. Should I bring back the bedding once I am done washing them"?

Her: "What? Ewww, no, keep it. I'm sure it will be memorable to you. On the real though Boniwe. Get your priorities straight, fix your life. You're too old to be fooling around".

Me: “When did you grow up so fast? Not so long ago you were this quiet girl, what changed”?

Her: “Life. I had to find my voice, I know that it was long overdue, but I finally did. It was worth it though no one will walk over me anymore, that includes you too”. I laugh.

Me: “Argh, you're such a cutie yazi. Let me get going baby love, I will call you when I arrive” she scoffs.

Her: “Don't sleep with Khaya. If you feel an itch, you have toys use them”. she laughs. This child.

Me: “I will try not too. Bye, love you”.

Her: “I am walking you out. Why are bidding your goodbye? I want to warn Khaya about you, tell him how dangerous you're when it comes to his kind”. I laugh.

Me: “Uyaphapha wena. Let's go”.

Her: “I was going to help you carry your bag, but it smells like, argh, let's just go”. We both laugh walking out of her room. I love this new Buntu.

★»★«

NKANYISO

“You must really love this girl. You've even made her your wallpaper. Why don't you just ask her out? Who knows? Maybe

you guys might end up dating, actually she would be cheating with you". I laugh.

"Where will I start with asking her out? Do you honestly think that she will want to go out with her husband's best friend"? He chuckles.

Him: "You will never know until you try. You might even find out that she likes you too, after all you guys have 'chemistry' you said it yourself".

Me: "You're one crazy fucker Mngobi. Your mind works over time. What are we doing here anyway"?

Him: "Your best friend called me, he said we should meet him here. The wife is showing him flames". Chuckling. We are at Banathi hang out joint.

Me: "I wonder what is she doing to him".

Him: "I want her to drive him crazy, and give Natasha a hard time until she gets off her high horse, nxa" laughing.

"I need a cold beer. Langelihle will send me straight to my early grave" he says sitting down. "Gents".

Mnqobi: "What did she do? You look like a mess"/

Him: "I brought in devil herself in my life, I fetched her from the village. She is nothing like what she was 2 months ago when we first met her. She is a nightmare in broad daylight"! Nkanyiso, I want MaSabatha back"/ Mnqobi chuckles.

Me: "Why do you want her back? Langa refusing to do her maid duties"?

Him: "She wants us to pay her for doing her duties, and she is very disrespectful. You should've seen how she disrespected my mother this other night. Yoh, last night I found out that she

actually knows English, and she is perfect in speaking it. Just this morning she told Natasha off, she practically made Natasha cry. She also called me 'boy' majita"! I laugh.

Me: "That doesn't sound like Langa at all".

Him: "I know, but she has changed. She even talks back now she wants a lot of things, I swear to you next thing she will ask me to buy her an apartment in the north or Fourways or a Maserati". We burst out with laughter. His phone rings, "Its Natasha, I'm sure she is done shopping" he stands up and walks away answering his phone.

"Good afternoon gentlemen. I am sorry to disturb you, please take my hand" she says to Mngqobi. Mngqobi looks at me, and I shrug. He takes her hand, clasping it.

Mngqobi: "If I may ask, why am I having your hand"?

Her: "You need to find your sister. She is suffering wherever she is, and happiness is far away from her. She needs a sense of belonging. Find her, and lead her to your mother. Your mother is angering the ancestors, and they are making your sister's life unbearable, find her so that she can find peace, and get to be with her soul mate. Find her before 5 months approaches, she is much closer now it won't be hard for you to find her. In your circle there are people who are close to her, get through them to find her" she retracts her hand and looks at me. "Don't go to that date that you were planning to go to tonight, nothing good will come out of it".

"Kelo, come, we are leaving". A voice calls her. "I am coming". She responds.

Her: "Find your sister, she has been crying all her life. Your mother must do right or else the bad dreams won't stop" she smiles, and walks away.

Me & Mngqobi look at each other confused. What the hell just happened? Who the hell was that, and how did she know

about my date with Athile? I will have to cancel it now. I look at Mngobi, and he is miles away. Who wouldn't though? I mean, dude have just been told that he has a sister. A whole sister!

Zweli: "You guys look like you've just seen a ghost".

Me: "We might've seen one".

Mngobi: "I have a sister? Who is she? If she is close how close is she? Now, this explains the bad dreams my mother is always having. I need to find my sister, my mother have some questions to answer"! He stands up, and walks away.

Zweli: "What happened"?

Me: "A prophet happened. We were prophesized".

Him: "Thanks God I wasn't here"!

Athile, what are you planning?

22

MNQOBI

Arriving home I head straight to my mother in the garden, that's where she usually sits basking at the sun. I find her drinking her green tea, apparently it calms her down. She is with her friend Thembi. I greet them, and sit down.

“What is it son. You don't look okay”?

“Where is my sister”?

Her: “Your sister? You know very well that she is at work”.

Me: “I am not asking about Crecentia, I'm asking about the one I presume you left somewhere after giving birth to just like you did with us”/

Her: "What? I don't have any other child besides you & Crecentia".

Me: "I was told to find her and you must make things right. Your ancestors are punishing her because of you mama. Where the hell is she"!

Her: "You don't get to shout at me Mnqobi. I am still your mother Mnqobi, and I don't have any idea what you're talking about. Who have you been talking to that fed your ears with such nonsense"?

Me: "A girl came out of nowhere and told me to find my sister. You also need to do right". She chuckles.

Her: "You believe strangers now? Don't take everything you hear personal, people always talk, and I'm sure this stranger was taking chances".

Me: “If that's the case, care to explain how does she know about your bad dreams, huh”? She chokes on her tea. “Oh, and mother. Your dreams won't stop unless you make things right, I don't know about what, but make things right. See to it that you find my sister or at least remember where you left her. I

will see to it that I try my utmost best to find her. The ancestors are angry at you, maybe that's why your relationships don't last. They are the reason”.

Her: “How dare you Mnqobi”!

Me: “Find her mama! She is suffering wherever she is, and it is said that she has never experienced happiness all because of you! If you don't do it for you, then do it for us, do it for her. We've been given 5 months to find her. She, too, needs her mother's love, excuse me”. I stand up and walk straight to my room, leaving her staring into space. I pray that she finds her or give me a lead of where to start looking for her or something. It is said that, there are people who know her in my circle. It can't be Nobuntu because she is much younger than us, and it can't be her servant either because she is almost the same age

as Crecentia if not my age. Who is she? I take out my phone, and call Natasha.

“Bro bro, sup”

“The sky”. She laughs.

Her: “I am serious Mnqobi. Your mother called me few moments ago, and she said that you were accusing her of something she doesn't know about. What were you accusing her off”? I chuckle.

Me: “I wasn't accusing her of anything. I wanted her to tell me the truth about our sister”. She laughs.

Her: “Whoa, whoa. What sister are you talking about? I am your only sister, duh”.

Me: "I am talking about our younger sister if not older. Mom has another child, a girl child that is. It is said that she is suffering because of our dear mother. Now, your mother is refusing to tell me about her then makes whatever she is supposed to make right. Only then, her bad dreams will disappear, and our sister will stop suffering wherever she is". I hear her sigh.

Her: "How sure are you about this bro? Whoever told you must've lied. They wanted to get a reaction from you, and you've given them. Mom would've told us if she had another child outside".

Me: "Maybe she did to her what she did to us".

Her: "Now you're starting. She had valid reasons as to why she left us with our grandmother".

Me: "That woman was not even her real mother. Why don't you ask yourself why she never talks about her real mother?"

Actually, do you even know your mother's real family, not these family friends of hers she introduced us to? Coming to think of it, we don't know much about her. Your mother has lots of secrets in the closet, hence the ancestors are punishing her. It is up to us to find our sister and bring her home”.

Her: “Wow! This is too much Mnqobi. What are we going to do now? How are we going to find her? I think we should ask mother again, if that's true then she must tell us the truth. That sister of ours can't suffer when she has a family, I hope she is not being abused wherever she is. That's if she is out there” ...

Me: “I hope with you around she will be able to tell us the truth, you are her favourite child. Oh, apparently this sister of ours is known by people in our circle. We find those people, we find her. I don't even know who knows her in our circle”.

Her: “This is confusing, but we will find her. That I can assure you”/

Me: “I know. Let me not keep you I'm sure you have customers”. She laughs.

Her: "Yeah, I will see you later then". I hang up, and log into Facebook and search for someone with the same surname as mine, maybe I might see someone who resemblances us, if not Crecentia or my mom.

My mother has a tendency of dumping her kids in other people's family, all in the name of she is hustling for them to have a better life. If she really loved us, she was going to suffer with us. We were abused in the hands of our guardian growing up, it was my duty to shield Crecentia from bullies because she couldn't fight for herself. I even went as far, as wanting to kill

our so-called guardian, she was basically abusing Crecentia. Made her do house chores while her daughters were princess. Crecentia slaved for them from the age of 8 years to 22 years. She is now 29 years old, and I am 35 years old. Now, this means our sister is younger than us. We moved out of that house when I turned 25, that's when my mother showed up in our lives, We fixed whatever relationship we had. We don't even know our father, all we know is that he ran away after knocking mom down with Crecentia. Funny enough, he left mom after she knocked her down with me, somehow this so-

called father of ours always finds his way back into my mother's life, knocking her down, and disappear. This is a mess. Where do I begin with looking for my sister? Does she even know that she has siblings?

★»★«

ZWELI

We got everything Langelihle requested us to get her. We practically bought her a whole new furniture, and MaSabatha will be coming in tomorrow. She was so happy when I called her, at least she will not demand things like Langa. I still can't get over the fact that Mnqobi has a sister who is not known,

erh. Things are happening. I wonder who is his sister, and where is she.

“Now, that we got everything for her. What now”?

“I will have to register her at MEDUNSA. I will go there tomorrow morning. Don't you want to go to varsity too to further your studies”? She chuckles.

Her: “Further my studies? I don't want to go to varsity, I am fine not studying. Education is just a waste of time”.

Me: “What was the last grade you attended”?

Her: “Grade 10. I dropped out, school was not going to fund my lifestyle”. I nod.

Me: “I see. So

Advertisement

what are your future plans Natasha? It's time we discussed things like this”.

Her: “Getting married to you obviously, and having my own beauty salon”.

Me: “How are you going to own a beauty salon without any certificate or have proper documents”?

Her: “I will manage just fine. Gina is doing just fine, and she doesn't have any certificates. Why would I want one? Besides doing hair & manicure doesn't need a certificate. It requires hands, nothing more”. I nod.

Me: “I see. I want you to do something for me. Go and think about what you want in life. Something that is very tangible,

and will not leave you in the long run. You can even try beauty courses to have something to fall back on. Also ask Gina how she did it”.

Her: “You are trying to turn me into your wife now Zweli? I don't want to do any courses! Arhhhhhhh! Why would I want to study anything, when you provide me with everything I need? I am fine just the way I am”.

Me: “But everyone in my family is educated. You need to be educated too or at least get a drivers licence”.

Her: “I don't even know how to drive, why would I want a licence”?

“That's his way of telling you to go and enrol yourself at a driving school, but you're too slow to comprehend that. Good day the IT couple. How did the shopping go”? My mood switched off instantly. From 100 to Zero.

Me: “We got you everything you wanted I'm sure you've seen it outside and I will register you at MEDUNSA tomorrow you will have to give me your particulars”.

Me: “Arh, finally stepping up to your duties that's good. Since you guys were talking about driving licence I also want one, plus most jobs nowadays requires driving licence. You also need one sister wife”.

Natasha: “Who invited you here? I thought we had a deal that once we get you everything you wanted, you will stay out of our way”.

Her: “I know that. I came here to check if you've got everything I've asked you correct. Oh, and nice weave”.

Me: “We've got everything you've asked for, Nkanyiso & Mngqobi will be coming to help us with taking them inside your room”. I am not even sure if Mngqobi will come, maybe he is busy looking for his long lost sister.

Her: “Good. Can I at least prepare myself a quick meal while we are waiting for your buddies to come and rearrange my room”?

Natasha: “No. Go and prepare it in your own room. You are no longer welcome to step inside this house”. Langa chuckles looking at the table.

Her: “I guess I will have this” she takes the steers paper bag. “Who ever the owner is will have to forgive me because I am damn hungry. She/he will cook a quick meal not unless you've bought extra. Toddles”. She whistles, and walks out. I chuckle.

Natasha: “She has to move out! She is failing to follow one simple rule, staying away from us”.

Me: “It's only the first day, and her room is not changed to how she wants it yet. I guess we will share your burger” laughing.

Her: “Argh, whatever babes. I guess I will have to cook since your friends are coming”.

Me: “You should've allowed Langa to cook for us for the last time” I laugh.

Her: “Well, it's too late to ask her now. Let me go, and freshen up”.

Me: “I will start unpacking the grocery so long”. She nods and disappears out of sight.

★»★«

BONIWE

I am done fixing my work uniform, and cooking. I decided to unblock Mbuso & Makhosazana maybe one of them will call me. Sleeping is the only option for me now, I can't help but

keep on reminiscing about the conversation I had with Nobuntu. 2 years of doing whatever we do with the King someone finally caught us. I don't even know what she is going to do with the information, I do know that she won't tell on me, but I can't be definite about it. She also said things that made sense, actually she is the first person to talk sense to me. Unfortunately for her, I will not stop what I am having with the King. I have to keep him around, and she might be right about me stringing Mbuso along. Sigh, with Mbuso I like the fact that he gives me attention something I've always wanted. I guess it's all just a lust, but why am I hurt about the picture that was sent? It doesn't make sense. Nobuntu might also be right that maybe someone sent the picture deliberately. My phone rings and it's Makhosazana I'm sure she has been trying to call me.

“Hello”

“Finally, I've been trying to get hold of you. Do you know how worried sick I was not reaching you”? I chuckle.

Me: "I am fine babes. I was going through some stuff, but I am fine now".

Her: "Thanks God. Mbuso is going crazy, apparently you blocked him. Why did you"?

Me: "Why didn't you tell me that he has a fiancé? You made me send him nudes only for me to receive a reply of a half naked picture of his with another woman in bed, and a very disturbing message underneath it. Do you have any idea of how broken I was"?

Her: "Whoa, whoa. Mbuso has a fiancé? What fiancé"?

Me: "The woman who sent me the picture using Mbuso's WhatsApp".

Her: "This doesn't make any sense. When did all of this happen"?

Me: "Days ago".

Her: "I will call you back now now. I need to check something"
she hangs up. Seems like she too doesn't know anything about

this fiancé. Now, I am convinced that there's a foul play indeed.
My phone rings, and it's Mbuso. Arhhh, Makhosazana had to
tell him? Ishuu...

Me: "Hello"

Him: "What fiancé"? Geez, this guy, straight to the point.
No greeting.

Me: "You tell me".

Him: "There's nothing to tell because I have no fiancé. Do you think I would be giving you attention knowing very well that I have a fiancé? Are you dumb or stupid"?

Me: "Then explain the picture of you and a woman half naked in bed"!

Him: "What? What on earth are you talking about Boniwe"?

Me: "I will send you the picture via WhatsApp".

Him: "How did the picture end up being sent to you"?

Me: "I will tell you everything on WhatsApp".

Him: "How, because you've blocked me"?

Me: "I've unblocked you". I hang up, then go straight to WhatsApp and send him the picture". Well, he is going to clarify it for me I hope it won't backfire.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

My room looks so beautiful right now. The black & red interior design is to die for. My TV is now mounted on the wall, and I have a computer table with a bookshelf just near my couch. My room, I love everything about it. They are doing touch ups now. I am sitting outside chatting with Crecentia on WhatsApp while the guys are busy cleaning it. stealing glances at Nkanyiso every

now & then has become my every second story ever since he got here. Argh, how cute. A man in a uniform is one sexy fucker, hhe. My phone rings, and it's a number I don't recognize I wonder who is it.

“Nobuntu Hello”.

“Hey Nobuntu, it's Crecentia” kana once I gave her my numbers.

Me: “Oh, hey Crecentia. How are you”?

Her: “Not good, and you”?

Me: “I am good. Why are you not good”?

Her: “I've recently found out that I might have a sister somewhere out there”.

Me: "Isn't that a good thing"?

Her: "It was going to be if we knew where to find her or start looking. My brother is very determined to find her, but clueless on where to start".

Me: "I pray that God helps you guys locate her. What did your mother say about this"? She chuckles.

Her: "I don't think she cares. She is too ignorant, and deny knowing anything about a child she left behind. She is very adamant that she did not leave any child out there".

Me: "Sounds hectic. Or maybe she is telling the truth. She doesn't really have a child out there".

Her: "She knows, trust me on this one. We won't stop looking for our sister though, hopefully my mother will come around, and tell us where she left her".

Me: “Ishuuu. No wonder Mnqobi is in a foul mood, I will pray for you guys to find her”/

Her: “Thank you babe. Now, about that lunch date” I chuckle.

Me: “Let's do it tomorrow, that's if you will be free though”.

Her: “It's a date then. I will text you time and place”

Me: “You do know that I am not familiar with this place, right”? She laughs.

Her: “Don't worry I will uber for you, let me go. See you tomorrow”.

Me: “Bye” hanging up.

“Your room is ready Langa. You are good to go”.

Me: “Thank you Mngqobi. Let me see it” I stand up, and walk inside. Wow, and it's perfect for me. Who knew that one day I would be having my own room with a TV and all? God, works in mysterious ways Indeed, and his timing is always perfect.

Mngqobi: “You like it”?

Me: “Are you kidding me? I love it. Thank you so much. You did an amazing job”.

Him: “I'm glad you like it. Let me go, and join the others in the house”. I nod, he walks out of my room. I walk around admiring it, I am in love with it. A piece of paper on top of my study table catches my attention. I pick it up, and a smile is plastered on my lips reading it.

★You look beautiful today. I had to take few stolen snaps. N★

I chuckle, and shake my head. This guy...

23

NOBUNTU

I am all set and ready to go to the lunch date with Crecentia. I don't even know what we are going to talk about, but whatever conversation we will be having must be fruitful. Ai we will see. What I like about Monday's is the fact that the malls are half empty since most people are at work. Zweli is living up to his promise of registering me to MEDUNSA, he drove to Pretoria early in morning. This basically means that I will be travelling every day, once I get settled at MEDUNSA I will have to talk to Zweli about relocating to Pretoria. That will save us a lot of things. My phone beeps indicating that there's a message, that must be my Uber. I take my bag, step out of my room locking the door in the process. I pass Natasha leaning by the kitchen door drinking wine, she is still in her pyjamas, and it's just after 12:00pm in the afternoon. That's just being lazy...

“You now know how to go out alone? Where are you going”?

“Hello. And how is that any of your business”?

Her: “It's my business because you're going out. Does Zweli know that you're going out”?

Me: “Must I report to him? Girl, please get a life and find something to do with your life other than guarding me. Stop doing jobs that don't pay you, have a good give. I walk away.

“Zweli will know about this”! Shouting.

Me: “And you think I give a fuck whether he knows about this or not”? Shouting back while walking away. Natasha needs to get a life and leave me the hell alone. I greet the uber driver and he drives off.

I arrive at Bella's restaurant, and text Crecentia that I am outside. She sends me back a text telling me to get inside. Truly speaking, I don't like too many people or crowded places. I take a deep breath, and walk inside, it is not that full, but there are too many white people. Crecentia waves her hand upon seeing me, I walk to her table, she stands up, and we share a hug then sit down.

“Thank you for coming. You look beautiful by the way”.

Me: "Thank you, and you look beautiful too".

Her: "With this old outfit? Girl, please don't play with me" chuckling.

Me: "I wish I was, but unfortunately for you, I am not".

Her: "Let me call the waiter, so that we can order. I hope you eat oysters & prawns". I look at her confused.

Me: Oysters & prawns? What on earth is that? I am a meat girl, proper cooked meat that is". She laughs.

Her: "You're missing out girl, but don't worry you will absolutely love seafood". I shake my head.

Me: "I will pass thank you". The waiter approaches our table, I can't help but notice that he is looking at me straight in the eyes, creepy. Nah, maybe I'm imagining it.

“Good day. My name is Sandile. I am at your service”. He gives us menus. “When you're ready to order, you can ring this bell right next to you”. I was not imagining it, it was real even now he is staring at me.

Crecentia: “We will call you when we're ready to order you may excuse us”. He stands still looking at me not even blinking, he is really making me uncomfortable. I dart my eyes everywhere but him. “I said we will call for you should we want to order, now leave or else I will report you” she half shouts.

Him: “Apologies ma'am. Excuse me” he walks away.

Her: “Was it me or that guy was taken by you? I mean, he couldn't take his eyes off you” giggling.

Me: “I find it creepy, he really made me uncomfortable. I am no longer in the mood to eat here, can't we go somewhere else”?

Her: “I was really looking forward to eating here, but if you're

not comfortable we can go. The last thing I want is for us to have awkward lunch before getting to know each other better”.

I chuckle.

Me: “I know what you mean. Can't we maybe ask the manager to give us another waiter, I am not really comfortable with this one”?

Her: “That's also a good idea. Let me go and look for her I'll be back” She stands up and walks away.

I take out my phone and browse it. I can't help it, but feel like someone is staring at me, lifting my head I see this weird waiter staring at me from a distance. Hmm, I guess 2 can play the game. Let me return the stare, and see who will hold the gaze much longer between the 2 of us. I fold my arms, and look at him not even smiling... I can see him getting uncomfortable, good. Serves him right. He breaks the eye contact, and attend

another table. That's when I breathe. Ai, Crecentia have been gone ever since, what's taking her so long?

“This fucken manager is not around, let's go”.

Me: “Then what took you so long”? I am already on my feet ready to go.

Her: “The supervisor is one rude woman with her sticks legs”. I chuckle. “I am never setting my foot here ever again”! She yells for everyone to hear. I pull her by hand, and we walk out laughing.

Me: “You & drama. Was that necessary”? She chuckles.

Her: “Drama is my middle name little one”. I chuckle. “So, where to from here”?

Me: “Anywhere where they sell burgers and meat if possible”.

Her: "I know just a spot let's go". We walk to her car, she drives a polo Tsi.

★»★«

ZWELI

Natasha throws herself in my arms as soon as I step inside the house. Her eyes are red & puffy, she has been crying. I take her in, and she sobs on my chest she is still in her pyjamas.

"What's wrong? Why are you crying"?

“Your wife. Your wife insulted me again, and slapped me”.

Me: “What did you do this time? I'm sure you've provoked her since you like calling her names”. She chuckles, and release herself from my embrace.

Her: “Me? Provoked her? Why would I even do that Zweli”?

Me: “Because you hate her that's why”.

Her: “Hate her? Why would I hate someone as ugly as her? She is not even worth my time, and definitely not worthy to be hated by me. She is nothing to me”!

Me: “But her name is forever on your lips. Just let the girl be, I am really exhausted Natasha. Driving the whole day is no child's play”. She laughs and claps her hands.

Her: “You are defending her Zweli? Really? You should be on my side not hers! Or are you suddenly falling in love with her”? I chuckle.

Me: “No, I am not falling in love with her, and I never will. What you need to know is that there's always two sides to the story, I need to hear her side of her story too then I will make a decision. Excuse me, I need to freshen up”. I kiss her forehead, and walk away leaving her shouting my name. Truly speaking I'm tired of Natasha, and her tantrums. A day never goes by without her mentioning Langa that's all she wants us to talk about, Langa this Langa that. She has a tendency of making up stories about Langa of which it's boring. We hardly talk about ourselves, our relationship is no longer fun. Ai...

Langa will start attending her classes next week, I don't know how she is going to handle the travelling everyday. But I trust that she will survive, it's not even 2 hours drive. That means Khaya will have to drive her every day. I'm just glad that I will not get to see her almost every day

Advertisement

maybe my relationship with Natasha will go back to how it used to be before since we will be seeing less of her.



NOBUNTU

We ended up at Banathi hang out joint. This place is out of this world, they have everything. From a car wash to braai area, fast food, and a mini bottle store. Let's just say it's an all-in-one stop. I hear also heard that there's a BnB few houses away from here, whoever the owner is. She/he is making a lot of money. This is the second burger & chips I am having ever since we got here 2 hours ago. So, Crecentia's upbringing is like mine we both suffered in the hands of our guardians. Actually, we have a lot in common. She, too, used to be bullied growing up, and she never had friends until 5 years back when she started dating Thabo. That's how she ended up being friends with Natasha, and the other girls, after all they are all dating in the same squad.

“So, what's the story about your mother”? She asks taking a chunk of meat in her mouth.

“I don't know anything about her. All I know is that she is said to be dead, she died in a car accident. On the other hand, my aunt from my mother's side told me that my mother is alive, but she doesn't even know where she is”.

Her: “Now, between the 2 stories, which one do you think is real? I mean, these people told you two different versions. Have you tried asking your aunt about your mother's whereabouts”?

Me: “I will. I never get the chance to call her, been very busy lately”.

Her: “Now, where were they when you were being abused”?

Me: “They were told that I left with my mother's friend to the city. They were actually shocked to hear that I'm getting

married, kahle kahle, they were never told about my existence. If it wasn't for the wedding I would've never known them. I'd probably be still slaving in that house”.

Her: “Wow. Your grandmother is evil Buntu. Why would she hide your existence to your family”? I shrug. “What about your father”? I chuckle.

Me: “All I know is that he disappeared after knocking mom down”. She laughs.

Her: “That sounds like my father. I also don't know him, but he always found himself in my mother's life after disappearing for years without keeping in contact”. I laugh.

Me: “We might be sharing a father unknowingly who knows, but then again men are used to hit & runs”.

Her: “Hahaha, funny”.

“Crecentia” the girl pulls out a chair and sits down without greeting me. Oh, okay.

Her: “Athile”.

Athile: “What brings you here? Aren't you supposed to be at work”?

Her: “Food brings me here, and no I am not supposed to be at work. What brings you here”?

Athile: “I'm here to buy my man food. He will be working overtime, so why not buy him food, and take it to him? And you know what they say; a way to a man's heart is through his stomach”.

Her: “Your man? You have a man Athile? Since when”?

Athile: "We've been dating for 2 months now, and things are promising". She smiles showing off her gold tooth.

Her: "I am so happy for you. Do I know him"?

Athile: "Of course it's Nkanyiso" I look at her and Crecentia burst out laughing. "What's funny"?

Her: "Wena Athile. Dating Nkanyiso? Stop joking baby girl, Nkanyiso doesn't do love sweets. He fucks you, and dumps you like a used chappies once done with you".

Athile: "You are just jealous. He will change now that he is with me". Crecentia laughs.

Her: "You can never change Nkanyiso Athile. They all tried but failed, it's been 5 years already and no woman can change him. Stop telling people that you're dating Nkanyiso, they will laugh at you Darling. The joke will be you, a whole LMAO". I chuckle and shake my head.

Athile: “And you ugly duckling, what's funny”? She points at me giving me a nasty stare.

“As if you're beautiful. How dare you call another girl ugly? She is far better looking than you with your painted face out here

looking like a clown. She is beautiful the way she is, she is natural. I'm sure if we were to wipe your face with wipes right now we will clearly see a man hiding behind make-up”. This beautiful woman standing before us tells Athile, guys she is so beautiful. Power is embedded in her, her confidence is on another level. She is smiling, but not smiling. Argh, what am I even saying? All I can say is that she is beautiful with her short hair. Her look commands respect, I'm sure she doesn't even go to the toilet. Athile stands up, and takes off.

Her: “Piece of shit. Hello My name is Zubenathi. I am so sorry for disturbing your brunch. It's just that I was taken by your beauty especially you”/ (she points at me) I mean you girls almost look the same/alike. I don't know if you will be interested, but I want you girls to be my hostesses in another of our restaurant launch that we will be opening in 2 weeks time”.

Crecentia: “Wait, you are Zubenathi? Thee Zubenathi married to a business mogul Bayanda”? She nods with a slight smile. “Oh my God. I am so humbled to be in your presence, I always wanted to see you. I am a big fan of you, and I've read about your journey in your book ‘I am not my past’ I can't believe that you've gone through all of that, you don't look like your past or what you went through at all. You are one strong woman, a power to be reckoned with”. She chuckles.

Her: “Thank you so much Love. We all have a story to tell, after all we all go through different trials & tribulations. It is up to you on how you pick up the pieces after going through them, you're a scriptwriter of your own life. Now, about that favour”? I think I have just found my role model in this woman. Crecentia must plug me in with her book.

Me: “We would like to be part of your hostesses. It will mean so much to us, and I'm sure we will learn a lot from you”. smiling.

Her: "Are you for real"? Crecentia & I nod. "Perfect. You will have to give me your numbers so that we can discuss a way forward".

Crecentia: "Can I please have your autograph"?

Her: "Sure, why not, do you have a pen"?

Crecentia: "I think I have it let me check before your husband reaches us"/she laughs.

Her: "My husband doesn't bite. Oh, and lunch is on the house".

Me: "But we've already paid"!

Her: "They will refund you". The husband reaches us, and stands next to his wife, wow! They are just perfect together. He greets us, and we greet back. The guy looks smitten by Zubenathi, does this kind of love still exist?

Natasha: "Found it. Oh, hey Bayanda. Now that you're here, can I also get your autograph and pictures"? I chuckle.

Him: "Yeah sure".

Nathi: "Should I call my kids too seeing that you want an autograph for my whole family"? We all laugh. I've even

forgotten about Athile, but not what Crecentia said about Nkanyiso. She said a mouthful about him, was it all true or she was just saying it to piss Athile off? Oh, well, guess we will never know.

24

BONIWE

“I hope this works hey. I don't want to lose Mbuso”. I tell Makhosazana as we walk out of the traditional healer's yard, we've been here for 4 hours. There was a long a line of females, no males here.

“It will work, trust me. I've been here before, and I always come here after 6 months to get the dose. Why don't you ask yourself as to why my relationship with Noah is strong? It's because of this man we just visited. He is good in things like these”.

Me: “But why must we come back here after every 6 months”?

Her: "So that the love portion doesn't wear off. Once it does, Mbuso will hate you, and every time he looks at you, he will see an animal". Whoa, this is not right. What did I get myself into?

Me: "What? That doesn't sound right Makhosazana. I think this was a bad idea to begin with".

Her: "If you don't want to be the only woman in his life then don't do it once Thabile lands in 3 days time you will be history. Mbuso won't even look your way, it will be like you never existed in his life, Thabile loves Mbuso so much that she can even lay down her life for him. The choice is yours". I inhale & exhale. This is harder than I thought.

I don't want to lose Mbuso. I am starting to like him, well I started liking him after we slept together. Now, that I tasted him I don't want to lose him. His long term girlfriend is coming back from the States in 3 days time. He is very much excited about her coming, he didn't even bother telling me. He has been acting strange for the past week of which made me suspicious he didn't want to touch any more, sometimes a day will actually end without him calling me. When I call him, my

calls doesn't go through, but when I call him using another number they go through it was obvious that he has blocked my numbers. That's when I suspected that something big is going on. I did not confront him I asked Makhosazana to fish out information for me. She came to my aid, and that's when she told me that Thabile Mbuso's girlfriend is coming back after a year of being out of the country. Yoh, my heart almost stopped beating upon hearing that plus we've just been intimate a night

before. I felt used really, I cried to Makhosazana, and she told me about this powerful traditional healer that she goes to about how good he is in keeping relationships and eliminating what poses a threat to it. I know that is evil of me to even go the love forcing way of using witchcraft, but a girl got to do what a girl got to do to save her relationship.

“We are here. Let's go, and I know just a perfect spot”. We step out of the car, and walk deeper into the forest. It is so quiet not even a slight noise, this is creepy, after maybe 10 minutes of walking we finally reach our destination. Makhosazana knows this place like a back of her hand. Well, it's also a forest but this one is surrounded by a fence. There are a lot of women here, some are naked wiping themselves with their husbands under wears, and clothes. Wow, can't believe that there are so many

women who use muti on their husbands. Everyone is going on about their things, no one is looking at another. I'm sure some are even side chicks because some women have female clothes with them. They are dipping them in this mini river with black water. We stop at this other big tree.

Makhosazana: "This is where I've buried Noah's underwear. You can dig a whole right next to mine, and bury Mbuso's underwear". I look around. "Don't worry about them they are

also saving their marriages & relationships, while the others want to eliminate another woman in another man so that she will be the only woman remaining in his life just like you". I nod.

I take out the mini shovel, and start digging a hole, once it is deep enough I put Mbuso's underwear in it then I kneel down. Oh, I've already wiped my private part with it while at that traditional healer's hut. He has also given me some herbs to use when bathing.

"Mbuso you are mine. Mine & mine alone. You belong to me, I am the one to occupy your heart. Thabile is not the one for you,

I want you to hate her, when you look at her you must see something disgusting, hate her. Hate her. Mbuso you're mine and we are binded together. I am the only woman that must occupy your mind & mind, be the first thing you think of when you wake up in the morning, and before you sleep ar night. You're mine Mbuso mine”

I stand up and lift my skirt then take off my underwear putting it in, and pee in the hole... I stand up, and sprinkle the black powder that was given to me then I close the hole again.

Makhosazana: ”A job well down. We now wait for results, 5 days is enough it should start working by then. You should've also cursed Thabile to bleed every time she gets intimate with a man. Noah thinks twice before cheating on me”.

Me: “Now that would be pushing it. I believe that it will work”. The plan was to bewitch the King, but I had a very disturbing dream involving him, and I saw myself being burned alive by the villagers, it was clear as broad daylight that it was a warning that I mustn't dare the King. So, why not Mbuso? After all, I like him now. I need a belonging of a man.

Her: "So, how do you feel"?

Me: "I feel good to tell you the truth". My phone rings, and it's Nobuntu. She has been too busy with her varsity work lately, not having time to hang out with us. I am really happy for her, and I want her to focus on her studies nothing else I don't want to introduce her to this kind of lifestyle that I'm currently living. She must strive to be a better person than me. I will call her back when I get home, I was given instruction not to talk to anyone else today except Makhosazana. Oh, and Natasha also attends the same traditional healer. No wonder Zweli loves her

this much the inyanga is doing the most. It's none of my business after all, but she must keep that manyala boyfriend of hers, and make sure that he doesn't advances Nobuntu.

★«★»

NOBUNTU

Oh, sweet Saturday you beautiful and sunny day. Today is the day of Nathi's restaurant launch, I am so excited about it, and that means taking a break from my books I've been drowning in them for the past 2 weeks. In this 2 weeks I only saw Zweli & Natasha once, of which is good for me & my health. My friendship with Crecentia is doing so well, the bond we share is indescribable. It's like I've known her ever since we were young, we have lot in common even with Boniwe & Makhosazana it's not this deep. Speaking of those two have become too close

lately, I don't blame them though. They are sister in-laws after all. Boniwe decided to give her relationship with Mbuso a chance, in all of this I'm just glad that she stopped whatever she was trying to pursue with the King. It was never going to work out between the 2 of them. I decide call aunt Ncumisa since Zana & Boniwe are ignoring my calls, I wonder what they are busy with. Oh, and Crecentia did plug me in with Zubenathi's

book. I was intrigued by it, I mean sis has been through a lot, but you can't tell.

She lost her fiancé on her wedding day after her sister (Katlego) cursed her by saying that she will live to tell the tale that she almost got married. Her fiancé's mother refused her to bury her fiancé, but she went there with the police escorting her. She befriended alcohol for 5 years, and her best friend was with her through it all

Advertisement

but she passed on due to her husband's abuse. Actually, Sindiswa (best friend) killed her husband, and killed herself too after finding out that her husband is sleeping with sister. Nathi found love in business partner Bayanda, they were happy until Bayanda's stepmother did some things to make their life miserable. The girl (Ntando) she helped betrayed her along with her sister & cousin (Nhlamulo). She was drugged, and

woke up only to find herself naked in a stranger's bed the following afternoon. The boyfriend (Siviwe) of the girl she helped raped her, and they framed Bayanda's older brother (Lwazi) that he is the one who raped Nathi since the cousin went, and got the same tattoo as Lwazi. She had no idea what

was going on or how she ended up in a strangers bed. That was her biggest downfall, and there was a sex video of her circulating around. Things went bad between her & her husband, their relationship was bruised, but they eventually kissed & made up. They have 4 kids together now, and stronger than before, their love story is very beautiful I tell you. The people who did her wrong are paying for their sins in jail now. I've cried & laughed while reading her book, it carried too many emotions she indeed doesn't look anything like her past. Yazini, she is my role model.

“Nobuntu”.

“Hello ncane. How are you”?

Her: “I am fine my love, and you”?

Me: “I'm good too, just that varsity is keeping me busy”.
She squirms in excitement.

Her: "What? I am so happy for you Nobuntu. What are you studying & where"?

Me: "Pharmacy at MEDUNSA".

Her: "Make us proud baby girl. Don't disappoint us". I chuckle.

Me: "I won't ncane. There's another reason why I called".

Her: "What is it"?

Me: "What do you know about my mother's whereabouts? Does she have other kids besides me"? She sighs.

Her: "Truly speaking we don't know where your mother is. The last time we saw her was when she was pregnant with you, and she had a son the last time we checked. We've never even met

that son, I'm sure he doesn't even know about our existence. Rumours were flying in the air that she dumped the son in some woman's door step because her boyfriend didn't want any child. Your mother was one evil woman Buntu, she only cared about making your father happy, and no one else”.

Me: “Wow. That's just pure evil”.

Her: “Tell me about it. We as a family wish that she can come back home with her children if she has more. The children are supposed to know their roots, and the ancestors are very angry at your mother Nobuntu. I pray that she remembers her way back home before the ancestors trouble the children, and make their lives miserable”. I chuckle.

Me: “Those same ancestors are punishing me for your sister's sins. My happiness lies in her making things right, until she comes forth I will not know any taste of happiness”.

Her: "Haibo Buntu. Don't worry sisi, I will talk with the elders. They will have to find her before the ancestors does more damage than they already doing. Your ancestors are very stubborn, we also need to do a ceremony for you".

Me: "Yeah, you should"...

After almost an hour of talking I hang up, I lie on the bed, and reminisce about my life, I still have a few moments to spare before we go to Nathi's restaurant launch. I can't help it, but remember the conversation I had with Crecentia the time we were at Banathi's about our upbringing. We have so much in common, just not sure about us looking alike though. What if? Argh, it's impossible, and besides they look older than me. Sigh.

★»★«

MNQOBI

Today I am the one hosting the gang, honestly I am not looking forward to it. I have a lot in my mind like finding my unknown sister, my mother is still denying having any daughter that she left it's frustrating.

“Babe, are you sure that you're okay? We can always cancel the hosting”. Londiwe my fiancé asks me. I sigh.

Me: “I am okay babe, and there's no need to cancel the hosting. I don't want to look like a bad person”/

Her: “Still cracking your mind about finding your sister”? I nod.
“Why don't you ask Makhosazana to help you look for her? You know how good she is in finding things”.

Me: "Why did I not think of her? I will ask her when she comes tonight".

Her: "Now, give me that smile that always makes me weak" I chuckle. "There we go. When is Crecentia coming? She is supposed to help with me the cooking".

Me: "I don't think she will come. She is going to an event, they've asked them to be hostesses for the night".

Her: "Oh, she did say in passing. Who is she going with"?

Me: "Nobuntu". She laughs.

Her: "She is now besties with that ugly girl? Wonders shall never end. Why would she even befriend someone like her? She is letting the squad down".

Me: "Since when have you become this petty? How dare you call another girl ugly? You have some nerves! If you don't have anything good to say I will suggest that you keep quiet. Stop uttering nonsense, it doesn't suit you, sometimes you need to taste your words in your tounge before you spew rubbish, nxa". She gasps. "I'll be outside if you need me, even this tea has a

bitter taste suddenly". I put the mug in the sink, and walk out leaving her stunned. I am tired of these girls calling Nobuntu ugly, they need to get a life.

"Hey big brother. What's stressing you on your hosting day? Don't feel like noise today"? I chuckle.

Me: "No, it's not that. What are you doing here, aren't you supposed to be at the restaurant"? She sits down.

Her: "I am on my way there, but right now I have something more important to tell you".

Me: "If it's something that will lift up my mood then tell me".

Her: "I think I might've found our sister". I focus on her. "Our upbringing is almost the same, and she too was left in the hands of a grandmother who used to abuse her. She doesn't know her father, and I've been looking at the pictures we took together all week, and I see some resemblance between us. She looks like me if you take your time and look at her. She also has your nose".

Me: "Where is she right now? Do I know her"? She nods. "Who is it"?

Her: "I don't think you will believe me, but it's Nobuntu". I laugh.

Me: "Haha, nice joke. That's not funny Crecentia". She shakes her head.

Her: "Take a look at this picture. Take your time looking at it, don't rush". She hands me a picture, it's her & Nobuntu at Banathi's. "I will leave it with you. Let me run before I run late. Study the picture, and please keep it. Bye" she stands up, and walks away leaving me with the picture. I take a look at it, and they look alike indeed, but is she really our unknown sister that I was told to find?

"Awwww, my future wife madoda, look at how beautiful she is". I chuckle.

Me: "Ai, Nkanyiso".

Him: "And what's with the sour face? You look really ugly right about now".

Me: "It's nothing man. What are you doing here so early anyway"? He chuckles.

Him: WTF? Dude you texted me to come, I did not come here willingly”.

Me: “Eish, sorry man. It's just that I stumbled upon something interesting. Something that will change our lives for a better if not forever”.

Him: “Want to talk about it”?

Me: “Not yet, I just want to be sure about it. We might become a family very soon, you will never know. This life thing is unpredictable”.

Him: “Dude, are you sure that you're okay? We are a family already”.

Me: “A real real family” he laughs.

Him: “Let me go, and get myself a beer hope you've stocked up enough”.

Me: "The whole brewery". He laughs, and walks away. I take out my phone, and send Crescentia a message.

★Get me anything of hers to take to the lab for DNA testing. If she is indeed our sister then we will to discuss a way forward★

I look at the picture again, she is indeed one of us. How will she feel once she finds this revelation? Pheww...

25

NOBUNTU

L.M.S.S cuisine is out of this world. They used their children first letters of their names. This restaurant is so beautiful shame, and it's like all rich people came here. Why wouldn't they because this place is situated in a very high class suburb area. Everyone is wearing according to the theme Black & gold. There are 8 of us who are serving the guests, 6 girls & 2 boys. This

other girl have been looking at me ever since I got here. I guess people just love staring at me for the sake of staring, everywhere I go I get stares even at varsity they give me stares that will last me a lifetime I'm sure they all see a celebrity. She is not a normal girl like us, she is different, she has this anointing thing going on. You know mus, the deep Christian type of a girl who preaches until you admit that Jesus is Lord, but she is beautiful. Crecentia is all over the place, apparently she is doing network what what she is recruiting people to come to her salon, especially women. I am so dead tired, standing on my feet almost the whole day ain't no child's play. The launch is going very well I must say, we are placed in different stations. Yazi this standing all day is not for me, I take the nearest chair and sit down, I did say that heels are my worst nightmare don't think I will ever get used to them.

“Hello Nobuntu. My name is Snikelelo Mbatha, I am a prophetess and God's vessel”. She introduces herself sitting down. “I know that you have lots of questions, and unfortunately you have no one to answer them for you. You've been suffering all your life, and you're wondering as to why God have forsaken you in this cruel world that we live in. Why is God not answering any of your prayers, you had a hope that once you've moved out from your grandmother's house you will

finally find peace & happiness where you were going, but only to be met by more abuse and being hated for no reason. God is telling me to tell you that, the Storm that you're facing right now will soon be over. He has had your cry, he is asking you to just be patient with him, after all he is the God of your ancestors, God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob. Your joy is so close, he is a God of miracles. It's not a mistake that you are going what you are going through right now, he has a purpose about your life. In all of these trials & tribulations you're facing he has made it possible for you to find your siblings, you married your husband with a reason. He was paving a way for you to meet your siblings, finding your siblings means finding your mother. Upon finding your mother, your mother must apologize to her ancestors and your father's ancestors, but first she will have to pray to God to show her the light, and ask for forgiveness. God loves you Nobuntu. He is not deaf to your pleas nor blind your tears. He knew you before you were born. You are living your life according to his will. Do you see that girl over there"? She points at Crecentia. I nod,

I am still trying to wrap my head around what she is saying to me right now. She is saying a lot, but I am honestly not understanding her.

Her: "What do you see when you're looking at her"?

Me: "I see nothing" she chuckles.

Her: "That girl you are looking at right now it's your sister. Your brother asked him to get anything of you so that they can go and do a DNA test, but God was like. That's not necessary because the connection you both share goes way deep. He said 'I the Lord will make it happen', and he made your paths to cross. Both your upbringing is similar, put 2 & 2 together, and you will come out with a perfect solution. You see that God loves you because he has made it possible for you to meet your sister sooner than expected, look at her. It's okay, she is your blood. Her & Mngqobi loves you. They always defended you at

all times when their friends made fun of you or called you names. Just this evening, your brother's girlfriend made fun of you, but your brother defended you. That's how much they love you. They loved you before they can even know you". Ey, ey, this prophetess is driving me insane. I don't remember the seer mentioning me having siblings, what is this girl say kanty?

Her: "The ancestors won't reveal everything to the seer, and God won't reveal everything to me. What they reveal to me is not what they will also reveal to the seer, we are both important in our own unique ways, and there is a time when we get the same revelation, but in different forms. He is of ancestors, and I am off God, but we both do the same work of reaching out to those who need our help. Call unto God for help, talk to him when in pain or broken he will clearly hear you, and heal you. Another thing is be careful of those around you, just because you smile with them that doesn't mean that they have good intentions for you. You're surrounded by snakes, pray to God to reveal them to you. I know that it's a lot to take in, take all the time you need to process all of this. God loves you always keep that in mind. Oh, and until your mother makes things right you will not know happiness even if you've found your siblings. Pray that God softens her heart, and she will find the courage to do the right thing. I know I said a

mouthful, but please let it sink in your mind. Take care". She stands up, and walks away leaving me star struck... Ey, this girl, Jesus my God. What on earth was all that about! I take a look at Crecentia, and now that the prophetess mentioned we do look alike just that she is a yellow bone, and I'm dark. If Mnqobi wants anything of mine to be taken to the lab for testing, this

means that he knew about the possibility of me being his sister, but how & when did he find out? Aunt Ncumisa did say that my mother had a son. This woman evil! Who leaves their kids in another woman's door step? Neglecting your children for a mere dick? A mere dick Bahlali? No, maybe that's the reason why my grandmother hates me because she was chasing dick. This is just... Wuhhh, I Kant!

★»★«

NKANYISO

6 hours later, and Mnqobi is still not in a good mood I wonder what's wrong. It seems like I'm the only one noticing because everyone is going on about their lives. I walk up to him since he is standing near the braai area deep in thoughts with his hand

deep in his pocket, and his other hand holding a can of hot Heineken.

“Bruh, what's really stressing you? And don't tell me that it's nothing because I can see that you're not fine. Talk to me, you can't die inside”.

“Aren't you supposed to be having fun with the others”?

Me: “Why would I when the host is drowning in stress? Did you and Londiwe had a fight because she too doesn't look good, or maybe you did not want us to come? You should've texted us, clearly we are boring you guys”/ he chuckles.

Him: “No, we did not have a fight just a little misunderstanding about what she did that I didn't like. I am not drowning in stress, and seems like everyone is enjoying themselves. Dude,

you the only person who notices that I am not myself. Are you sure that you are not gay”? I laugh.

Me: "Have you ever seen a handsome gay like me? Nigga please". He chuckles. "Then what's going on? Because whatever it is it seems like a heavy issue". He sighs.

Him: "I might've find my sister that I was told to look for". I widen my eyes.

Me: "Say what? That's a good thing man. Where did you find her"?

Him: "I am not sure yet if it's her we are just waiting for DNA tests then we will take it from there, but from how Crecentia describes her, and the pi... I think she might be our sister, but then again you know that people look the same".

Me: "Hmmm

why do a DNA test if you are not sure that she is your sister? By you wanting to do a DNA test shows that you know deep down

that she is your blood sister, you just want assurance". He sighs.
"Tell me if I'm wrong". He shakes his head.

Him: "You are very much correct. I just want proof that she is indeed our sister, I know that she is. The resemblance is there, plus she has my nose". I laugh.

Me: "Then she must be ugly, phela wena umubi". He laughs, and shakes his head.

Him: "You are the last person to talk. If I were you I was going to do myself a favour, and continue drinking until I've had enough". He laughs. "You're so not ready for the reveal".

Me: "Argh, whatever. Since it was said that she is close to some people here in our clique, do I maybe know her"? He chuckles.

Him: "No, you don't. You love skirts too much".

Me: “Dude, I've changed. I have my eyes in one woman now, no more wandering around. It's time I grow up, and focus more on my life I am trying to change. That's why I am trying to limit my drinking”.

Him: “HmMMM, you must really love this girl for you to even want to change to be a better man, hhayi ndoda you're whipped”. I laugh.

Me: “You don't like it that I am changing to be a better man? I understand that is hard my friend, but you will be fine. You still have some drinking buddies, fish tanks that is”. He laughs.

Him: “God is indeed alive. A whole you changing? A fuck boy? God must be celebrating in heaven”! Chuckling. “You are missing one thing though”.

Me: “And that is”?

Him: "I hear you talking about change, and having eyes for one woman, but you still tag Athile to all our hostings"?

Me: "WTF? I didn't come with her, one of the girls must've invited her. Why would I invite someone who I've blocked everywhere? That girl is obsessed".

Him: "And obsessed girls are very dangerous. She might ruin a good thing for you, and this girl that you changing for".

Me: "That is when she will know what I'm made off. She will know me, and will regret ever crossing paths with me. Yhey, she will see her underground gang naked running on the streets". He laughs.

Him: "Yazi, you love that too much forgetting that she is married".

Me: "Yes, she is married, and definitely not inlove. So, I decided that I will propose love to her". He gasps.

Him: “WTF man? How are you going to do that? Do you think she will agree to dating you”? I chuckle.

Me: “She will have no choice, but to agree to be mine. I will treat her better than Zweli, in fact I will knock her down”. He laughs.

Him: “Whoa, whoa, we are talking pregnancy already? Boy, if you still value your life you will not dare knock her down”. I chuckle. “On the real though, have you thought about Zweli's feelings in all of this”?

Me: “Why would I think about another man's feelings? I am not gay, and no I don't care about his feelings. Is not like he will care anyway because he made it very clear from the word go that he doesn't love her, so I'll be sparing her the mystery”.

Him: “And your friendship”?

Me: "It will survive".

Him: "Hmmm, I see. Now, what will happen once she relocates to Pretoria"? I chuckle.

Me: "Dude, I relocate too. I will ask for transfer at work. Plus, I heard that she is studying pharmacy. You know what, I will ask Zweli to allow me to tutor her since I am familiar with pharmacy. Hau, we even doing the same thing" he laughs.

Him: "That's also an Idea, but don't make babies while tutoring her, She must complete her degree. Pregnancy is a no, no for now". I chuckle.

Me: "Yeah right. I'm sure you're feeling better now, I mean you're even smiling this shows that I made a good job. I made you laugh. So, when am I getting paid"?

Him: "Never. You the one who owes me not the other way around, hha".

Me: “TF? Erhh, I don't owe you shit! I've been meaning to ask, where is Crescentia? I haven't seen her since I got here”.

Him: “She went to a new restaurant launch”.

Me: “Who did she go with because Thabo is here bored as hell”?

Him: “With Nobuntu, and no they didn't tell me which restaurant because I know that's the following question that will come out of your mouth. She will meet us at the club later on”" I laugh. Mnqobi is useless, yoh.

“Guys the food is ready”. Londiwe.

Mnqobi: “We are coming shortly, we still busy talking important matters here. You can cover our food”. She nods, and walks away.

Me: "But I am hungry".

Him: "Go & eat, I am not in the mood".

Me: "I don't mind feeding you". Laughing.

Him: "Hhayi fok. You're one dumb fucker I've befriended, let's go".

We walk away laughing...

★»★«

NOBUNTU

Whoever is knocking is not giving up! I check the time, and it's just after 01:00am, TF! Who can that be because we dropped off Crecentia at some club. It can't be criminals either because

the house has guards, and a very tight security. It better be not Zweli or else, Ishuu, God, help me.

“Who is it”?

“It's me Nkanyiso”/ Haibo! What is Nkanyiso doing here so late?... I get up from the couch, and attend the door allowing him in. He comes in, he is drunk, and he reeks of alcohol mixed with a smell of weed.

Me: “What are you doing here so late”? He looks at me for sometime then cups my face, his hands are cold. He looks me in

the eyes, and he brings his face closer, our lips brush against each and he kisses me. I am standing here frozen, guys he just kissed me! He parted my lips apart, and I find myself kissing him back. Lord, I just sinned please forgive me, but temptation bahlali, I had to give in the devil is a liar. He breaks the kiss, and looks at me.

“I can't do this anymore. Nobuntu I love you. And it hurts that I can't have you because you're married, it hurts knowing that Zweli doesn't love you, but he is keeping you as a prisoner. I want to tell you one thing though, I will fight for you. Be it that my friendship with Zweli ends then let it be, because I can't change the way I feel about you”. He kisses my forehead, and places my face on his chest embracing me.

“I love you too” it comes out as a whisper. I didn't mean to say it out loud, but he heard me.

Him: “I know”. Checkmate. Now, where to from here?

26

NOBUNTU

Waking up to an empty bed is not what I was expecting, I was expecting that by the time I open my eyes Nkanyiso will be the first thing I see, pshhhh, I was just fooling myself. Maybe I read too much into this, I swear it was the alcohol in him declaring his love for me. Gosh, I am such a fool to even tell him that I love him too. I take my phone hoping that he sent me something, but nothing. Mxm ayikho lento. My phone rings and it's Crecentia I still can't get over what Snikelelo said about us being siblings. If it's true that she is my sister I will be very happy because I will finally have a sense of belonging, a real

sister who I can vent to without holding back anything. I take a deep breathe, and answer her.

“Centia”

“Hey, Buntu. How are you”?

Me: “Sad, but I will be fine. How are you”?

Her: “I am good too. Why are you sad”?

Me: “I had dream of my crush declaring his love for me only to find that I was dreaming, a bad dream that is”. She laughs.

Her: “You're so extra. Any plans for today”?

Me: “Burying myself with books”.

Her: "Can you please come and join us for Sunday lunch, if that's okay with you".

Me: "You & who and where"?

Her: "Me, Thabo, Mngqobi and Londiwe Mngqobi's fiancé"
I chuckle.

Me: "So, I am going to wine & dine with happy couples? I know that I am single, but there's no need to make it obvious".
She laughs.

Her: "You're a married woman in case you've forgotten, and you won't even notice that we are a couple. We are more like siblings together".

Me: "Single married that is. What time must I come & where"?

Her: "I will send you the location. Should I also send an uber for you or Khaya will bring you here"?

Me: "I'll ask Khaya to bring me. Should I bring something"?

Her: "No. Just bring your sexy self here with an empty stomach".

Me: "Not even wine"? She laughs.

Her: "We have a cabinet full of wine here don't worry".

Me: "Okay, I will be waiting for the details".

Her: "I can't wait to see you, and you won't regret coming".
I laugh.

Me: "I better not".

Her: "I promise. Love you, and see you later". She hangs up. I know that they want to take any print of me, and take it to the lab for testing. Hehehe, I will also pretend as if like I don't know anything. Now, should it happen that we are siblings, how are we going to work this out? Will my mother accept me as her daughter? I know that she has been denying my existence, but I have this tiny hope that she will remember me once she sees me. In all of this I also wish to find my father, I don't hate them, really I've long forgiven them. I climb out of bed, slip my feet into my slippers, I take my toiletries and go and take a bath.

★»★«

ZWELI

Natasha & I have decided to go on a vacation just to clear our minds, and relax. Now that we hardly see Langa things between us have gone back to normal she no longer talks about Langa of which it's a good thing. We will be on vacation for 2 weeks, we are going to Zanzibar.

“Are you packing your whole closet”? She laughs.

“Not really babe, but a girl got to have many clothes especially with the weather constant changing that side”.

Me: “I guess we are not going to buy clothes that side then”.
She squirms

Her: “What? I need new clothes these clothes are so old, and so out of fashion I need to keep up with the trends”.

Me: “But you just said you're packing for constant weather changing that side, now why must we buy clothes? It's either

you take these out of fashion clothes, and throw them away or give them to charity or burn them. We can't keep out of trends clothes, I mean some still have their tags on them”.

Her: “Okay, okay, I will only pack few clothes. Then I will give the rest to your fake wife I'm sure she will appreciate them”.

Me: “Get done packing we are leaving in 2 hours from now, I will go and check on my Emails so long”.

Her: “What about the clothes”?

Me: “Do whatever you want with them”. I tell her, and walk away. I get to the lounge, and I see a big black snake rolled itself comfortable on top of my couch, I am terrified of snakes. God knows how much I loathe them. I scream and run back to my room I throw myself in, and close the door locking it, breathing heavily.

“Hey hey, who is rushing you”? I shake my head I am unable to talk. “What is it Zweli? What happened”?

Me: "A snake... A huge snake on the lounge on top of the couch. There's a snake in the lounge".

Her: "What the hell? Where on earth did the snake come from, I mean we are staying in the suburbs for Christ's sake! Are you sure that you saw a snake"?

Me: "You think I'm crazy? I saw a fucken huge black snake in the lounge, go and see for yourself then come back, and tell me".

Her: "Are you crazy? You want it to bite me and possibly kill me? I think we should call the snake handler because I am not ready to die just yet".

Me: "Please call them". How on earth did a snake get inside the house? I mean, the doors are always locked, and the windows too. How did the fuck did it find itself in my lounge? Not just a snake, but a huge fucken Python, a black one for that matter. It is known that black represents evil, I have no doubt that

someone is bewitching me... What if Langa is the one who came with it, and hid it somewhere? No, maarn its impossible because we came together. I think it's someone in our clique who is jealous, now they using black magic on me. They won't succeed.

“The snake handler is on his way. I guess we will stay here in this room until he arrives, I still don't understand how a snake finds itself into the lounge”.

Me: “I suspect witchcraft. Someone is using black magic”.

Her: “It can only be La...”/ I cut her short.

Me: “Don't even start, she has nothing to do with this. I suspect that it's someone amongst our clique”.

Her: "Haibo Zweli. How can you even think such about our friends? We've known these people for years they can't possibly bewitch us".

Me: "I think I should let my father know maybe he might know something or ask the seer to come, and check out the house". She quickly stands up.

Her: "No. That won't be necessary, you can't tell your father about this. They might tell you to cancel the vacation, do you want that "? I shake my head. "Should it happen that it comes again, that is when we will take action, okay"? I nod.

Me: "Where on earth is this fucken snake handler"! Natasha's phone beeps. That must be him.

Her: "He's at the gate".

Me: "Go, and buzz him in then".

Her: "What? You go and buzz him in. You're the man of the house after all".

Me: "I am not going back out there, do you hear me? Or else we are going to lock ourselves in this room until the snake issue is sorted, I don't even know how it will be sorted because the snake handler will get tired of waiting, and eventually leave then we will be stuck with that fucken Python"!

Her: "You're such a coward Zweli! And we can't lock ourselves in this room, we have a plane to catch"!

Me: "Then come up with a plan"!

Her: "Stop shouting at me Zweli I am not a kid"!

Me: "And I am one seeing that you're busy shouting at me"?

Her: "Look, I am sorry for shouting at you babe. I'm just frustrated that there's nothing we can do regarding the snake situation. If the snake handler leaves, then we will be stuck with that Python. What are we going to do"?

Me: "I know that you won't like what I am about to suggest, but why don't we call Langa, and tell her to buzz the snake handler in that's if his still outside".

Her: "As much as I don't like that witch

Advertisement

but then as you've said we have no choice. Call her, and should it happen that the snake handler is gone she must come in here, and let us know".

Me: "What? Come inside the house with that Python in the lounge? What if it eats her"?

Her: "I don't care. As long as the snake will leave us the fuck alone". I nod. I take out my phone, and call her. She answers on the 3rd ring.

“Are you bored”? Is this how she usually answers her phone or kunyelwa mina?

Me: “Can you go, and buzz the snake handler in”.

Her: “Are you telling me or asking”?

Me: “I am telling you”.

Her: “No. I don't want to, and don't ever ask me for something if you can't utter a simple ‘please’ you lack manners”. I sigh. This girl really knows how to test me.

Me: “Okay. Can you please go, and buzz the snake handler in”?

Her: “That's better. But why don't you buzz him in yourself”?

Me: "There's a black Python sitting comfortable on my couch".

Her: "Seems like you're not very fond of surprise visits. Let me go, and buzz him in". She hangs up. What did she mean about "surprise visit" or could it be possible that was one of my ancestors visiting me? Impossible, never heard of ancestors that turn into snakes. This is all witchcraft, nothing else. Natasha is busy painting her nails. My phone rings, and it's Langa.

"There is no snake handler here".

Me: "He left already? That was quick, can you please do me another favour"?

Her: "I hope it doesn't require me calling the snake handler".

Me: “No. Can you please come inside the house just to check if the coast is clear”/ she laughs.

Her: “You want me to die? The last time I checked I was not allowed in that house”.

Me: “I know, but we are really desperate. I will get you anything you want”. Natasha stops painting her nails, and gives me a disapproving look.

Her: “I want a wine cabinet, and a mini bar freezer”.

Me: “I will get you them just do me this favour”/ she hangs up.

Natasha: “You will get her everything she wants? Really Zweli”?

Me: “Yes, I will”.

“It's clear. There's no uninvited guest you can come down”! Langa shouts from the lounge.

Me: “How sure are you”! I shout back.

Her: “Me letting you know should be evident enough that there's no snake, I need to get going. I am running late”.

Me: “Thank you. You heard her. the coast is clear you can go, and check”.

Her: “What”?

Me: “Time is running out we might as well cancel the vacation”.

Her: “You wouldn't dare. I will go, and check”. She tips toe out of the room, I chuckle. If the snake is no longer there, then

where did it disappear to? This house should be fumigated, just in case.

Her: "It's all clear, but where did it go"?

Me: "That's the question I'm asking myself".

★»★«

MNQOBI

Pacing up & down is not helping me. I am nervous about the lunch, I don't know how the lunch will go, and I haven't told my mother about Nobuntu yet.

“Stop pacing up & down you're making me dizzy”.

“I wish it was that easy Crecentia, I am so nervous. Do you think she will come”?

Her: “Don't be, and yes she will come. Relax she doesn't bite”.

Laughing.

Me: “I am trying to relax, trust me. Are you done setting the table? I mean, is food cooked thoroughly”? She laughs.

Her: “Everything is perfect, let's go, and sit down while waiting for her to arrive”.

Me: “Aren't we supposed to welcome her”? She laughs.

Her: "You will be making it obvious. Let's go, and sit down, and please behave like a normal person". She pulls me by my hand, and we walk to the garden that's where we will be having lunch. Londiwe is drinking her wine having a conversation with Thabo and this other guy that came with him. Apparently Crecentia wants to hook him up with Nobuntu. If only she knew that Nkanyiso will eliminate anything that threatens him in being with Nobuntu, except for Zweli of course. Londiwe doesn't know that Nobuntu might be a sister, she has a big mouth. All she knows is that Nobuntu is coming to join us for lunch as Crecentia's friend.

Londiwe: "Can't we just start eating already, I am hungry".

Me: "You can eat it's fine. The rest of us will wait for Nobuntu".

Her: "Pshhh, is she a Queen of London or something"? She rolls her eyes.

Me: "No, but she is Crecentia's friend, and we will wait for her no one is stopping you from eating".

“So sorry I'm late I had things to do”. Athile. What is she doing here”?

Londiwe: “You are right on time friend the Queen of London hasn't arrived yet. I hope you guys don't mind Athile, I invited her since everyone is inviting their friends”. I chuckle, and shake my head, I take my phone, and text Nkanyiso.

Crecentia: “Oh, it's fine. The more the merrier, but where is your date”?

Her: “Nkanyiso is having lunch with his family, so he couldn't come”.

Crecentia: “Then why are you not with them? I mean, you are the girlfriend right”?

Her: “Oh, I didn't want to intrude”.

Crecentia: "That doesn't make sense".

Londiwe: "Can we dish up now"?

Crecentia: "Mnqobi said eat, no one is stopping you".

Her: "Fine. Friend you can dish up for yourself because the Queen of London is not arriving anytime soon".

"I guess I'm that Queen. Greetings everyone, and I'm so sorry for arriving this late, my driver got lost". she smiles, Crecentia stands up, and hugs her. Londiwe chuckles...

Her: "Welcome babe. You can take a seat next to Lumphindo".

Nobuntu: "Thank you Crecentia".

Her: "Let me introduce you to everyone. This is Mngqobi my brother, you know him so I don't even why am I introducing him". Laughter. "This is Londiwe his fiancé, and that is Thabo my boyfriend, and Lumphindo. Last but not least Athile. Everyone this is Nobuntu".

Nobuntu: "Great to meet all of you".

Londiwe: "Do you use make-up"?

Her: "No. Why"?

Londiwe: "I was going to be shocked at the fact that even make-up can't hide your ugliness" she chuckles, then looks at Athile.

Her: "Care to share your experience of name calling me with her"?

Athile: "Never mind her. Let's eat".

Luphindo: So, Nobuntu. After here, dessert at my place"?
She chuckles.

Her: "I will pass, thank you".

Him: "Why are you playing hard to get? You are hard to want
anyway"/

Her: "Then why are you busy entertaining me"?

Londiwe: "Because you look like an attention seeker. First we
had to wait for you as if you're someone important, now you
are trying to act fresh on us"?

Crecentia: "Do something Mngqobi. Reprimand them
or something" I chuckle.

Me: "Don't worry".

Luphindo: "So, dessert in my house"?

Her: "No! And can you please stop touching me you are making me uncomfortable".

Athile: "Stop acting fresh, allow the guy to entertain you, you won't die".

Her: "No. I don't want him to entertain me, and please stop touching me inappropriately, you are making me uncomfortable".

Luphindo: "Don't be uptight. It's just a touch".

"You heard the lady. Stop touching her, and move out of that chair I will take it from here. I don't want to repeat myself, move". Luphindo looks at him, and quickly stands up. He

goes, and sit next to Athile. Nkanyiso sits down next to Nobuntu, everyone looks at them confused.

Me: “Welcome man”.

Him: “Thanks My G”.

Athile: “I thought...”. He cut her short.

Him: “I am not here for you, I am here for Mnaobi. We can start eating”.

27

[NARRATED]

After Nkanyiso arrival the table became awkward for Athile, Crecentia, Londiwe and Thabo. Mngobi is very much pleased with his presence since he's the one called him.

Thabo: "Hau dude, I thought that you were having lunch with the family".

Nkanyiso: "I was, but my presence was needed here so I had to leave in the middle of lunch".

Athile: "But, I've asked you to come with me, and you refused".

Nkanyiso: "That's because we are not dating, and I wasn't in the mood to see your face. You Mr over there, why were you busy touching Nobuntu in an appropriate manner even when she told you not too"?

Londiwe: "Why do you care whether he touches her or not? What's in it for you"?

Nkanyiso: "I wasn't talking to you Londiwe. You should really learn to mind your business, you're old. Start acting your age, and stop meddling in other people's discussion". She gasps upon hearing Nkanyiso telling her that.

Athile: "That's not nice Nkanyiso. She was asking, why do you care so much for the girl for you to even leave in the middle of the family lunch just for her or are you fucking her"? Nobuntu stops playing with her food, and everyone divert their attention to Nkanyiso. He chuckles, and looks at them.

Nkanyiso: "Even if I was fucking her, is there a problem"? He asks his hand caressing Nobuntu's thigh. Londiwe laughs, and gives a very jealous Athile a look.

Londiwe: "Of course there is! She is married to your best friend Nkanyiso, how heartless can you be"!

Crecentia: “Yet you were ready to give her to Lumphindo on a silver platter knowing very well that she's married? Now, how heartless is that”?

Athile: “But this is different Nkanyiso. He is a stranger while you are his best friend, there's a big gap there”.

Nkanyiso: “Different my foot. Why are you defending him? Are you also fucking him”?

Nobuntu: “This is unnecessary guys, can we please enjoy the meal without quarrelling”.

Londiwe: “And who are you tell us what to do? This is my fiancé's house, not your house”. Nobuntu chuckles.

Athile: “Yes, tell her. She thinks she's all that, as if we enjoy seeing her ugly face”!

Mnqobi: “Th...”. Nobuntu cuts him short.

“Allow me. This is between me & your fiancé, and Nkanyiso's want to be girlfriend”. Londiwe laughs.

Londiwe: “Between us? Girl you're not in our league, we can never have a ‘between us. Know your types”.

Nobuntu: “Yet you're shaken by my mere presence, in fact at the mention of my name you all get worked up, and resort to calling me names. I mean, don't you ladies ever get tired of saying the same thing every day? ‘You are ugly? It's boring, and getting pretty old. If you want to take me on, come to me with your qualifications, hold a deep and sensible conversation with me. You're right about one thing though; me not being on your league because our level of thinking it's not the same. I can't be talking make-up, weaves & new fashion trends everyday. Once in a while we have to talk about currency, the happenings that are happening around the world, challenge each others intelligence, you know. Tell me here, if we were to sit down over brunch just the 3 of us, will any of you be able to hold a decent meaningful conversation with me”? They all look at her,

and none of the girls say anything. “Thought as much. Next time choose your battles wisely, you may call me names, but I'm still far better than the both of you combine. Mngqobi, I don't want to lie to you. I don't like your fiancé, she is rude and very disrespectful. Should it happen that you marry her, do me a favour and don't invite me because I won't come”.

Londiwe: “Leave”! Nobuntu laughs.

Nobuntu: “Look at you. You can't even utter few sentences to me. You're are clearly not in my league, and no. I will not leave, and another thing. What I do with Nkanyiso, it's none of your business. You girls should mind your own, can we eat now? I'm really hungry”.

Crecentia: “In your face bitches”.

Nkanyiso: “I am proud of you, and you look beautiful by the way”. They look at each other, and smile.

Nobuntu: “Thank you, and you not looking bad yourself. You tried” they both laugh.

Athile just looks at them with jealousy written all over her face. She is not going to allow a mere village girl like Nobuntu to take Nkanyiso away from her. She will not let that happen, Nkanyiso is what he needs in a man, and she will make sure that she gets him. It's time she talks to Makhosazana to introduce her to that powerful healer that she always told her about, she will also have to eliminate Nobuntu. She looks at Londiwe, they're communicating with their eyes.

Luphindo: “This is absurd! Why did you even invite me here, huh? I mean, even this Nobuntu girl is behaving like a whore, who jumps from one dick to another”. Nkanyiso's face changes, and he squeezes Nobuntu's thigh. Nobuntu puts her hand on top of his, and squeezes it. He turns to look at her, and she shakes her head for Nkanyiso not to react.

Mnqobi: “How dare you! I've had enough of you disrespecting Nobuntu”! He is already throwing in punches at Luphindo. The

girls are asking him to stop, while Thabo is trying to break them apart.

“Nkanyiso do something! He is killing him”! Athile calls out for Nkanyiso, who doesn't even seem bothered by any of it. Athile looks at them, and sees how Nkanyiso looks at Nobuntu. He never looks at her like that, not once. He never even smiled at her, yes they are fuck buddies, but she has fallen in love with him. She will have to act fast on her plan. Nobuntu catches her looking at her, and she smiles at her and whispers in Nkanyiso's ear.

“Go and break them apart before Mngqobi kills him, and we have to talk”. Nkanyiso chuckles, and nods at her. Nkanyiso stands up, and in just one pull he yanks Mngqobi up. Lumphindo is on the floor all bloodied, and coughing blood. Athile & Crecentia run to Lumphindo's aid, who looks badly beaten. Nobuntu stands up, and takes Mngqobi inside the house to clean him up.

Nkanyiso: “Leave at this instant before I do more damage to you, and I don't ever want to see your face. If you still value

what's left of your life, you will get up from that grass, and leave". Lumphindo stands up, and stuggers while walking away, Londiwe just stands there, and looks at everything taking place.

Thabo & Crecentia are dumbfounded by what's going on between Nobuntu & Nkanyiso, they looked so cozy. Of which raises questions to them as individuals. What was supposed to be a peaceful lunch turned out to be something else just because two women couldn't keep it to themselves...

★»★«

MNQOBI

“You sure as hell gave him a beating he will never forget”. They both laugh, Nobuntu busy nursing my hands.

“He pushed me. I'm sorry that you had to witness that”.

Nobuntu: “It's okay really. You don't have to apologize, you did what you did best defending your... I mean, a woman”. I look at her, is it possible that she knows about us being siblings? If yes

then how did she know? This is going to be easier than I've thought, I will just hold a conversation with her, and ask her a few questions about her upbringing, now more than ever I have no doubt that this girl right here is my sister.

Mnqobi: “And the lunch turned into a big disaster, I'm sorry.

We will make it up to you”.

Her: “Stop apologizing, it doesn't suit you. Phela you look like those guys who takes no nonsense from anyone”. He laughs.

Mnqobi: "Stop joking. Now, what's going on between you & Nkanyiso"? Nobuntu looks down smiling.

Her: "It's all just a bad dream that I wish I can wake up from".

She sighs.

Me: "How so? I mean, you guys look happy together".

Her: "I know. He truly does make me happy, but I am a married woman".

Me: "You call what you have with Zweli marriage? That's no marriage, that's a joke. I doubt he even makes you happy like Nkanyiso does". She chuckles. "Or am I wrong"? He raises his brow.

Her: "Are you trying to hook me up with your friend"? She stops bandaging my hands, and looks at me straight in the eyes.

Me: "Will that be a bad thing? I'm sure that you also love him the same way he loves you. I mean my friend is head over heels in love with you".

Her: "I know, but we can never be together"/

Me: "What will stop you? And don't tell me about that married woman bullshit, because we both know that's not an excuse".

Her: "Well, I heard some rumours of how much of a player he is, and he changes girls like under wear, and there's this Athile chick who seems to be to obsessed with him".

Me: "That girl is just forcing things. Nkanyiso is trying to change for you, he wants to be a better man in order to be with you. You should hear how he talks about you, the thousands of stolen pictures on his phone, I mean you are even his wallpaper. Guy loves you".

Her: "Enough about me. So, you are really going to marry Londiwe"? I chuckle.

Me: "Not anymore. She has shown me that she is very disrespectful, and I don't like how she calls you with names as if she's perfect. Today was the last straw, I am calling off the engagement". She chuckles.

Her: "I don't want to sound heartless, but good riddance to bad rubbish. I really don't like her for you, you deserve better".

Me: "Hau. You don't even know her, she is not that bad. It's just that she has a choice in choosing wrong friends".

Her: "That doesn't justify her actions. She acts like a hooligan, and she's too old for her behaviour. No brother of mine is going to marry a disrespectful woman like Londiwe, you rather st..." she stops talking midway, and looks down. I guess she realizes what she just said, I mean she called me his brother, this is so awesome.

Me: “Hey, look at me”. She shakes her head. “You don't have to be embarrassed about the fact that you called me ‘brother’ because it's the truth. I am your brother, your big brother that is”. She chuckles.

Her: “Is that why you invited me for lunch? You wanted to take any print of me and take it to the lab for DNA testing”? I scratch my head, and nod. She laughs. “You should've just asked me, you know”.

Me: “It was not that easy. I did not want to come out as weird, after Crecentia told me that you might be our sister I was

shocked because it never crossed my mind that we can be siblings”. She chuckles. “But then your upbringing and Crecentia are very similar, and when she showed me a picture of you I noticed some resemblance, and you have my pointy nose. It was no doubt that you were my sister”.

Her: “Then why did you wanted a DNA test if you sure that I'm your sister or you wanted some kind of assurance”?

Me: "Maybe" laughing.

Her: "Let's say you did the test, and the results came out positive. How would you have approached me with the revelation"? I laugh, honestly I don't know how I would've approached the revelation really. "So, you had no plan"? I shake my head, and she laughs.

Me: "None whatsoever, and I'm sure Crecentia wouldn't know too". She laughs.

Her: "Well, I've just saved your ass, and I heard that you were defending me even way before you knew that we are siblings" I chuckle.

Me: "I guess it was a distant bond. How did you find out that we are siblings"?

Her: "A prophetess told me".

Me: "I take it it's the same prophetess who told to me to find you".

"Snikelelo" we say same time, and we laugh.

Her: "Let's go to the others before your fiancé comes here blazing fire".

Me: "No. Let them be. We are still bonding, I want to know everything about you, and what was Nkanyiso doing in your room last night after telling us that he is going to the toilet" she

laughs. "He even left his car, making us believe that he is coming back". She laughs, okay, she likes laughing.

Her: "And I thought that I was dreaming, because when I woke up in the morning he wasn't next to me". She covers her eyes, and shakes her head.

Me: “You were not dreaming. It was real, but I had to wake him up before your manyala husband arrived”. She laughs.

Her: “You know, I also call him Manyala of a husband, and I stored him as Manyala vele”. We both laugh.

Me: “He is Manyala indeed. So, about you and Nkanyiso”. She chuckles, and stands up from the couch.

Her: “Nothing, nothing at all”.

“Why didn't you tell us that you took the fun to the bedroom? We are busy waiting for you outside”. Crecentia tells us stepping inside the bedroom.

Nobuntu: “Hha.ah sister we were catching up as brother & sister, and you had to ruin that by coming unannounced”. Her face lits up.

Her: “Oh my God, does this mean that...”? She points at herself then at Nobuntu. I nod, and she goes and attacks Nobuntu with hugs. “This is so great, but how? I mean, when”?

Me: “It doesn't matter. What matters most is that we've found each other, and we are all the we have. We need to be each others support system”.

Nobuntu: “We are not all that we have, we have a big family from our mother's side. A very big family that is, iyoh. They can fill up a bus”.

Me: “You know our mother's family? God, this is great. I can't believe that we actually have a family”.

Crecentia: “We will have to make a day, and talk as siblings then find a way forward”.

Nobuntu: “And how you're going to break such a bomb to your mother, I hope that she accepts me, and do what's right”.

Me: "She will have too. I will talk to her".

Crecentia: "I can't believe this. No wonder I loved you so much, and the bond was too real. I've finally find myself a shopping buddy". Nobuntu laughs...

Me: "There's one last thing I want to do, let's go outside".

Crecentia: "What's that"?

Me: "I am about to break someone's heart".

Her: "Wow. Okay, let's go". We all walk out of my room laughing. Getting outside we find Nkanyiso is sittig with Thabo

they are busy playing with their phones, Athile & Londiwe are having a very intense conversation.

Me: "I'm sure he is busy looking at your pictures, that's what he does everyday". Nobuntu chuckles. I clear my throat, and they look at us.

"I wonder what you were doing with that whore". Athile says.

Londiwe: "I'm sure she was opening legs for him". I chuckle.

Me: "Londiwe". She looks at me, and roll her eyes.

Her: "Yes"?

Me: "I am calling off the engagement, and I want you out my house with immediate effect. Pack all your shit, you can have the ring". She stands up, tears are prickling her eyes.

Her: "You are joking right babe"?

Me: “Unfortunately no. You are not worthy to be a wife, especially to me”.

Her: “Baby please. I'm sorry, I promise not to disrespect you or call Nobuntu by names anymore”. She kneels before me, and hugs my knees.

Me: “No. You've emotionally abused my sister, and that ends today”.

Thabo: Wait, your sister? How did she emotionally abuse Crecentia”?

Me: “I am not talking about Crecentia. I'm talking about Nobuntu”.

Them: “What”?

BONIWE

It's been close to a week now without seeing any results. Thabile came back 4 days ago, and Mbuso really did block me. I am beginning to think that the Inyanga is fake, and Makhosazana has really taken me to a con man. This Thabile woman is beautiful, and thick too I think Mbuso loves his women thick. Makhosazana showed me a picture of her, she also came twice to bring Mbuso lunch. Trying to avoid Mbuso is not easy seeing that I see him everyday, but yena he knows how to plainly ignore me. It's my lunchtime now, I decide to call Nobuntu so that we can catch up, it's been long since I last spoke to her. I've been really neglecting her, I am about to dial her number when a message comes through and it's from Makhosazana.

★The results are showing. The rain is pouring inside the house

★

I end up not calling Nobuntu, I decide to call her, she answers after few minutes.

“Girl, the muti is working. Thabile came here at home complaining that Mbuso is mistreating her, and he has suddenly changed overnight”

“You don't say girl, and here I was thinking that you took me to a fake sangoma”.

Her: “Hhayi wena. I will never mislead you. You will finally be with your man, got to go I will see you later”. She hangs up. I lean back on the chair, and smile. Well, everything is coming alright just fine it's only a matter of time before he runs to my arms, and I will gladly welcome him. I finish eating my lunch, and pack up when I see him going towards his office, I smile alone. He doesn't look too happy, my phone rings, and it's the office number. I look at it, and not answer it he will have to wait, after all he was the one ignoring me. My phone rings again, and it's him I look at it, and play candy crush.

“I've been calling you, and you are busy playing candy crush, are you making me a fool”?

“What do you want Mbuso? Tired of your girlfriend already”?

Him: “You are my girlfriend, and I demand to see you in my office in 2 minutes, should you not come I will drag you by myself. You have 2 minutes to come to my office”. He clicks his tongue, and walk away. Okay, Makhosazan a didn't warn me that the muti will turn him in to a bully. I mean, he just bullied me into going to his office, I stand up, and walk to his office, from a distance I see Thabile approaching his office. Let me up my pace, I need to know what they are talking about, as soon as she closes the door I am already listening in...

“Mbuso, please tell me what I did and I will make it right”.

Him: “Leave my sight Thabile you disgust me”!

Her: “At least tell me what is it that I did, and I promise to leave. We were fine just this morning, what changed”?

Him: "What changed is that I no longer love you. I fell out of love with you Thabile, leave I am in love with someone else".

Her: "But we've been through a lot together Mbuso. I will give you the baby you always wanted just give us one more chance, just one". I roll my eyes.

Him: "No Thabile! Stand up, and leave my office right now, Out"! I knock twice, and the door yanks open. Thabile is blocking the door looking at me straight in the eyes, her ears are puffy. You can see gore she was crying.

Her: "Is it you? Is it you who took my man away from me"? I look at her, and she grabs me by my t-shirt pulling me inside the office/ "Is this her Mbuso? How is she better than me? Tell me how dammit"!

Him: "Yes it's her, and she is better than you in so many ways. Now leave my office, and never come back. While at it pack everything of yours, and leave my house".

Her: "You're doing this to me Mbuso? Please Mbuso you can date the both of us, just don't break up with me".

Me: "Sisi, you had your chance with him. It's time to let go of me, and allow us to date in peace".

Her: "Have you have no heart"?

Me: "A heart for what? The only heart I have is to love Mbuso, so please see yourself out and leave us the hell alone. Stop acting desperate, Mbuso doesn't want you. Leave while you have some dignity left, a begging woman it's unattractive".

Mbuso: "You heard my woman. Leave while you still have some dignity, I do not want to drag you out of my office, and embarrass you to my workers". I turn Mbuso's face to me and

kiss him, his hands find themselves resting in my arse caressing them, while my other hand find itself at the front of his bulge, I unzip his zip, and takes out his shaft. I can hear Thabile's sobs behind us, why is she still here again? Sigh. I break the kiss and turn to look at her.

Me: “What are you still doing here? Thought you've left

Advertisement

or maybe you can't seem to open the door”? Mbuso pushes me towards the table, and lifts up my skirt. We are about to have a quickie before his ex girlfriend presence. He parts my legs apart, shifts my panty to the side with his free hand since the other one is caressing my boob. I can feel his shaft in the entrance, in just one push he is in. I bite my lower lip as he fucks me slowly... “Leave. Your time with him is up, he is mine now”. I mouth to her, and smile. She shakes her head while crying, and rush out of the office. I giggle as Mbuso continues pleasuring me, this is confirmation enough that he is mine, and mine alone...

★»★«

KHETHIWE [Queen]

There's nothing that annoys me than to constantly on check who is following me when I come to my witch. Madlala is situated in a very secluded area, where cars pass one a month. She is a very powerful traditional healer, she disappears problems for me. This time I want to make Nobuntu to dissapear, and never to be heard of again. She is one problem that I don't like. I take of my shoes, and step inside the scary looking hut.

“Welcome my child”.

“Thank you Ma”.

Her: “Unfortunately I can't help you with what you came to do today. They've finally reunited, there is no way you can get to her instead you will be the one disappearing”.

Me: “What? How is that even possible? The plan was for them to never cross paths, what happened”!

Her: “Fate played it's role. It even surpassed our black magic there's nothing I can do from here”.

Me: “Dammit. The truth can't come out now, we will have to make the King sick just to derail the set meeting since we can't kill him”.

Her: “That can be arranged, but there's another problem”.

Me: “What is it”?

Her: "Someone from the past have paid your son a visit". No, no, this is impossible.

Me: "What? But how? Why is everything coming out so fast? Isn't there anything we can do to stop him from visiting him"?

Her: "You're demanding a lot. For us to make it stop visiting there must be a sacrifice".

Me: "Sacrifice? What sacrifice"?

Her: "You will know soon".

Me: "But why is everything coming out so fast? A lot of my skeletons are crawling out from out of nowhere". Then I remembered that girl from the restaurant warning me about them, what if she is the one behind them coming out? Phela once the secretes come out, a lot of people will be hurt, and I will die.

Her: "The old one have finally opened the gate. Their reunion made the old one to open the gates, but we need to hold the last gate once they meet the final puzzle".

Me: "What is it"?

Her: "We need to double chain the mother, so that the newly found sibling doesn't get through her. Her heart must be hardened at her sight, she must something else when looking at her."/

Me: "Do whatever it takes to save my marriage, and my reputation. Make sure that all my secrets stay buried".

Her: "I will do so my child, but I must warn you. There is a big war coming, you may go".

Me: "War? What war"?

Her: "A war of a century. A war which you yourself won't win". She disappears, who is bringing the war? This is bad very bad, the King must be poisoned with something that will make him bedridden. I stand up, and walk back to my car. Upon opening my car I find a huge black snake filling my entire car, I drop my keys, and scream. There gates are indeed open, the witch better come through for me.

★»★«

NKANYISO

Since Zweli is on a vacation with Natasha I've asked Nobuntu to come, and stay with me, apparently she is scared of staying

alone. Her being around it's a totally a lot of fun, I still can't believe that she's Mngqobi's sister to think that she always defended her, I guess they have a deep bond. Athile, has been coming to my house announced, and luckily for me she always comes when Nobuntu is not around. I've even changed the locks, I also told the security not to let her in. Cooking, have also become part of my daily routine... My phone rings, and it's Ziyanda.

“Brother”.

“Dad called a meeting, do you have any idea what is it about”?

Me: “No clue man. He sounded very angry over the phone”.

Him: “I guess we will know at the meeting”.

Me: “Cool, see you then” he hangs. I wonder why my dad wants a meeting, once he requests for a meeting someone did some

shit, but who? Ai. I turn off the stove, and go and check up on Nobuntu she has been taking a bath for almost an hour now, of which is unusual. Stepping inside my room I find her stark naked looking at her bruised body on the mirror. At least some bruises are fading away, but except for some scars. Tears are running down her cheeks, she has s beautiful body that I won't lie, as much as I am turned on sex is the last thing that should be on my mind right now. I walk up to her, and touch her

shoulders. She jumps, and tries to pick the robe that's on the floor I stop her, and make her to face the mirror.

Me: “You do not have to be ashamed or hide your bruises in my presence. These are marks that shows that you've been through a lot but you survived. These should remind you of the pains you've endured, you have to embrace them and accept that they are part of your life. Be comfortable in them. They are your scars, they are your tattoos. Love them just the way I love you, you are strong wena my love. From now on I want you to believe in yourself, and start loving your body unconditional. Loving yourself first is very important, I love you just the way you are. I love you with your flaws & shit, you my girl, and I will ride & die with you”. I turn her to face me, and I kiss her tears then pull her into my embrace. She couldn't help it, but weep on my chest. This woman right here, is what I will live for.

29

NOBUNTU

Nkanyiso left to his father's house his father called a family meeting. I don't know if I should say I'm lucky or what, but Nkanyiso has really showed me the other side of love that I never knew existed. With each day passing by I find myself falling deeper and deeper in love with him. Who knew that my

life will turn out for a better after all the abuse I went through, and the pain that I've endured? God, is amazing I don't want to lie to you. He made it possible for me to meet up with my siblings, and giving me a man who loves me with my flaws, and all. Someone who is not ashamed to claim me as his, I don't know what is it that we are doing, but no man it feels right. Another thing I hope Zweli agrees to me being in a relationship with Nkayiso, I will have to talk to him when he comes back from his vacation. Since I did not come with my clothes I settle for Nkanyiso's track pants & T-shirt, I look funny in them not forgetting his size 11 shoes. Me & Humpty Dumpty same WhatsApp group, I take my laptop, and walk out of his bedroom. His lives in a 6 roomed house, and he has outside rooms that are occupied by tenants. Oh, and there house is full of surveillance I don't even know why he needs one. My phone

rings, and it's Crecentia she is video calling me, lately she prefers video calling than talk with me over the phone.

“You look so damn sexy in his T-shirt. I thought that I was going to find you in his chest, what a dissapointment”. I laugh.

“You called too late”.

Her: “Whatever. So, today Mnqobi is going to tell our mother about you”.

Me: “God, I hope that she will want to meet with me because I am looking forward to building a mother-daughter relationship with her”.

Her: “She will want to meet you just to make sure that you're really her daughter, and we've got the results that proves that you are her daughter. So, she will be left with no choice, but to accept you and do what's right by you”.

Me: “That's my only wish. Where is Thabo”?

Her: “He is at work, I've been meaning to ask when last did you talk to Makhosazana”?

Me: "It's been long. Every time I try to call her or Boniwe its either they are busy or their phones are always off. Why are you asking"?

Her: "I am asking because I once saw her with what used to be your servant, they were going to some traditional healer, that man is said to be powerful".

Me: "I wonder what they were doing there because Boniwe knows that if she doesn't feel well, she must call the seer back home he will know what to do. Maybe she was accompanying Makhosazana, who knows".

Her: "Maybe you're right, but I have this bad vibe about them yazi. They make my skin crawl, especially Makhosazana".

Me: "Hau, yet here I was thinking that you are all friends, wasn't she making your skin crawl back then"? She shakes her head. "I can't really say much about her, but she seems like a good person, and she also welcomed me with warm hands. She never made fun of me like some of your girls from your clique".

Her: “Maybe I am reading too much into this. Anyway, let me get back to work I have customers who are looking at me like they want to kill me”.

Me: “When are you doing my hair”?

Her: “Any time you are free, you can always pop in, and I swear to God, I will attend you first” laughing.

Me: “Awww, the perks of having connections with salon owners. I will stop by soon, and please tell Mngobi to call me once he has finished talking to your mother”.

Her: “She's also your mother you better normalize calling her that, bye”. She ends the video call. I pray that Mngobi gets

through our mother, I really need her, maybe she might even tell us about our father. All of a sudden I get this urge of wanting to pray, I mean this has never happened before, and praying no longer excites me hence I've stopped praying.

“Listen to the voice. Don't brush it away. Kneel down now, and don't doubt the power of prayer”. I swear I can hear Snikelelo telling me, this is scary, but let me satisfy the urge. What am I going to say though? I mean, I always prayed to God to give me a better life, and save me from the abuse of my grandmother. Now, that he has helped me what must I say? Sighs, well, there goes nothing. I kneel down...

★Heavenly father. Here I am kneeling before you asking for your guidance & protection from any harm that is threatening to come my way. From these snakes that are waiting to strike me, may their plans not succeed. I would also like to thank you for the gift of life, and everything I have currently. May you soften my mother's heart, so that she will accept me as her daughter. I plead with you God, to please lead me through a right path, I am a sinner, yes I know, but God I am a human & I make mistakes. I

give everything to you, every battle that is threatening my life I
leave it in your hands, I call upon the blood of Jesus to cover me.
In whatever you do in my life, may you
also do it to Nkanyiso. Protect him from any harm, not
forgetting my siblings. In Jesus name, I believe that it is
done. Amen★

I get up from the floor. Well, that's the least I can do in terms of
praying, and I hope he has heard my prayer. Let me go, and
make myself something to eat then bury myself with
assignments.

★»★«

NKANYISO

It is only now that my father decides to grace us with his presence. He looks good in his 3 piece suit, he looks like a real business man. He greets us, and sit down on the single couch, it

is only my brothers & I. I guess one of us fucked up, and it's definitely not me, dad is about to reprimand us.

“Thank you for coming sons. We have a delegate issue to discuss about one of you boys. One of you is behaving like a bitch, a whore for that matter”. Eh.eh, who is that bitch now? “He better show himself before I point him out, and deal with him”. We all look at each other.

Ziyanda: “Bitch, please spare us your father's wrath and show yourself”.

Mbuso: “Why doesn't he just point out the bitch, and get this over and done with I have a woman to go & entertain, she needs my attention”.

Nkosikhona: “I have no doubt that the bitch is Nkanyiso. He is a womanizer after all, we all know that. Dad, now that we know who the bitch is, can you tell us what he did, I mean we don't have all day some of us have lives”. The others laugh, mxm.

Me: “Stop right there Nkosi. I am a changed man now, I am no longer the fuck boy you know. Maybe its you since you date married women, enhlek one of these days we will bury you”.

Mbuso: “Point out the bitch already Mveli, or you called us here to listen to these 2 yapping like teenage girls”?

Him: “Mbuso. I am your father, mind how you talk to me or I will smack your head”!

Mbuso: “You wouldn't dare Mveli, I am not that young boy anymore I will stand my ground this time”. Dad chuckles.

Him: “You've grown some balls young man, I see. Is that why you had sex with one of our workers in front of Thabile”? We all look at Mbuso.

Mbuso: “So, she ran to you? How childish of her. I told her straight up that me & her are done, I see that she doesn't take being dumped very well. She is still a young girl”.

Ziyanda: “When did you start seeing that she is still a young girl because you were happy few days ago”?

Him: “I saw that a long time, but I did not have the courage to end things with her. Now that I have found a woman I love, I saw no need to keep her in my life anymore”.

Dad: “When did you realize that you love this girl”?

Him: "We've been dating for a while now".

Nkosikhona: "So, you are just going to forget about Thabile after everything you've been through together for this new girl? Thabile stood by you when you had nothing, she helped you to become the man that you are today. All the sacrifices she made for you"?

Him: "I've never asked her to do all those things for me. She did them willingly"/ I chuckle.

Me: "Basically she was building you for another woman who doesn't know your struggles? Who wasn't there for you when you had your episodes? A complete stranger who doesn't know you? You are throwing all that away? I hope the new pussy is worth it big brother".

Him: "It is. Because I want to send the uncles to her family, and yes, her pussy is better than Thabile's. I mean, she couldn't even give me a baby for the 11 years that we were together. She is useless

and not woman enough”. I laugh.

Ziyanda: “What the actual fuck! You've been with this girl for what? 2 minutes, and you already want to pay Lobola for her? What happened to take time to know her first? And you know the reason why Thabile couldn't give you a baby”.

Him: “I know enough about her to know that I want to make her my wife. The reason is that Thabile doesn't bear any children, there is no such as sacred womb. She is a barren finish & klaar”.

Nkosikhona: “But you couldn't send the uncles to Thabile's house to pay Lobola on your behalf”?

Him: “I will not keep on telling you guys the same thing every now & then. It's tiring, honestly. I guess the meeting is adjourned. Can we leave now”? Dad chuckles, and shakes his head.

Dad: "Listen here boy, and listen to me very carefully. You're going to fix things with Thabile, and make sure that you end things with this so-called girlfriend of yours or I will strangle that love portion out of your system boy. Do you hear me". Mbuso laughs.

Him: "I will not fix things with her, she needs to go and take a bath because I couldn't stand her small too. Oh, and for your information I was not fed love portion".

Nkosikhona: "Udlisiwe wena nja! And, I for one won't accept this new girlfriend of yours".

Him: "I don't give a fuck whether you accept her or not, but one way or the other she is going to be my wife. Dad, you better tell the uncles to prepare themselves".

Dad: "No one is going to pay Lobola for that girl, and she is not welcomed in this family, and she will never be welcomed. Since, you are a man enough I am going to strip you off everything you have. This girl of yours better be with you till the end seeing that you're going to start afresh. I will be freezing your

accounts with immediate effect, let's see how you are going to survive this, and I hope that girl will stand your episodes since you don't take being broke very well. Just don't kill her in the process. Meeting adjourned". He stands up, and walks away.

Ziyanda: "You've just lost your family for a new pussy. I don't support this new sudden relationship, I hope by the time you realized what you've lost it won't be too late". He stands up, and walks away too.

Nkosikhona: "All I can say to you is uyinja, bloody Satan. Yerrr, may your dick never erect... You annoy me, and I'm glad that I never followed in your footsteps, bloody msoon. RHA, you irritate me maarn, mxm". He looks at him, and shakes his head.

"You are a dissapointment to manhood, and that girlfriend of yours better not come here or else, hhe". He clicks his tongue and walk away. Nkosikhona is not one to get pissed easily, but Mbuso pushed his last button. She really loved Thabile, well, we all did. She was the sweetest of them all, and very respectful. I'm sure the girl is Boniwe, but why didn't Nobuntu tell me that they are dating?

“Fuck this family, fuck Thabile, fuck the riches, and fuck you too Nkanyiso. Futhy don't ever come to my office”/ I laugh.

Me: “Office? What office? You have nothing on your name man, you are just a man with nothing. Oh, and fuck you too”.

Him: “Tsek rubbish”. I laugh.

Me: “Whatever mdeed”. I stand up, and walk away. What did this Boniwe girl do to Mbuso? This is not the Mbuso I know that girl must've done something to him.

★»★«

BONIWE

My phone rings, and it's a number I don't know. The plan is to ignore it, but let me answer it since Makhosazana is busy making us something to eat...

“Boniwe speaking, how can I help you”? There's a person sniffing on the other side. “Talk or just hang up dammit”!

“Hi. It's Thabile, Mbuso's girlfriend”.

Me: “Correction. You're his ex so please stop referring yourself as his girlfriend. How can I help you”?

Her: “Can you please be considerate, and end things with Mbuso”. I laugh. “He is the only man I've been with all my life, he is my first everything, and I cannot live without him”.

Me: “But, you did live without him the time you were in America. He is not yours, get that into your head. Better yet,

say it repeatedly until you let it sink in. Have some dignity, and stop begging for a dick”/ I hang up.

“That was intense. Who was it”? She asks me placing the food on top of the table.

Me: “It's your ex Skwiza. She was telling me to end things with Mbuso, apparently he is her first” she laughs.

Her: “She needs to get a life, and accept that Mbuso doesn't want her any more. The sooner she accepts that, the better for everyone. I can't wait for him to introduce you to the family, it's going to be so cool”.

Me: “I am also excited you know, but don't you think it will be too soon seeing that he just ended things with Thabile”?

Her: “Not at all. She is history, and you're the in thing”. We both laugh. Her doorbell rings. “I wonder who it is”.

Me: "Go, and check".

Her: "No. Whoever she is must leave. People know that if you come to my house you make an appointment, you just don't come unexpected".

Me: "You might as well attend to whoever since they are at the door". She rolls her eyes, and go and attend to the door. She comes back with some girl who looks like a mess, she has been crying this one.

Her: "Urh...m, Boniwe this is Athile, and Athile this is Boniwe". This Athile nods at me, okay. I don't like her at all, she seems like trouble. "What can I do for you Athile"?

Athile: "I need your help, I am so desperate".

Her: "How can I help you"?

Athile: "I need you to take me to that traditional healer of yours".

Her: "Oh, why"?

Athile: "I am losing Nkanyiso to some dark bitch. I need him to notice me Makhosazana, please help me. You know how much I love him, and you promised to help me, remember"?
Makhosazana looks at me, shame written all over her face".

Her: "I'm sorry I cannot help you Athile. You've rejected my help months ago so, I'm sorry, but I won't help you".

Athile: "Please Makhosazana. I really need your help now or do you want me to lose your brother to that dark bitch".

Me: "Listen here baby girl. First of all, you have no right or whatsoever to call Nobuntu names while you look like shit yourself. Secondly, leave Nkanyiso the hell alone if you know what's good for you. You dare try to ruin her relationship with Nkanyiso I will kill you, you don't know how heartless I can get.

You dare get between them, and you will tell your story six feet under. And you, Makhosazana don't even think of going behind my back, or else I will kill you with my bare hands. I don't want anything with Nobuntu, she has been through a lot". She looks at me stunned.

Her: "And who are you fat bitch"? I chuckle, and look at her.

Me: "You really want to know me? I will show you". I stand up, and walk to her. "I am Boniwe, and I don't mind killing you right now". My hand is already on her neck. "Just one squeeze, and you're dead. Do you hear me"? She nods with tears streaming down her cheeks. "Good girl, now leave". She looks at Makhosazana.

Makhosazana: "Please leave, and don't ever come back here. Nkanyiso is happy where he is, he doesn't need any destruction. You should know that, once things between

Nkanyiso & Nobuntu doesn't go well, you will be the first suspect. Now, leave". She stands up, and hurries out. I turn to look at Makhosazana. "I will never destroy Nobuntu's happiness

like that, she deserves all the happiness she can get. But, what I can tell you is that Athile will not stop until she gets Nkanyiso, funny enough she's not the only one I told about the Inyanga. I told almost all of the girls, some of them I'm sure they've slept with Nkanyiso. It's going to be a long road”.

Me: “You did what”?

Her: “Back then I didn't know that Nkanyiso will finally find love, and now I regret it”.

Me: “This means Nobuntu will never find peace should the other girls take the same route, it's a mess. All we have to do is to pray that they don't go that route, I will go to the ends of the world for Nobuntu”.

Her: “You really are fond of this Nobuntu, hmmm”.

30

ZWELI

The vacation was not really enjoyable with the constant visit from the snake, and my dick not erecting every time we try to be intimate. Now more than ever I am sure that someone is bewitching me. Natasha & I fight a lot, today we decided to go back to South Africa, what's the use of being on a vacation where else you don't enjoy it? The first time Natasha saw the black snake, and trust me when I say it wasn't pleased because it rolled itself in such a way that the ground shook, she fainted, and woke up not remembering seeing any snake of which was strange considering the fact that I remembered. The first thing I must do when I get to South Africa I must call my father and let him know about this snake. Plus, I've been having weird dreams of me getting married to some woman, we look so happy together just that I don't get to see her face. I wonder what the dreams mean, but it is said when you dream of a wedding someone will die. If it's true, then who is going to die? I pray it's not my parents, I don't think I will survive without them.

“All done babes. I am ready to fly out of this hell place, I swear to God this is a place of ghosts. I mean, what other explanation

is there about how much of a flop our vacation was? It was a disaster”.

“A whole disaster that is. I mean, we didn't even get to be intimate, and I am sure that you were going to get pregnant since these were your most fertile days”.

Her: “But the ghost of this hotel had to be jealous, and ruin everything for us. Next time we must go to Mauritius or somewhere, because this is not on”.

Me: “Mostly definitely. I can't wait to go back to South Africa, I miss my friends”.

Her: “I miss mine too. Oh, almost forgot. Have you heard that Londiwe & Mngqobi have separated”?

Me: “What? But those two were happy together, what happened”?

Her: "It has something to do about Mngqobi long lost sister who resurfaced from out of nowhere and ruined things for Mngqobi & Londiwe".

Me: "Wow. That's hectic, and how did Mngqobi find his sister? All in all, I am happy that he found her".

Her: "You knew about Mngqobi having a sister somewhere out there"? I nod. "And why didn't you tell me"?

Me: "I did not think it was that important, and I couldn't tell you anything until I was sure that he really has a sister".

Her: "So, this long lost sister appeared, and saw it fit to ruin Londiwe & Mngqobi's engagement? She is evil. I know that Londiwe won't take this lightly, she is going to destroy her".

Me: “How I pity the poor sister. There must be another reason why Mngqobi broke off their engagement, Londiwe must've done something”.

Her: “You are starting”.

Me: “Stop defending her, you know, she has no filter just like you. Both of you likes talking nonsense, let's go”. I pick up our luggage and walk out of the hotel's room. I wonder why did Mngqobi broke off the engagement between him & Londiwe. Those two were the perfect couple out of our clique. Oh, and I've also noticed that Nkanyiso is in love lately, his Facebook posts and WhatsApp statuses confirms that. I wonder who is the girl that managed to penetrate his stone cold heart, I need to buy her a burger. After 5 years of being a fuck boy, he finally opened up his heart to love. I am very happy for him.

“Couldn't you just wait for me”?

Me: “That could've led us to a fight hence I decided to walk away. We've been fighting ever since we got here, let's just get home, and have a peace of mind”.

Her: "Hmmm...". We load our bags in the cab. She is angry, argh, she will survive.

★»★«

BONIWE

Things between me & Mbuso are going great, but I am scared that he is starting to become obsessed, and always wants to know of my whereabouts. This was not the plan, the plan was for him to love me not to control. Since he has lost his job, well he said he resigned because it was boring him, he needed something challenging, but rumours are out saying that he was fired. I don't even know what to believe, even his brother Nkosikhona did not tell us anything. By the look of things, it

looks like he hates me, he just can't stand my presence. Why would he hate me? I mean, he doesn't even know me. Anyway Mbuso became someone else, he even moved in with me and accused me of dating Khaya, ai. I think going to that Inyanga was a bad idea, Makhosazana didn't say anything about him becoming obsessed & controlling. He also wants a baby with

me, he doesn't understand that it's too soon, hhayi yena he wants a baby something of which I am not ready to give him hence I use an injection. Mbuso wouldn't mind calling me now, and ask me to send him pictures of where I'm at and with who that's how sick he is lately, but the heart loves him like that. I am meeting up with Nobuntu here at Tasha's, it's been long since I last saw her. She really thought that I've neglected, and, Oh, Makhosazana is behaving strange lately, in fact she is becoming distant I don't know why. I will have to ask her.

“And she remembered that she has another sister. I was hoping to find you with Makhosazana”. She says sitting down. I laugh...

“She is very busy lately. Look at you all glowing and happy. Oh, not forgetting some weight gain”. She laughs.

Her: "Do you blame me? I mean, I am happy, plus I have a man who loves me, and you're so beautiful".

Me: "I am so happy for you, and thank you".

Her: "Thank you. So, how have you been"?

Me: "Been good babe I can't complain".

Her: "But you don't look okay. Is everything all right"?

Me: "Everything is fine, just work stress".

Her: "You need to take a break before fatigue gets you. I mean, your work is even refusing you off days, what type of a job is that"? If only she knew why am I like this, she wouldn't be talking like this.

Me: “A cleaning job, but it pays the bills”.

Her: “How are things between you & Mbuso ”?

Me: “Very great. We are so happy together, and he wants to introduce me to his family”. She squirms in excitement.

Her: “Oh my word, this is cool Boniwe. I guess he truly loves you, like hello; he wants to introduce you to his family. You're one lucky girl, congratulations. I have no absolute doubt that the family is going to love you, I mean you are one easy person to love. Very soon he will want to pay Lobola for you”.

Me: “I know right. So, apart from being Nkanyiso's girlfriend. What's new in your life”?

Her: “What's new in my life is that I have found my siblings, and today I am meeting with our mother. If you were answering your phone you would've known”.

Me: “What? You have siblings? But how, I mean how did you guys meet”?

Her: “A prophetess told me about them, and my sister Crecentia suspected that we were sisters when we were at Banathi hang out joint. Then they invited me over for lunch, the aim was for them to get my print then take it to the lab for DNA testing, well a huge fight broke out. I was having a conversation

with my brother while bandaging his hands, and I kind of gave it away, as the saying goes; the rest is history. Just right about it, I guess it was part of God's plan for us to meet each other that way”.

Me: “Argh, I am so happy for you babe. You finally have a family, and as for me I don't want to bump into that prophetess. I will run as far as my feet can carry me”. She laughs.

Her: “Unfortunately for you. She comes to you unexpected, you don't bump into her”.

Me: "Say what? Which spots doesn't she frequent? I really don't want to find myself in her presence". She laughs.

Her: "Why would you want to avoid God's messenger? Phela if she comes to you, that will mean that God has a message for you. It's not that bad, you know. I like the fact that she tells you exactly your story, maybe she might also shed some light about your life".

Me: "No". Banging the table. Everyone looks at our table, they just like things. Nobuntu just stares at me with mouth agape, honestly I don't know why I lost it. Okay, maybe I am scared of this prophetess, she will expose my bad deeds. I have a very dirty past, I'm sure she will also catch that in her prophesying episode. It's just scary.

Her: "Whoa, I didn't mean to get you worked up about the prophetess

I'm sorry".

Me: “Oh, No. I should be the one who must be apologizing for going off at you like that, I'm truly sorry. Plus the work stress is not having any mercy on me”.

Her: “I told you to take a break from work. Talk to Mbuso to give you a day off I'm sure he wouldn't mind, besides you've been slaving for them. You must talk to him, I don't want you to be hospitalized because of fatigue, or I can talk to him on your behalf if that's okay with you”.

Me: “I appreciate the gesture babe, but I will tell him myself. I'm sure he wouldn't mind giving me few days off”.

Her: “Perfect. Because we must really make time just the two of us, wait and Makhosazana too plus Crecentia. A mini pyjama party of just 4 girls talking all night with lots of junk on the side, that would be great don't you think? Phela I miss us”.

Me: “It would be great, and I miss us too. Just then my phone rings, and it's Mbuso. Can't he just go a day without calling me, in fact 2 hours. I take a deep breathe, and answer it.

“Baby”.

“Hey love, how is the lunch going”?

Me: “It's going fine my love, I am with Nobuntu here”.

Him: “Is it? Give her the phone”. I remove it from my ear, and give it to Nobuntu. He wants to make sure if it's really her.

Her: “Hello Mbuso”.

Her: “Oh, yes we are behaving”.

Her: "Okay then. Take care".

She gives me back my phone.

Him: "You have 30 minutes to get home, and please bring something from the mall".

Me: "I will do so. I love you".

Him: "I love you too". I hang up.

Nobuntu: "Love is in the air. That's good babe, I will pray for the both of you".

Me: “We really need it. So, regarding the issue of you & Nkanyiso, how are you going to hide it from Zweli”?

Her: “We won't be hiding anything. I will talk to Zweli to allow me to date Nkanyiso. I'm sure he wouldn't mind seeing that he doesn't give a care about me or love me, so why not allow me to date the man I love, and who loves me back? We can still remain married, and not be in a relationship. Engani yena he is happy with Natasha? I too deserve to be happy”.

Me: “Hhmmm. I see. Let's hope he will agree, I also pray that he agrees, you deserve better than him. Just don't get pregnant, you need to finish Varsity. Remember why you came here, and don't lose yourself like I did to the things of the world. Use double prevention if you have too, or better yet abstain. I want to see you on a graduation gown”.

Her: “Oh, wow. Urh...m, you will see me in that gown, and we haven't started being intimate yet, so, no babies anytime soon. How did you lose yourself? I mean, you're working a well paying job, and you have a man who loves you. I don't see how

you've lost yourself there, care to let me in on what you're talking about”?

Me: “I was just saying my love. You have a bright future ahead”.

Her: “Are you sure that you are okay”? I chuckle, it's fake, but who can tell? No one.

Me: “100% sure my love”.

Her: “When you need to talk I am here for you or you can talk to God. It doesn't have to be everyday, maybe once in a week. Just talk to him that's what I'm doing lately”.

Me: “Thank you babe. I needed such talk”. The last time I prayed was 20 years back, I don't even know how praying feels like or what one say. Ai, prayer can miss me.



NOBUNTU

I am on my way to Crecentia's home to meet with my mother. I am so nervous, not nervous as I was about my wedding day, but I am too nervous in such a way that my legs are shaking. I wonder how is she going to welcome me. Will she hug me and give me kisses all over my face or will she just plain ignore me? Well, I don't wish for her to ignore me, I wish for her to hug me, and tell me that she loves me. That's all I want. Lunch with Boniwe went well, but something is just not right about her. She didn't look like someone who is happy, but I didn't want to

poke her she will tell me once she is ready. My phone beeps indicating a message, and it's from Nkanyiso.

★I hope everything goes well, and your mother accepts you with warm hands. I love you★

I smile, at least the message managed to lift up my mood. Crecentia has given me the address to their mother's house, and they promised to be present to make the situation less awkward between me and their mother. Things are moving to fast, and I am not complaining I am happy! Yazi I will have to inform aunt Ncumisa that I've found her sister. Khaya stops at this other house, I am so scared to step out of the car.

“Take a deep breathe, and go in. I'm sure she is also very excited to meet you, and also have nerves just like you. The day you have been waiting for is here. Go”. Khaya tells me. I nod, and step out of the car. The streets are lively, actually there's too many people roaming the streets. Soweto it is. I make my way inside the yard, and take a deep breathe before knocking. The Butler is closed, but the door is opened. I knock twice, and Crecentia is the one who attends the door, she pulls me into a tight hug.

“Welcome lil sis”/ she pulls me by my hand leading me to the lounge. I find a woman sitting on the one seater couch drinking tea, Mngqobi is not here I wonder where is he. I greet her, and Crecentia tells me to sit down, I do as told, and look at this woman who is rather disgusted by my presence this is not the welcome I was expecting.

Crecentia: “Mama, this is Nobuntu the girl we have been telling you about”/ she nods.

Her: “Please excuse us Crecentia, I want to talk to my daughter in private”. Crecentia squeezes my hands, and walks away. The smile that was plastered on her face few seconds it has vanished. “What are you doing here”? Oh, wow, right.

Me: “I came because you've asked to meet me”. She laughs.

Her: “Meet you? Why would I want to meet you? I don't meet hookers. Listen, and listen to me very carefully. Stop feeding my

children with this nonsense of you being their sister, you're are not their sister, you are a curse. A young witch for that matter, I

will ask you nicely to please leave my house, and don't ever come back or else I will kill you". Erh, this woman. Tears are already prickling my eyes, how can she say such to me? I am her daughter for crying out loud, why is she doing this?

Me: "Ma..." she cuts me short.

Her: "I am not your mother. Go & look for your mother, and stay the hell away from my kids. Now, leave my house". I just sit there, and look at her tears streaming down freely. Isn't this the same woman who was said that she was very excited to meet me? What is this now? Or maybe they did not tell her about me, they just wanted to surprise her? Why is she rejecting me? I don't know when she stood up, but I find myself being dragged to the floor, this person called my mother is actually dragging me by my afro, and it's so painful since it's coarse.

“Uyang'limaza cela ungiyeke”! (You are hurting me, please leave me alone) I am pleading with her to stop pulling me by my Afro but she doesn't care. She tosses me outside, and bangs the door close locking it in the process. I just sit there, and cry. Is this even my mother? I don't think so, and Crecentia &

Mnqobi are not my siblings they've played me. I can hear Crecentia and her mother exchanging words. My own mother doing this to me? Lord, what have I done to deserve this? What's the right prayer to pray, so that it can reach you sooner? Yah, neh, life. I shake my head...

“You are still here? I said leave you witch”! She pours me with cold water, and throws me my handbag, then shut the door close. I stand up, and walk away. The pain I am feeling right now, wow. Someone really did Pierce my heart with a spear. Who have I wronged?

31

NOBUNTU

Crying until you get a headache has to be one of the most painful thing ever. I still can't believe that the woman who is

my mother can do such to me, who in their right mind treat their kids like this? She called me a curse and a witch. How am I cursed and who cursed me? Wait, who did I bewitch? Mxm, this woman. I know that she was denying my existence, but I did not think that it was this deep I mean, she did not even try to get to know me. But then, Ncumile did say that my mother is evil, now I believe it. Crecentia & Mngqobi have been calling me, but I am avoiding them, and I switched off my phone. I think this was their plan for their mother to insult me and call me all sorts of names so that they can gossip about me to their friends knowing very well that they all hate me, argh. Who was I fooling thinking that they are genuine, that they are really fond of me where else everyone plays with me and hates me? Maybe I am a curse indeed I just don't know it. I mean like, I've prayed for this day to go well but God decided to ignore my prayer, and led me straight into a lion's den. This praying thing is a scam I tell you. God is so selective when it comes to prayers he chooses his favourites, I am definitely not his favourite person. What's the use of praying then? It's all useless & vile. That

woman's face was full of hatred towards me, from the very first moment I stepped into her lounge, Yerrr. I gulp down the last remaining glass of Namaqua, I drank it thinking that it will numb the pain, but I was fooling myself it did nothing, I still have a mother of all headaches, and my heart is in ruins. A knock comes through at my door, I asked Khaya to bring me

back here I left my laptop and other things at Nkanyiso's. Whoever it is will knock until Jesus comes back, that's if he will because I ain't opening for anyone. I get in bed fully clothed, and cover my head with the blanket I am not in the mood to talk or see anyone, I just need to be alone with my thoughts. I also wish I can sleep and never wake up, this is too much for one person I can't help it but think, what if Nkanyiso is also playing with my feelings and doesn't really love me? Sigh, my life is a movie ke bioskop straight.

★»★«

ZWELI

I've been knocking in Langelihle's room for a while now, and she is not responding. I know that she is inside because I heard

some shuffling, even last night I tried knocking wanting to tell her that we are back since her phone was off, and she did not respond but her lights were on. I hope nothing happened to her I will never forgive myself should anything happen to her. My father will literally kill me without thinking twice. I shake my head and go back inside the house. This is so unlike her, but then I wouldn't know because I've never actually been into her room ever since the renovations. I find Natasha unpacking our clothes, she has been moody ever since we came back last night I don't even know why. I take my briefcase, and step out of the house I am running late, and I have back to back meetings, I've missed out on a lot even though it was for a week. My phone rings, and it's Mngqobi I connect it to the Bluetooth, akere multitasking while driving is forbidden.

“Dude”.

“Man. Did you maybe by any chance see or spoke to Nobuntu between yesterday and this morning”?

Me: “No man. Tried knocking at her door since last night, but she didn't want to open the door. Why are you asking me about her and you sound worried”?

Him: “Things are a mess man, and by the look of things I think she will never ever talk to us. It's bad man”.

Me: “What's going on Mngqobi? Why would she never talk to you guys again? You & who actually”?

Him: “Man, your wife is my sister. The one I've been told to look for”. My car comes into a reckless halt upon hearing him telling me this.

Me: “What? Don't joke like this man I am driving”.

Him: “I am dead serious man. She met our mother yesterday, but things did not go as expected. My mom practically dragged

her out of the house, and called her all sorts of names. She embarrassed her luckily no one took pictures or a video”.

Me: “What the actual fuck? How did you guys found out about you being siblings, and why would her own mother treat her that way? That's just insane”.

Him: “Yeah, I seriously need to talk her bruh. You were my last hope, but since she is not entertaining you too then I don't know. Crecentia have been crying ever since. Plus mom told Nobuntu to never ever talk to us, how sick is that”?

Me: “Whoa, H for Hektic. Why don't you call her servant, maybe she might be able to get to her? I am running late, you will give me a feedback”.

Him: “Sure man, and drive safe”. He hangs up. Who would've thought that Mngobi is Langa's brother? Life will amaze you, and we live in a small world indeed. I am just happy that they've found each other, but I am also not very happy. I have a fear that Langa will tell Mngobi how we've been treating her, and knowing Mngobi with his short temper he will do a real number on us. He doesn't play when it comes to his loved ones, I just pray she doesn't tell him. I guess I'm deep in my thoughts

when I didn't even see a woman standing in the middle of the road, if it wasn't for the cars hooting I would've hit her. My tyres screech as I stop my car, and she doesn't even bother moving, she looks like a mess. Her hair messy, she looks like a hobo but an advance hobo that is. I step out of my car, and walk to her. She sits down on the floor, and let out a painful wail she looks so broken. I pick her up and put her on the pavement, at least she is safe, I walk away leaving her crying, rocking herself back & forth. I wonder what happened to her, if I wasn't late I was going to talk to her, but time is not really on my side I am very late.

★»★«

MNQOBI

What my mother did was out of line! She shouldn't have done what she did, now Nobuntu will think that we've set her up so that our mother can insult her. If she can only answer my calls, and allow me to explain. I just don't understand why did my mother wanted to meet her only for her to humiliate her, I wish I was there to protect her. But when duty calls one must respond. Crecentia doesn't want to see anyone too, she & Nobuntu are just behaving the same. Zweli managed to send me Nobuntu's servant numbers, I hope she comes through for me and get through Nobuntu. Her phone rings for a couple of seconds before she answers.

“I am in a sex session. Who the hell are you & what do you want”? Talk about being rude. Who answers their while having sex? This woman is insane. “I'm on a verge of cumming, talk”. I chuckle...

“This is Mngobi, Nobuntu's brother”.

Her: “Get straight to the point”.

Me: "What's with the..." she hangs up before I can even finish my talking. Who the hell is this rude prick? I try calling her again and this time her phone puts me through voicemail. There goes my lead. Wait, I can also call Nkanyiso I know that he will come through for me, I don't even know how he is going to get through, but he will. He will make a plan. Speak of the devil...

"Brother in-law".

"Brother in-law my foot. Where is Nobuntu"?

Me: "She is where she stays".

Him: "Why is her phone off? I've been trying to call her since last night, but nothing. She even left her school things in my house".

Me: "Well, shit happened yesterday". I narrate everything to him...

Him: "I better find her alive & unharmed or else you will be burying your mother next weekend". I chuckle, see this fucker really loves Nobuntu.

Me: "As long as you find her intact, I don't care what you do to my mother. Just make sure that my sister is okay".

Him: "I'm on my way to her room, I don't care whether Zweli finds me there or what". He hangs up. I laugh

Advertisement

told you he will come through for me, he is begging for a good brotherhood. Kidding... A knock comes through at the door, I wonder who could that be. I yank the door open, and I find Londiwe standing at the door, looking good. I fold my arms and wait for her to talk, I can see she still has the ring in her finger.

"Aren't you going to let me in"?

"Say your piece & leave I'm very busy".

Her: “Oh, okay. Urh...m, I came here to ask for forgiveness. I am sorry for what I did, and for calling Nobuntu by names. It was peer pressure, you know since almost all the girls in the clique don't like her I decided to also not like her. Natasha feels threatened by her, and we had to be on her side since she's our friend. I am truly sorry Mnqobi, I can even apologize to Nobuntu to show you how truly sorry I am. My life is meaningless without you, I have nothing to live for. I pray that you will find it in your heart to forgive me. I am truly sorry & I love you. When you've calmed down, and settled you know where to find me”. She smiles, and walks away. Fake apology speech she just gave, ai. I make myself another cup of tea, I need to sip on something and alcohol is not an option. A knock again, what now! I check who is it since I didn't close the door after Londiwe left. I find my mother standing there, she is with Sthembile her friend's daughter. She is busy blushing and smiling, I don't dare return the smile.

“What can I do for you”?

Her: “Is that how you talk to your mother? And are you going to let us stand outside”?

Me: “I asked. What can I do for you, phecelezi ufunani”?

Her: "Do I need a reason to visit my son"?

Me: "Since when do you visit me"?

Her: "Stop asking us questions and just let me in".

Me: "So, you come here pretending as if everything is okay after how you treated Nobuntu yesterday"?

Her: "What's with you and this Nobuntu? Is she perhaps Jesus sister? I hate girls who think they are all that, and besides if she is really my daughter as you claim, why is she dark skinned"? I chuckle...

Me: "Maybe she took our father's complexion don't you think, seeing that we don't know him"?

Her: “How dare you Mngqobi. How many times must I tell you that your father is dead Mngqobi”!

Me: “That's what you want us to believe. My father is out there alive probably thinking about us. At least tell me where is your real family? Your real family not these fake families you always introduce us too”. She sneers, and looks at Sthembile.

Her: “Please excuse us, as you can see this is a family matter”.

Me: “No, stand right where you are. Dear mother, where is your real family? Or you don't want Sthembile to know who you really are”?

Her: “That so-called family chased me away while I was pregnant with you. They were jealous because I was impregnated by a..., urh...m. Just know that that family is dead to me”.

Me: “Until you are ready to tell me the truth, don't ever come back here. This is where our relationship ends, I want you to feel the pain Nobuntu felt when you rejected her. You've just lost a son, I'm sure you are about to lose a daughter too. Leave”. She looks at me with tears prickling her eyes, and lips quivering.

Her: “H... How can you say such... Hurtful word...s to me”?

Me: “That's how Nobuntu felt when you insulted her. You are lucky that I am not dragging you out of here, leave my house in peace”.

Her: “Oh, I see, that witch has finally turned you against me? You are turning your back on a woman who gave birth to you? I am going to deal with that witch once and for all”.

Me: “And you just had to show your true colours. Oh, and you've just implicated yourself. Should anything happen to

Nobuntu you will be the first suspect, Sthembile here is my witness”.

Her: “Yerrrr! Let's go Sthembile before I lose it, and I will never accept that girl as my daughter, ever”!

Me: “And you are no longer my mother. Goodbye”. I shut the door in her face, her nerve. I don't know this woman who was just here few minutes ago, that was definitely not my sweet mother. That was another woman... Her nerve, nc nc nc.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

I don't understand why can't people just get the message and leave me alone! What's so hard in doing that? I've been ignoring this knock, but whoever it is ain't giving up.

“Open this damn door Nobu! I know you are in there. I will count to 3, If you don't open by then I will kick down this door”!
Oh, it's the boyfriend. Chuckling, how sweet of him, but I am not opening for him. I cover my head with the blanket, I can hear him counting. He is bkuffing “1...2...3...”. I can hear some shuffling, oh, it's Natasha.

“Why the hell would you want to kick down my door”!

Him: “I will fix it, don't worry”.

Her: “I know you're very much capable of kicking it down, but don't”. Did she just say, he is very much capable? Iyoh, I leapt

out of bed and go and open for him. Lol... I think he was about to kick the door because he comes in, and flies across the room falling on the floor. I chuckle, and look at him. He stands up, and fixes himself.

Him: "Were you trying to kill me"? I shake my head. "Then what were you trying to do"? I shrug.

Natasha: "Hold up. What's going on between the 2 of you"?

Him: "Please leave us".

Her: "I ain't going anywhere". She steps inside my room and covers her nose, I don't blame her. My room reeks of alcohol...

"What is that smell? Nobuntu, how do you stay in this filth"? Argh, she must leave me alone this one my room is too clean compared to hers anyway, it's just that right now I'm going through some rough patch, and I'm too lazy to clean let me just ignore her.

Me: “What are you doing here Nkanyiso”? I ask him going back to bed.

Him: “Mnqobi sent to come and check up on you since you are unreachable. And what the hell are you doing in that bed”?

Natasha: “Whoa. Why would Mnqobi ask you to check up on Langa”?

Me: “Leave my room you are not welcome just like as I am not welcomed inside your house”. She clicks her tongue and walks out. “You can tell Mnqobi that I am breathing as you can see. You can see your way out”.

Him: “Don't bullshit me. Go and bath I'll tidy up here so long, you have a class in 3 hours time. I will drive you”. I just look at him. Is he for real right now? “You should be half way done bathing but you still here. Go, or do you want me to fuck the pain out of you”? I chuckle, this guy is insane I take my vanity bag, and walk out of my room. The plan was not to go to school, but then Nkanyiso happened and by the look of things he means business. I walk back the room.

“Nkanyiso”. He stops making my bed and looks at me. “I love you”. I walk out before he can say anything, I guess all is not lost I will have to call Mngqobi, and tell him that I am fine. I can't blame them for their mother's evilness, I mean they loved before they can even know about me... I can't allow their mother to break us apart.

★»★«

LONDIWE

“Are you sure about this”? I nod at the Inyanga. “Give me picture” I take out Nobuntu's picture and give it to him.
“What do you want me to do again”?

“Make her bleed every time she tries being intimate with a man. Make people to hate her, and she must drop out of varsity. I want her to go crazy and everyone around her to see her as a monkey. She must smell horribly that people run away from her, and my everything she touches become rubble.

When she goes and consult may they not see anything, also her newly found siblings to turn their back on her. She must be lonely until she decides to end her life”. He nods.

Him: “You must sacrifice that baby you carrying in your tummy”. I look at him shocked. He can't be serious...

Me: “Pardon”?

Him: “That baby it's your sacrifice. Once it's born he will die, and you will also lose your womb. That's what the gods want”. I shake my head...

Me: “No. Not with my son please. Anything but my son please, he is the only thing that will make me and his father to be together again”.

Him: “There's no other way. The baby and your womb or walk out of here and never come back”. I touch my tummy, this baby was my only chance of getting back with Mnqobi, but then Nobuntu must suffer. Her presence shook my life, she ruined my life it's time I return the favour and in a very cruel way. No one must be happy, No one!

32

[SHORT]

ZWELI

I can't help it but think of the Girl I saw in the morning. She was really in distress, I wonder where did she end up, but I hope she ended up in a safe place and nothing bad happened to her.

Today was really hectic for me with these backs to backs meetings all I need is to take a bath then sleep. Natasha better not irritate me, I step inside the house and I find her waiting for me in the kitchen or not because she keeps on checking Nobuntu's room via the window.

“Natasha”. She jumps in shock and give me a fake smile, she shifts from the window.

“Hey babe, welcome back”.

“Thanks. What were you looking at”?

Her: “Who? Me? Oh, no, I was not looking at anything let me get your briefcase for you”. She takes the briefcase from my hand and walks away. I shake my head and follow after her.

“Babe, I need to tell you something I don't know how you are going to take it, but I am sure that it will ruin your

brotherhood”. Is the first she says as I step into them, she always has news.

Me: “What is it”?

Her: “Urhm, Nkanyiso is sleeping with your wife behind your back”. I chuckle, she is full of jokes.

Me: “Now, that's funny. Nkanyiso will never go for a girl like Langa, she is way below her league. Stop making up stories, umdala”.

Her: “I have proof. Take a look at this”. She gives me her phone it's a picture of Nkanyiso getting inside Nobuntu's room. WTF? I give her her phone back and walk out. She follows behind me.

Me: “This girl will know me tonight. She has crossed the line”!

Her: “She must leave baby, kick her out”. I knock hard at her door I feel like kicking it down, and strangle her right there. She

can date any guy she likes just not in my clique, we don't date other people's exes. Well, not that she is one though. The door opens, and I let myself in without even greeting, she turns Natasha away without saying anything and slam the door shut on her face.

“Zweli baby please let me in”.

Nobuntu: “This is my room. I decide who I allow in, and as I've told her earlier she is not welcome here. What can I do for you”? I look at her, she doesn't look okay maarn I wonder what's wrong. “Since you are not going to tell me what you want here, I was about to make some tea. Want some”?

Me: “Urh, yes, thank you”. She nods and goes and switch on the kettle. I study her again this she looks a little happy since she's busy with her phone, I guess she's chatting to Nkanyiso. Honestly I won't really blame her even if she dates Nkayiso. She too deserve to be loved and be happy, I can't keep her prisoner. I mean, I am happy with Natasha while married to her, why must I not allow her to be happy with Nkanyiso while married to me? Let me not be selfish, I will give them my blessings if they are dating. Thinking of it this will make our

fake marriage bearable, because we will both be happy with the people that we love while pretending to be happy to our families. “How was varsity today”?

Her: “Argh, it was like any other day nothing interesting happened. So, how was the vacation”? She asks me giving me my cup of tea.

Me: “Thank you. It was a disaster, yoh, It was as if like someone was with us trying to ruin it, what am I saying? It was ruined by that big Python that appeared from out of nowhere. I didn't even know what to do when it appears, but it ends up disappearing on its own”.

Her: “That's sad of maybe it's one of your ancestors trying to communicate with you, possibly sending you a message. I will suggest that you call your father and tell him I'm sure he will enlighten you or let the seer know”.

Me: “I don't believe in ancestors, they are dead spirits”.

Her: "So, there ones in the bible aren't they dead spirits"? I scratch my head... "Thought as much. Now that we broke the ice, what are you doing here"?

Me: "I want you to be honest with me". She looks at me and nods. "Are you in a relationship with Nkanyiso"? She chokes on her tea and spills some on her couch.

Her: "Wh... What? Who told you"?

Me: "Just answer the question Langelihle".

Her: No, we are not in a relationship".

Me: "But do you love him? Please be honest".

Her: "Even if I love him I can't be with him because I am married to you. His best friend and I don't want to cause a rift between the two of you".

Me: "The question was, do you love him"?

Her: "Yes. I do love him. Now that you've got your answer, what then"?

Me: "Nothing. I am giving you guys my blessings. I don't remember when last Nkanyiso was this happy dude is in love and you are the reason for his happiness, why not give you guys my blessings". She looks at me and tilt her head to the right side not believing what I am telling her. "You, too, deserve to be loved and be happy of which I am not giving you both of those things. You are not binded to me, so you can date Nkanyiso in peace. He is my best friend and if his happiness lies with you, who am I to dispute that"? She places her cup on her coffee table.

Her: “Whoa, whoa. Are you being for real or you are just pulling my leg”?

Me: “I am being honest Langelihle. When Nkanyiso is this happy is easy for him to buy us alcohol without begging him, and he will finally agree to host us this time around. I don't even remember when was the last he organized a boys' hangout, now that you are in his life I am sure that he will change. Heard that he has already started changing because he wants to be a better man for you. Plus he also studied pharmacy I have no doubts that he will help you

Advertisement

girl that's your man. You two have a lot in common”. She leapt from her couch and attack me with hugs, never saw her this happy I guess she really loves Nkanyiso.

Her: “Thank you. Thank you so much for your blessings Zweli. You have no idea what they mean to me, thank you. I think you should also talk to him. Here I was thinking that you are going to be angry and all that”.

Me: “I am happy if my home boy is happy. So, have you guys...

You know"? She laughs.

Her: "No. Not yet".

Me: "If it comes to that then use a condom, I want you to finish varsity, wear that graduation gown and make us proud".

Her: "Thank you so much for this Zweli, may God bless you".

Me: "You welcome".

Her: "Can I ask you something"?

Me: "I know what you want to ask me. I don't know why I married you, but maybe it was a way for God to reunite you with your siblings. You had to meet them through me, I still can't believe that you are Crecentia and Mnqobi's little sister. No wonder they always defended you in your

absence, they were feeling it in their blood that you are one of them. Heard what your mother did, she is heartless”.

Her: “I don't want to talk about it. I just want to forget about everything and focus on my life, I was doing fine without her I will continue doing so”.

Me: “I see. I would also like to apologize for how I've been treating you, it was uncalled-for I'm truly sorry Langa. I know that my apology can't erase the damage I've caused you emotionally, but I'm sorry”.

Her: “You giving my relationship with Nkanyiso a blessing it's enough for me, and I promise not to tell Mngqobi about your bad treatment”.

Me: “Thank you. That was what I was fearing, phela he has a short temper. Thanks for sparing me his wrath”. She laughs. We continue chatting about random things, she is actually a cool person I've judged her before getting to know her.



BONIWE

I am done cooking and now I am waiting for Mbuso to come back from his hustle. His hustle means him stealing other people's things and sell them for a bottle. I don't know how he got to this stage, it's bad honestly. Now he wants me to quit my job, apparently I can't work for an enemy. He calls his own father an enemy I don't even know why, my life is a mess I don't know, I really don't. I came here to better my life, but

hhayi I think I am ruining it even further. I'm dragged out of my thoughts by Mbuso who just banged the door.

“Jesus. You've scared me”.

“Who is he”? I look at him confused.

Me: “What are you talking about Mbuso”?

Him: “The man you are thinking of”.

Me: “I am not thinking about any man”. Oh, he is also insecure he searches my phone everyday.

Him: “When are you quitting that job”?

Me: “I am not going to quit. If I quit how are we going to survive? One of us has to pay the bills”.

Him: "I will go and look for a job. Just quit that damn job! Or you don't want to quit because you've found a new boyfriend, huh? Is that why"?

Me: "I am not doing this with you Mbuso. Sit down, so I can dish up for you".

Him: "I don't want food. Tomorrow you are not going back to work, my word is final" I laugh.

Me: "You are out of your damn mind you don't get to tell me what to do"! He slaps me, I touch my cheek in disbelief. Did he just slap me? I attempt to walk away, but he slaps me again. I return the slap, and he starts punching me hehehe I am not backing down, we will fight until one of us gives up. I don't know if he is naturally abusive or the muti is making him to become one. I am losing this fight, his kicks are so painful. He continues hitting me, I just let him be... Is this how my life will be from now on? I need to reverse whatever shit I did to him, this is not what I've signed up for. But Makhosazana assured me that the muti will make him to love me not abusive and

controlling. What if she played me? Nc nc nc, I am dangerous just like she is, I am walking with too many dead spirits in my life, she better pray that she doesn't become one of them. I've seen a lot of funerals to last me a lifetime. My eyes are half

closed, my body is in excruciating pain, but Mbuso is still at it. I guess his aim is to kill me...

“Mbuso wenzani! Let her go”! That's Makhosazana's voice.
“Uzombulala myekele”! (Leave her, you will kill her) arh, she is talking to a deaf person.

“Mbuso”! Okay, this is another man's voice I've never heard it before. Mbuso stops beating me and quickly stand up. I think he is scared of this person I can't even see him clearly because of my eyes. I can hear Mbuso groan, he punched him. “Is that how we've raised you? I thought your dad said you got help for your temper, what triggered it? Makhosazana go and attend that girl. Mbuso let's go I want to have a serious talk with you”.

Him: “I am not coming with you! You leave, I did not ask you to come here take Makhosazana along with you”!

Man: “Mind how you talk to me Mbuso, I am still your uncle”.

Him: “I don't care just leave my house no one invited you here, take this bastard girl with you”. Makhosazana is trying to help me to sit up while Mbuso is busy exchanging words with his uncle. I whisper in Makhosazana's ears.

Me: “I don't know what voodoo shit you did, you lied to me. You sold me false dreams. I will be coming for your life and you won't see me coming, your life lies in my hands. Fix this mess”. I can't see her expression but her heart tells me that she's scared, her heartbeat is beating abnormal. I vowed to never go back to my past life, I made a Promise but by the look of things I think I might go back to my past dark life, people are really stirring my hidden demons. Should they resurface no one is going to survive my wrath not even the Queen, I know what evil the Queen did. These people should stop stirring my demons, I vowed to protect Nobuntu but how would I, if my demons are threatening to cause chaos? I will have to try by all means to suppress them... This is all a big mess.

33

MAKHOSAZANA

It's been 3 days ever since the encounter I had with Boniwe. Her words are still ringing in my mind, I can't even sleep very well at night especially when she said my life lies in her hands. Those words alone made me cringe. I wonder what is she capable of, I will have to go to the inyanga and ask him to reverse the love spell. Yes, the spell was meant for Mbuso to be abusive & controlling towards Boniwe not fall in love with her, the aim is for Mbuso to kill her, but that looks like it won't happen, ever. This will backfire very bad, and I might also die in the process. Boniwe is clearly not like these other girls, she is different and the inyanga did say that she is very powerful, he too doesn't know how, but she is very powerful. The time we were there he tried stealing the unknown powers of Boniwe, but he was failing dismissal, powerful as he is he couldn't get Boniwe's powers. My mind is racing with many thoughts, I can't help but feel like my evil deeds will eventually catch up with me. Sighs, all the evil I do to my stepbrothers I do them because their mother used witchcraft to bewitch my mother. You see, My mom was very much in love with our father actually they loved each other dearly, but the boys mother didn't approve of their relationship. She wanted to be the only woman in Mveli's

life... So, my mother decided to end things with Mveli. It was a messy break up. She then met a new loving boyfriend but it was already too late because the boys mother was already done with her. Her boyfriend started being abusive & controlling towards her, she became his punching bag and was hospitalized for months. Her life improved for the better after she went into hiding. We went to consult, and the inyanga did tell us that the boys mother bewitched my mother. The aim was to kill her, but she survived. The boyfriend is now in jail, he is going to spend his whole life in there he really did love my mom, but the boys mother made him become a monster that's when I vowed that I will revenge on behalf of my mother, and the boys are the ones feeling my revenge. Their girlfriends too must go through what my mother went through, but I think I made a mistake. I know my reasons may seem bleh to some of you but to me it's all about revenge, nothing else. Oh, and by the way the inyanga (Gwebenga) is my mother's new boyfriend of which makes him my stepfather, no one knows that though. There's another thing though, this one is not very ideal... Argh, they will cross the bridge once they get there, but right now I have to reverse the curse. I make my way inside the hut and I find him crushing his herbs.

“Daddy”.

“Princess. What brings you here”?

Me: “I want you to reverse the love spell that Boniwe had done to Mbuso, can you reverse it”? He sighs, and shakes his head.

Him: “It can never be reversed”.

Me: “What? Dad, you will have to reverse it Boniwe is threatening my life if I don't reverse the curse I will be doomed”.

Him: “There's no way to reverse it until the 6 months period ends, and she doesn't come to renew it, only then the muti will not work”.

Me: “We have 5 months left baba! You can only imagine what is going to happen in these coming months if this continues? I might be the one dying”!

Him: “I know, and quite frankly it was a bad idea for you to bring her here. That girl has a dark Aura surrounding her, evil hovers over her. Her soul is dark, all I can tell you is that start praying. Pray for Mbuso to not lose it, if he loses it whatever Boniwe have buried deep inside her will unleash, and we will feel her wrath, me included. I don't even know what it is. Even the mirror is not showing me anything, praying is our only option now. Darkness & Light don't mix, those are two different things”. This is so not happening, not! I sigh in defeat, We've been doing this for 10 years, 10 full years, and we never came across such. This is a disaster, a whole mess. I think I will have to go and consult to other izinyangas, hopefully they will help me. I am not ready to die, even my stepfather here is shaken by Boniwe. I am just glad that Athile did not go through with bewitching Nkanyiso, I'm sure Boniwe's demons would've been brought to life considering the fact that she loves Nobuntu like her own little sister. She is too protective of her, that's scary if you ask me.

Me: “Vele vele there's nothing we can do”? He shakes his head, this is a mess. Yazi I wonder what will happen if Boniwe's demons make their presence felt? Hhe kuzonyiwa... My phone rings, and its Natasha I wonder what does she want, I excuse myself and go outside to answer her call.

“Natasha”.

“Mfazi, I need your help”.

Me: “What is it”?

Her: “I don't know what's going on but I think Zweli is losing interest in me”?

Me: “What? But how because you always renew the love portion Natasha”?

Her: Oh shit! I completely forgot about it I was so obsessed about the vacation, it completely slipped my mind. If I go and see the inyanga will he help mara”?

Me: “When were you supposed to come and renew”?

Her: “2 weeks ago”.

Me: “What? Unfortunately for you there is nothing more you can do, you've passed 14 days. He won't help you, I'm sorry but there's nothing you can do”.

Her: “No no! Makhosazana he will have to help me, and besides this was my first time not coming to renew”.

Me: “You were supposed to come it doesn't matter if it was your first time or what. The damage has been done, the muti is wearing off. I suggest that you go to another inyanga, hopefully he will help you, good luck”.

Her: “Don't tell me about another inyanga! I want the inyanga that you've introduced me too, I've paid him a lot of money”.

Me: “And he has helped you. You've brought this upon yourself, now deal with it and stop calling me I don't owe you anything”. Hanging up, who does she think she is yena? She made the bed, so she must lie on it, pshhhh...

★»★«

NOBUNTU

I never thought that me & Zweli can be best of friends, actually we are like siblings. I talk to him with everything, and so does he. Apparently he is in love with a woman who he only saw once, this mystery woman is occupying his mind, and he has been driving out early in the morning in hopes of seeing her again, talk about determination. Things between him & Natasha are bad, peyiye relationship shame. You all know mus

biltong blames for everything, according to her I've bewitched Zweli and made him turn his back on her, of which is not true. Whatever he fed or did to Zweli is wearing off, thanks God for that. Yazi ladies using muti in a man to love you never ends up well, what happens when the muti start wearing off? Iyoh, you guys go through a lot, but I am not judging. We all have rights. Lately I haven't been feeling very well, my body is itching every night especially after 00:30, I am up most of the time scratching my body and the more I scratch allergy like thick rash would appear. Sometimes I wake up with a swollen face as if like I was fighting in my dreams. A lot of things are starting to annoy, I've

been praying about it but it's still the same. The doctors don't even see anything

Advertisement

Nkanyiso even took me to a prophet, and she too didn't see a thing. I mean, I am not allergic to anything hopefully its something that will end on it's own. Varsity is really draining me, I swear this lectures hate me the way they treat me ai. I'm sitting alone at the far end of the lecture hall, where I don't even bother concentrating my mind drifts on & off any time it feels like, and the teachers don't care. The bell rings indicating that it's lunchtime, I pack my things and step out of the class going to buy food at the canteen, the line is pretty long of

which is annoying me, but what choice do I have because I am hungry?

“It's happening. You need to pray harder and believe that God will help you, the dark forces are upon you. Pray Nobuntu, no matter how hard the road may be, never cease praying. You are about to experience the worst experience of your life, everyone will distance themselves from you but whatever happens never stop praying. Pray even in hard times, God will come through

for you. Remember to always pray, pray for your mother to, the road is going to be hard”.

I look around me and I don't see anyone, everyone is busy going on about their things. I swear to God I am now crazy, why am I the only who heard the voice? Or maybe my mind was playing tricks with me, it was all in my head, but it felt so real. Argh, I buy whatever I came to buy and go back to class. Stepping into the lecture hall flies fill up the hall, green flies this is strange, and I am the only one, I don't know if I'm the reason or what. I shake my head and step out of the class and go and sit by the veranda. My phone rings and it's Nkanyiso, you guys should've seen how happy he was when Zweli gave us his blessings, Ishuuu...

“Babe”.

“My love. How are you”?

Me: “I am okay babe and you”?

Him: "I am worried about you. Anything unusual happened today"?

Me: "Nothing babe. Well, when I step into the class few minutes ago green flies filled up the whole lecture hall babe, luckily for me I was alone. Now, I am sitting outside I'm even scared to go back to class what if they appear again"?

Him: "Babe, this is not right. I don't know if you believe in traditional healers or what, but I will have to take you there this afternoon. I will come and fetch you, this is no longer healthy". My body starts itching, when itching it means that I must scratch it, by scratching it means that I will have to be naked, and this is not the right place to scratch myself.

Me: "Urh...m babe. I will have to call you back the itching is starting".

Him: "That's it! Go to the ladies' restroom I am coming to fetch you". I nod and hang up. I stand up leaving my food there and run straight to the ladies rest room, I don't care about these students who are looking at me as if I'm crazy. Looking at my reflection in the mirror my face looks scary, I have this thick pimples. What's going on with me? Tears prickle my eyes, this is not right I lift my T-shirt and my body has crocodile like skin, no no, something is not right. The itching is not giving me any peace, I strip off my clothes and start scratching my body. My feet are swollen, okay. Someone is definitely bewitching me, but who?

★»★«

NKANYISO

Driving like a maniac to fetch Nobuntu at varsity I call my father, he will know what to do in situations like these. He answers on the 3rd ring.

“Sphakamiso”. I don't know why dad likes calling me with this name knowing very well that I don't like it.

“Baba, I need your help”.

Him: “Talk to me”.

Me: “Please get me Dabulizizwe and tell her that I have a situation, my girlfriend is experiencing strange things baba. I think someone has cast a spell on her”.

Him: "Dabulizizwe is out of the country son, and she will be back in 8 months time, I wanted her to help Mbuso too with his situation. Why you never told me that you have a girlfriend Sphakamiso"?

Me: "8 months? It will be too late then, and I was waiting for the right time to introduce her to you".

Him: "When was the right time"?

Me: "Dad please. Don't start, find me anyone who is as good as Dabulazizwe, as in now".

Him: "I know someone. I will text you his name and where to find him. He specifically deals with women not men".

Me: "You trying to tell me that he won't allow me in the hut with Nobuntu? Then he better think again. Get him for me, and he must expect us in 3 hours from now, bye". Hanging up. This

man better come through for Nobuntu, Dabulizizwe is one powerful traditional healer. She can heal any sickness and can make you throw up any sejeso. I trust her, not sure about this man my father is suggesting. Why is he even specifically dealing with women and not men? Hhayi, maarn. I'm sure he deals with women who feed their husbands love portion. But if he will help Nobuntu then who am I to judge? In no time I am in MEDUNSA, I call Nobuntu and her phone rings unanswered. Erh, I step out of the car and run towards the entrance, I pass the guards and go straight to the head office. I see 2 nurses making their way inside the head office they are running in, I follow after them... I find Nobuntu sitting on the floor her body full of allergy rash and I can spot tiny blood in her skin, she is scratching herself and her hair is a mess. I push everyone aside and pick her up, I run out with the others are calling for me to stop but they don't understand that my girlfriend needs urgent help. I put her inside the car and text Mnqobi to meet with me in 3 hours, I look at Nobuntu and she is now sleeping I guess the nurses gave her painkillers and some injection. Who is doing this to my Nobuntu mara? Seeing her like this really breaks my heart. I wipe away my tears and drive off... I am going to get her the help she needs.

★»★«

MNQOBI

Nkanyiso's message is not making any sense, who is dying? I try calling him but his phone rings unanswered, I also try Nobuntu and her phone is off. Dammit! I grab my car keys from the coffee table and drive to the place that Nkanyiso sent me the address for. After few hours of driving my car comes into a halt since I see Nkayiso's car... I run inside the yard full of women and go straight to the hut, I let myself in and I find the inyanga busy with smearing Nobuntu with some herbs. Her body looks bad, she suddenly developed an acne, a horrible one for that matter.

“What's going on? Why is her skin like this”! Nkanyiso is not even paying attention to me, I look at the inyanga.

“The bones did not show me anything they were just blank”.

Me: “You are a traditional healer right? I'm sure you know what caused this suddenly bad acne, am I correct”?

Him: “I can think of a few things but her acne is associated with witchcraft of which I, unfortunately can not heal. I will give her some herbs to bath with and some ointment to smear before she goes to bed. Should she get worse, I don't know. I was going to refer her to someone who is good at healing things like these, but she is out of the country. The herbs will not fully heal her, but they will ease the itching, and give her some rest”.

Me: “So, when these herbs of yours finishes it will be back to square one for her”? He nods. “Why don't you just give us more until this person comes back from wherever she is”?

Him: “As I've said I don't work with things like these, I am just doing what I can for now”.

Me: “Bullshit! Make sure that you heal my damn sister, do you hear me? You better heal her or else I will burn this indumba down into ashes”! He looks at me and shakes his head. I would find whoever did this to my sister and I will deal with them! Why would someone want to bewitch Nobuntu with Ischitho nogal? Some people are brave.

Inyanga: “All done. The herbs will last for a month, there's nothing more I can do from here”. I look at Nkanyiso, he looks in distraught, tears falling freely down his cheeks. I've never seen him cry this is a first, I hate seeing him this helpless. Well, at least the inyanga gave us something that will heal her for a month, but that doesn't mean we have to sit down and fold our arms. We have to do all we can to get her the help she needs and find whoever did this evil thing to her, and when I do. May God have mercy...

34

[Short short]

NOBUNTU

My eyes are too heavy I can't seem to open them it feels like I've been sleeping for ages. I rake my hand on the duvet cover hoping that there's someone close by seeing that I can't open my eyes, and there is no movement. I try opening my lips, but they are pursed, I can't even bring myself to part them this is a disaster. What happened? Where am I? I'm sure this ain't heaven because the smell is very familiar, I've been smelling it the very same moment I fell in love... I continue raking my hand as I try to open my eyes, I press them together and try opening them again, slowly but surely they are finally opened. Blurry as my vision is I can spot a figure sitting at the edge of the bed, it can only be Nkanyiso. I pray that my voice doesn't fail me...

“Nka...Nkanyiso”. My voice comes out as a whisper. He quickly turns to look at me then stands up and rushes towards me, it looks like he have been crying judging by his gleamy eyes.

“Thanks God you are awake babe. You've been out of it for 72 hours, how are you feeling? Are you thirsty”? I nod. What does he mean by I've been out of it for 72 hours? What exactly happened to me? “Let me help you drink, sit up”. I do as told, and he helps me drink with a straw.

Me: “I feel so tired. My body is aching. What happened”?

Him: “You don't remember anything”? I shake my head. He nods and come and lies next to me... “Well, the usual of your itching happened but this time it was so bad that you ended up fainting”.

Me: “What? This doesn't make sense. So, my body hasn't been itching for the past 72 hours”? He nods. “Well, that's a good thing, right? I mean my life will be back to being normal again”.

Him: “Urh...m, not completely”.

Me: "What do you mean"? He scratches his head. "What is it baby"?

Him: "Your body my love. It's not in a very good state, especially your skin".

Me: "What's wrong with my skin"? I attempt to remove the duvet, but he stops me and shake his head. "What is wrong with my body Nkanyiso? I want to see what is wrong with my body"! He looks at me his eyes are full of tears.

Him: "I don't want you freaking out I know how much you insecure about your body this is much bigger than your bruises".

Me: "Can I just see myself and only I, can decided whether it make me more insecure or what"! He sighs.

Him: "If you say so, I want you to know that I still love you no matter what. You can take a look". I look at him, and he darts his eyes everywhere but to me. What could be so bad about my body that he doesn't want me to see? I'm sure it's not that bad, I first look at my arms, and they are fine. Sighs, I remove the duvet slowly I am wearing a thick robe, iyoh. I untie it, my skin crawls and my blood rushes all over my body tears prickle my eyes, my skin looks so bad. I have blisters they already have pus coming out, it looks like rotten sores there only difference is that they are not smelling. What on earth actually happened to my body? I should've just listened to Nkanyiso, but it was going to be a waste of time because one way or the other I would've seen them. Tears are already making their presence felt, lately all I do is cry, tears have actually become my best friend. Who did I wrong? Why is all of this happening to me? I only came here to better my life, but it seems like I made a bad decision. Nothing is working out, well, except for crossing paths with Nkanyiso and finding my siblings. I wonder how long will Nkanyiso stick around, I mean, my skin is disgusting I am even ashamed of it. My life will never be the same again. Nkanyiso pulls me into a tight embrace, my heart is so shattered I am 25 years for Christ's sake! How long am I going to suffer? Death seems much better than all of this, maybe then I will have peace and be free from the heartache caused by this cruel

world, even God himself doesn't care about me. What's the use of praying? Argh... I wonder where is Mnqobi & Crecentia.

Me: "Who did this to me? Kanty mina ngone bani kulomhlaba"? Sniffing.

Him: "I don't know who did this to you babe, but Mnqobi is working on it. We will find whoever is doing this to you and we will deal with them".

Me: "Kubuhlungu Nkanyiso. My heart is ripping apart, tell me here; will this be part of my life for the rest as I live"?

Him: "Not at all my love. All you have to do is to pray, God will surely answer you". I chuckle.

Me: "Pray? Isn't that what I've been doing all my life? How do you pray with a heavy heart, huh? How do you pray while complaining every day about life? Isn't it said that, you have to pray with an open heart and never doubt him? Tell me how am

I supposed to pray when I'm suffering and questioning his existence? How Nkanyiso, tell me”!

Him: “God will never leave nor forsake you babe. I know that you are going through a rough path, but this is how God is paving your way my love. You might think that he doesn't hear you, but he does. You just don't believe in him, believe in him. If you can't utter words let your tears to speak for you on your behalf. Just give God a chance and I promise you, he will do wonders for you”. I chuckle

Advertisement

he is right. But how many times am I going to give God a chance? I always do, but he never comes through for me...

Me: “Please promise me that you will never leave me”.

Him: “I promise you. I will be with you every step of the way, no matter what happens or if people distance themselves for you, but I promise you that I will stick with you, and I'll be your

prayer buddy". I chuckle. "And remember that I will always love you no matter what happens".

Me: "Thank you. I love you too. What do you mean by people distancing themselves for me"?

Him: "What you're going through is not easy to heal and the people I took you to, they all did not see anything. The last inyanga gave us some herbs and oils to use for your body, but he told us that they will last you for a month after then it's back to square one". He sighs and I chuckle.

Me: "Once more my happiness is short lived! Can I just die and be at peace? Where there will be no sorrows or tears to cry. I mean, look at my body, it's sickening Nkanyiso"!

Him: "And I love you that way. Be glad that the horrible acne that was in your face is gone".

Me: "What"?

Him: "Exactly. The ointment really helped, what I'm praying for is that we get you more help before the month ends". I didn't

know that men like Nkanyiso exist in this world, I guess they are a rare species.

Me: "I love you".

Him: "I love you too. Now, let me help you with bathing and nurse your body, it's only day 3 babe, you will be fine. With me by your side of course". I chuckle.

Me: "I'm hungry".

Him: "You will eat after bathing and I will personally feed you".

Me: "I have hands you know".

Him: "Yes, I know. But I am offering to help you no arguments".

Me: "Such a bully". Rolling eyes.

Him: "With your health state you leave me with no choice but to strict with you".

Me: "Yes sir. Seeing that I've missed classes, did you alert them at the head office"?

Him: "Yes, they've been sending me your assignments and I've already submitted them for you. You will go back to varsity once healed, and you will be learning some modules via live videos. You are sorted and you will surely pass all of them".

Me: "What did I do to deserve a man like you"?

Him: "Let me see, Hmmm, you did nothing. God gave me you, that's the only explanation. Hop on my back and stop asking questions".

Me: "Doesn't these blisters of mine disgust you"?

Him: "Nah, they don't". Okay, this man is just unreal, but I am not complaining. I hop on his back, and he walks me to the

bathroom, I am one lucky girl now. But, how long is he going to stick around if I don't get help in time? What's worse that's going to happen to me than this? Will I ever tale a story about my painful journey?



ZWELI

Langa haven't been sleeping at home for the past couple of nights, honestly it is better that way. I can't stand her currently, I don't even know why because she did nothing to me, but her face disgusted me and the blisters in her body are a definite no. I wonder how Nkanyiso handles her, her body looks rotten, argh. My phone rings and it's my father I don't know when was the last time I spoke to him, and the Python have stopped visiting me of which is a good thing.

“Dad”.

“Son. How are you”?

Me: "Good dad and you"?

Him: "Good too. Where is Langa"?

Me: "She is sleeping".

Him: "Oh, I've called to remind you about the meeting that I've spoken to you about".

Me: "We haven't forgotten dad we will be there in a week time".

Him: "Okay. Take care son and pass my greetings to Langa. See you soon".

Me: "Will do dad and thanks for the call, pass my greetings to the family". Hanging up. I've even forgotten about the

meeting, now how am I go to enjoy being in a same car with Langa? Disgusting as she is, I will have to tolerate her, I have no choice. If her only sister suddenly hates her too, then who am I to like her?

“I guess this is it”. Oh, yes, I've ended things with Natasha it wasn't just working out. We've become too disconnected, I don't know how we've reached that point considering the fact that we were very much in love and happy. I really have no idea where we went wrong, she did not even fight me it's like she knew that I have lot going on, like Langa getting better before a week so that she can be bearable, at least she doesn't smell. Well, the last time I checked I don't know about now.

“This is it. It was fun while it lasted”.

Her: “Indeed. Take care Zweli. You were so good to me and I will forever remember that about you, take care”. She kisses my cheek and wheels out her suitcase. I don't know what is but I have a bad feeling, something is just off. Now, operation look for the mystery woman, she is that missing puzzle in my life. Where to start looking?

MNQOBI

Everything is not coming right in terms of getting Nobuntu all the help she needs, no one seems to know how to help her. We've gone from traditional healers to prophets but no one could help her, it's all just a lost cause. She is no longer attending varsity and her skin is getting worse day by day, the blisters are starting to smell the smell is unbearable trust me. I can't help but think that the inyanga we went to did something to her or the herbs and ointment he gave us made her worse, and today I am going to confront him. Nkanyiso is the best thing that has ever happened to Nobuntu, I mean dude even took unpaid leave because he wants to nurse Nobuntu, may God bless him not every man can do what he does. I, too, is not that brave. I can't bring myself to go and see her, but we do talk over the phone and video call each other. Everyone has turned their backs on Nobuntu, Crecentia too, her blood sister. She hates her all of a sudden and blames her for the fallout of our crew, when she speaks about her all you can see is hatred on her face. It is no doubt that who ever bewitched her made sure that people who are close to Nobuntu must turn their backs on her and hate her, unfortunately for

them they couldn't get me & Nkanyiso to turn our back on her instead we are seeking help

for her. Seeing Nobuntu in pain really breaks my heart, I can't stand her tears. I've even lost weight due to being stressed and don't know where to go way forward, it's stressing honestly. Lost in my thoughts and cooking a plan of how I am going to get Nobuntu all the help she needs my phone rings, the numbers I don't recognize them but I answer anyway...

“Mnqobi hello”.

“Hello Mnqobi. Urh...m you speaking to Boniwe Nobuntu's servant”. Argh, it's that rude woman, what does she want?

Me: “How can I be of assistance”?

Her: “Firstly I would like to...”. I cut her short.

Me: “Cut it with the apologies and tell me why did you call me, I have things to do and you are wasting my time”.

Her: “Oh, wow. Okay. I am looking for Nobuntu I've been trying to call her but her phone rings unanswered, do you perhaps

have any idea where she could be because I also went to where she stays and Zweli told me that she hasn't been coming home for almost two weeks, he too have no idea where she is”. I chuckle, how petty of him to even lie about Nobuntu's whereabouts, argh.

Me: “She is at her boyfriend's place, and she is not in good health”. I can hear sigh.

Her: “Not in good health? What happened to her? Is she maybe sick”?

Me: “It's more than that. I can give you the address if you don't mind and you are brave enough”.

Her: "Brave enough? What are you talking about? Is she maybe in a bad state"?

Me: "I'll send you the address maybe I am exaggerating". I hang up and send her an SMS of Nkanyiso's address I grab my car keys and walk out of the house I am going to confront that

Inyanga, he will tell me exactly what he did to Nobuntu. On my way out I see Crecentia's car pulling up right next to mine, I roll down my window.

"Where are you going"?

"Somewhere".

Her: "Are you going to visit that witch again"?

Me: "She is not a witch. She is your sister Crecentia and no I am not going to her even if I was it's none of your business".

Her: “Can't you see that she only came here to tear the clique apart and of which she succeeded in doing so. Too bad her evil ways are catching up to her, I wish that she suffocates in her sleep and dies. She ruined a good thing for the clique, she is bad news. The sooner you accept that she is a witch and a manipulating dark skinned bastard, the sooner everything will go back to normal. I regret calling her my sister, she is a curse”! I chuckle.

Me: “I hope you won't regret what you are doing to Nobuntu. She is not herself and so are you, I hope that by the time this blows over Nobuntu will be able to forgive you. You are neglecting her where she needs you the most”.

Her: “And you think I give a fuck whether she forgives me or not? I don't give a fuck about that whore who jumps from one dick to another, in all honesty who dates best friends? She is a whore a whore. Anyway, is Nkanyiso coming to the hosting? He better come alone and not with that nonsense. Oh, almost forgot that she's bedridden”. I chuckle and shake my head. My heart is aching, hearing her saying all of these things about

Nobuntu stirs my anger, but I can't do anything to her since she is my sister.

Me: “No. He is not coming and so am I. Have a good day and happy hosting”. She laughs and claps her hands.

Her: “You & Nkanyiso are clearly bewitched by that farm Julia. You guys are weak and pathetic, but then by not coming you would've saved us from contacting that witch's evil heart seeing that she finally won you over, mxm. Pathetic boys”.

Me: “This is not you talking, but then whatever suits your boat is fine by me. Bye”. I roll up my window and drive off. Crecentia really has some nerve, as much she is not herself but her saying all of those things to Nobuntu is a low blow, imagine if she said such words in Nobuntu's presence. How would've these words make her feel? She has been through a lot, she deserves a break too. That Inyanga is going to give me the answers I need or else I will burn down his indumba down to ashes as promised. Plus, I have a petrol and a lighter. Nonsense...

BONIWE

After calling Nobuntu's brother I decided to go to the address he has sent me. I wonder what's going on with her, gosh me and disappearing on her, but then work keeps me busy and so is Mbuso always nagging me, but he stopped being controlling and beating me. Let's just say he is a good man now, he is behaving. Oh, and now he works as a packer at pNp, it's not much but it helps a lot. I ring the intercom and the gates slid open after telling whoever I was talking too my name, I make my way in and I find Nkanyiso waiting for me by the door. He looks so pale and lost so much weight, his hair looks untidy he looks like he is going through a lot of things if you ask me.

“Hi”.

“Hello. Come on in”. He steps inside his house and I follow after him, his kitchen looks lovely and simple. He gestures for me to sit in one of the high chairs, I do so while playing with my fingers. “Anything to drink”?

Me: "Juice will do good thank you". He nods. "Is Nobuntu around"? He nods. "I came to see her".

Him: "She is sleeping, but she will wake up within 5 minutes even though she just slept, you can wait for her".

Me: "What's really going on with Nobuntu because Mnqobi told me that she is not in a good health, and if I'm brave enough I can see her".

Him: "Some witchcraft happen. And Mnqobi is right about you being brave, she doesn't look good. She is in a bad state".

Me: "How bad is it and who bewitched her"?

Him: "Extremely bad in such a way that I had to move one of my tenants here inside the house and Nobuntu to the tenant's room. And we have no idea who bewitched her and why".

Me: "Did you seek help for her"?

Him: “Yes, and Mnqobi is still seeking but none of the sangoma's and prophets we went see anything. We are busy wasting money and now she is getting worse day by day, at night it becomes worse because she hallucinates she sees things that aren't there. I never sleep, I have to be on guard 24/7”. He is saying all of this with tears filling his eyes. “But what choice do I have? She is my responsibility, no one wants to be near her. They just can't stand her and some have turned their backs on her. It is only me & Mnqobi who seem to care about her, but Mnqobi is scared to come near her”.

Me: “Oh, but why wasn't I informed”?

Him: “It must've slipped our minds. We are going through a lot, it's too much”.

Me: “I understand”. Nkanyiso's phone beeps and he looks at me.

Him: "She's awake, let's go. You are going to need this". He gives me a mask, oh

okay. Is she smelling that bad in such a way that we must use masks? Hmmmm, let me go and find out. We walk out and go to this other room, the windows are open. "I hope you won't vomit". He opens the door and the smell is just too strong even this dust mask is not helping and there are flies all over this room, it's sickening honestly. How does Nkanyiso survive in this? This is one unbearable smell, sies! She parts a curtain with his hand and moves to the side giving me the whole view. My stomach turns I want to puke, this is disgusting. I, I can't hold it any longer. I rush outside and throw up everything, I don't think I am going back inside the door let me just leave, I can't stand that horrible smell I will come back I don't know when. I am already outside Nkanyiso's yard waiting for my uber to arrive. What on earth was that? That's not the Nobuntu I know, hhe... That's a witch in a form of Nobuntu, never and never again will

they see me here. Maybe this is the reason why they didn't inform me, they knew that I wasn't going to stand whatever I just saw. How does nkanyiso do it? He is brave and have some liver. My uber arrives, I get inside in and off we go I don't think I will sleep tonight.

NKANYISO

I am not surprised by Boniwe's actions, I'm used to them. I mean, even some healers turned us away I've been praying every day asking God to heal her, I know it's a slow progress, but I know that he will answer me one of these good days. Hmmm, It's hard trust me, but I am all that she's got, if I turn my back on her, who would look after her. Everyone has turned their backs on me including my own family, basically Me & Nobuntu have each other that's just about it. Things have gone from bad to worse. I had to cut her afro since it had ants and worms coming out of it. Her blisters are now huge and oozing blood, worms are having a field on her body, her face is scary that horrible acne came back 3x than how it was before. Her speech is impaired I hardly understand what she's trying to say most of the time, her skin from her hands is peeling off, and she has lost too much weight, her collarbone is too pointy now. In fact, she is a skeleton but alive and breathing, oh and I also change the bedding twice a day, I go and stand before her. She

looks at me her eyes full of tears if I didn't know any better I would say that she is dying, but nah she is alive. I take her hand, and she squeezes my hand, I can't help but shed a tear. Yazi if it was up to her she'd rather die but it's not happening, instead she is suffering. I don't think I will ever be whole again should it happen that God remembers her, I pray that he heals

her instead so that her enemies will be in dismay. They are celebrating wherever they are, but it won't be long because the God I serve will not forsake me. They might rejoice in our sorrows, but we will be the last one to laugh. My phone rings, I take it out of my pocket and it's my mother I wonder what does she want because she made it very clear not to bother her with my business. Now, what does she want?

“Thembi”.

“Where are you because you are not in your house”?

Me: “What do you want”?

Her: “I'm here to give you a helping hand regarding the situation you told me about”. I chuckle.

Me: “You're too late. The damage has been done, no one wants anything to do with us what makes you think that you can handle us, now”?

Her: "Give me the chance Nkanyiso. Allow me to help you I am your mother". I sigh.

Me: "Do you have a mask with you because you will need one".

Her: "I don't have any. Why"?

Me: "Because you will need it".

Her: "Just tell me where you are Sphakamiso"!

Me: "The last room starting from your right". She hangs up. I look at Nobuntu who looks like she is in excruciating pain...

"What on earth is this horrible smell Sphakamiso. Did you bury a dog in here? But then dead dog doesn't even smell this horrible"! She slits the curtain apart, she looks at me then at Nobuntu. She has covered herself with her shawl.

Her: "And then. Who is she and why does she look so rotten"?

Me: "Nobuntu. My girlfriend".

Her: "She is your what? Is she even alive and what's with the flies and worms all over here? Yini? Did you dig her up from the grave? Weren't there better bodies in that graveyard"? I chuckle.

Me: "Please leave. My woman had been through a lot she doesn't need your spiteful words right now, she is in pain too and you think that she doesn't hear you? She hears everything you are saying and you've hurt her with your words. Please see yourself out before you upset her any further, thank you for coming". She gasps and looks at me... "You are still here"?

Her: "Look son. I am so sorry for all the things I've said, It was wrong me of me I admit. I am so sorry, please forgive me. You need to understand that this is not what I thought I was going to come across it's just that I am taken aback by this". I chuckle.

Me: “So that gives you the right to slur such words to my girlfriend”?

Her: “It doesn't justify anything but I am sorry. Allow me to help you I can see that you are taking a strain and your eyes are tired, you've also lost some weight. This shows that you are taking a strain in all of this, let me help you carry your burden with you and show you that I really care about you. I mean, if she is going to be my daughter- in-law, why not play my part? I'm sure she will take care of me too once I'm old and fragile”. A smile plasters on her face. “Let me help you. If you can stand the horrible smell, why can't I? You are my son Sphakamiso, I don't want you drowning into depression and end up losing you. Now, take me through your everyday routine on how you take care of her. I will take care of her in the afternoon while you sleep and you will take care of her at night while I'm sleeping, that way we both get to play our part”. Am I hearing right or my mother is playing with my mind? “This is the first time seeing you cry Sphakamiso. You look ugly, wipe those tears wena women don't like weak men, in fact come here”. She pulls me into her embrace, I can't help it but cry. God,

finally brought me a saviour this is only the beginning, God is coming through for me.

Me: “Thank you mama. Thank you for everything”.

Her: “Anything for you my son. Oh, and I've negotiated with Dabulizizwe to cut her stay short we need her here, she said she will think about it. I will also ask her to help your woman after helping Mbuso, that brother of yours will be the death of me, yoh. Whatever possessed him is hectic. Anyway let me go and make you guys something to eat, you both need to eat”. She looks at Nobuntu. “You are going to be fine darling, you just need some food to gain your strength back. The rest we will give to God, we will bear the smell. Son, let me go and prepare the meal”. She pats me on my shoulder and walks out, God is amazing. This is only the beginning of good things to come, I hope that Dabulizizwe will come sooner than expected...

36

NOBUNTU

It hurts not being able to talk or move. I am as good as dead, seeing Nkanyiso this broken and losing weight because of me it's really heartbreaking. I wish I could just die and save him all the misery I'm putting him through, his life is stuck all because of me, but then again I am so grateful to him if it wasn't for him I would've probably given up. He is risking his job for me of which he might lose, if that's not love then I don't know what is. I need to get better for him but how can I when I'm getting worse day by day instead of getting better? Do you know the pain of feeling something kicking in your stomach as if there's a baby inside you? The kicks are painful when it starts kicking it makes sure that it hurts me to an extent of getting short breath. I can't even scream out for help all I do is just cry silently, it becomes worse once it starts moving in my tummy I don't even know what it is. This is torture, death is the only option and for the fact that I can't even see how my body looks like, but I do know that it has worms since I've been seeing some on my face. I did not expect Boniwe to behave the way she did, but then who can stand me apart from Nkanyiso? Mngqobi do call now and then of which I am thankful for, what about Crecentia? Not once did she try to call me or text me, but

it's all cool. Yazi, I applaud whoever did this shit to me, she/he knew what she was doing. She made everyone to turn their backs on me but ke having Nkanyiso next to me is the only thing that matters. Wait. What if it's the ancestors still

punishing me for sins of a woman who don't want to acknowledge me as hers? A woman who have no hopes of making things right? Argh, clearly this will end up with me dying because of that selfish woman, sighs. Life is just somehow. Oh, then Nkanyiso's mother hhe, that woman said some hurtful words to me. I don't know why but I just don't trust her and she is my least favourite, I have this bad feeling about her or maybe I'm just reading too much into it. But no man, she has this weird vibes with her I pray to God to protect me from the unknown forces that are out to get me, what if she is here to finish me off? Damn, she will really kill me this one. Whilst in my thoughts I feel the bed getting wet, I am used to it because I release everything here, but this? This is some kind of a heavy flow of some sort. It's like someone opened a tap of water, then I hear dripping on the floor. Okay, this is unusual. Yes, my body is weak but now with whatever is flowing is getting weaker, I can feel myself being sucked, like there's something sucking the life out of me. Today I am definitely dying, there's no doubt plus Nkanyiso is with his mother of which is rather strange because he checks up on me every 5 minutes. It's been more than 30 minutes since he has left, guess I will die without

saying my goodbye to him. I will be a very terrible ancestor I will make everyone's life a living hell, especially those who were mistreating me, mxm. I close my eyes and listen to the pains, they've become part of me mus... The dripping continues.

★»★«

BONIWE

Ever since I arrived here in my house my heart is not at ease, my blood is hotter than how it normally is. No, no, this can't be happening, it can't be happening. I need to breathe and calm down. Arizona can't come out now she has to stay where she is, there is no way I am helping to find who bewitched Nobuntu, Nkanyiso must look for someone who will help her just not me. I am not the one who told her to date a man who his psycho girlfriend or no strings attached is obsessed with him, and resorting to go witchcraft on him. No, we are different I had valid reasons just don't know about Athile. I guess, I might prepare an outfit for Nobuntu's funeral, phela she is as good as dead. Healing is not an option not unless her mother do right by here, but then this is witchcraft and not ancestors wrath. They will have to seek help in their own, I am not getting

involved. Yes, I've vowed to protect her, but that was then. This is now and things change, so I am not involving myself I also have my issues to deal with. I take a deep breath and drink water, if I stress too much Arizona will feed on my stress and that will bring her to life. Mbuso is not back at work yet and tomorrow I am meeting with his family, I wonder how are they going to welcome me. Geez, since Makhosazana disappeared I will just have to face them alone, I hope they are good people and will welcome me with warm hands like they did with Thabile. Let me rest a bit before Mbuso comes back from work, my phone rings. I look at the screen and it's a number I don't recognize, whoever it is will have to call me back right now I need to nap, but I sense some deep sleep overcoming me. I hope it doesn't have anything to do with Nobuntu, andizi on her aid.

★»★«

MNQOBI

I am mad pissed. That traditional healer ran away, when I got there his Indumba was empty, it was like he was never there. I will hunt him down and I will find him then burn him alive, I

should've sensed that he was bad news the very first time he said that there is nothing he can do to help her, mxm. There were also women there who were in tears looking for their money, but I think it was more than that. No sane person can stress like that, Uhhh... Which makes me wonder why was he specifically dealing with women, not unless he was helping them with feeding their husbands with love portion. Nc nc nc, I pity those man. My phone rings and it's Zweli I wonder why is he calling me.

“Zweli”.

“Sure man. When are you coming? We are waiting for you”.

Me: “Didn't Crecentia tell me that I am coming I have things to do”? He laughs.

Him: “Things like seeking help for that ugly farm girl? How do you seek help for a witch though? She must help herself, wena just get here the set up is boring without you. I'm sure Nkanyiso is busy licking Nobuntu's wounds since I heard that worms have found a new home in her body”. I chuckle.

Me: “You don't deserve my sister man. No, I am not coming and thank you for words, they mean a lot. Enjoy”. I hang up. The day I will get Zweli ne, will be the day he regrets ever meeting me. He is full of shit, yenake we can't blame witchcraft he has always hated Nobuntu, it's nothing new but that will end. I find myself parked at a certain church, I know it's Saturday but I think I need to talk to God and have a serious conversation with him. There are no many cars parked here

Advertisement

only 3. I take a deep breathe and step out of the car and make my way inside the church I don't know why I am here or what lured me here, but here I am stepping inside the church and there are few people who are busy reading the bible. Everyone turns to look at me, they all look happy to see me of which is rather strange funny enough I am not even ashamed. I feel like I am home in a way, a man wearing a long white coat with a black collar approaches me.

“Welcome. We've been waiting for you son”. He clasps my hands and leads me to a seat. Waiting for me? How did he know that I was coming? I see Snikelelo standing up walking

towards me, she looks different from how she looked like when I first saw her at Banathi joint. She looks like a pastor's wife.

“Good day Mngqobi. Thank you for coming even though you came late, come let's start we don't have much time. Unfortunately for you we are going to be here the whole night if it needs to be, there are too many evil forces hovering around your sister. Powerful ones and one is in her mist currently. We need to pray for her, she is too weak and doesn't believe in God but through us she will see that he is able. You do know that she won't heal overnight, but we are praying for the dark one not to reach her. She must be burnt by the fire of God, come. Chain prayer”. Who is the evil one that is present in Nobuntu's life? What is his/her deal with Nobuntu? Will she ever get a break? “We have to pray until her saviour comes forth”. Erhh, this is one hectic... Why would they hate Nobuntu so much mara? Hhe.

★»★«

ZWELI

Without the complete squad this hosting seems so dull, there is no longer that vibe that there was before. Londiwe & Athile are here I guess they were hoping to find Nkanyiso & Mngqobi of which in their dismay they are not around, too bad for them. Ben is bored since he has no one to pick on, it's boring yazi. Londiwe comes and stands next to me, she doesn't look good if you ask me and she looks skinny than how she was.

“Hey Zweli”.

“Londiwe”.

Her: “Long time and I heard about you and Natasha, I am sorry”.

Me: “Argh, it's not the end of the world. We were bound to break up soon anyway”.

Her: “So, you don't regret ending things with her”?

Me: “Nope. It feels like a heavy burden have been lifted off my shoulders, she was like a bad omen. Good riddance to rubbish”.

Her: “Wow. Yet you've claimed to love her or was it all just a pretence”?

Me: “How is that any of your business”?

Her: “Whoa, stop being rude Zweli. Salt already stuck on your brain? It's barely a month since you broke up with Natasha and salt is already showing you flames”?

Me: “No. I am a man I get sex whenever I want it. What about you”?

Her: “Mxm. Anyway, where is Nkanyiso & Mnqobi? I haven't seen them anywhere”.

Me: “I'm sure Nkanyiso is busy licking Nobuntu's rotten smelly wounds and Mnqobi is seeking help for his dying sister, of which happens to be Nkanyiso's girlfriend”.

Her: “What? I thought that you guys have all turned your backs on Nobuntu”.

Me: “Us, yes. Not them. Mnqobi is going out of his way to seek Nobuntu all the help she needs in the world, and Nkanyiso doesn't want to shift out of Nobuntu's side. I mean, that fool even took unpaid leave to take care of Nobuntu, can you believe it”?

Her: “But how? This doesn't make any sense. She is supposed to be smelling and have no one to care for her, how did this happen? Why didn't they turn their back on her, clearly her muti is strong. At least you and the others aren't weak”.

Me: "Yeah, I don't even know how they succumbed to her muti. But wena why do you look disappointed by all of this"?

Her: "I am just disappointed at Mnqobi & Nkanyiso for being weak, yet they always preserve themselves as strong".

Me: "And truly speaking. Mnqobi didn't deserve a strong woman like you, he is a weak man. You deserve someone who is strong and can handle you". She gives me a fake smile, wuhhh this woman has issues. My phone rings and it's my mother, how I missed her.

"Mom".

"Hello son. How are you"? She sounds down.

Me: "I am good. You don't sound fine, what's wrong"?

Her: "It's your father son. He is sick, very very sick even the seer can't seem to know what seems to be the problem".

Me: "What? I am coming down there mama. How come can't the seer see anything? Isn't he supposed to see or why is father sick all of a sudden"?

Her: "I think the seer has been blinded to not see anything. Don't come son, I will keep you updated about his health and

the meeting is canceled until further notice. Please don't stress yourself and don't tell Langelihle, we do not want to worry her since she is very fond of your father and just started varsity. Put him in your prayers"/

Me: "I want to come and see my father mom. First, how bad is he"?

Her: "He is not that bad son, but I will let you know once he gets worse, take care and stop worrying. I will call you later, love you". She hangs up. What on earth is going on? First it

was Langa now my father? Whose next? This is bad and for the fact that the seer can't see anything it's evident enough that this has something to do with black magic. Who can be after my father? I am no longer in the mood for anything I just need to go home and rest.

Londiwe: "Are you okay"?

Me: "Not anymore. I need to go home".

Her: "Oh, go well". I nod and leave her standing there. Well, him being sick is a blessing in disguise because I wouldn't know how to explain not coming with Langa.

★»★«

NKANYISO

I've been out of it I don't know for how long because my head feels heavy. The last thing I remember was my mother giving me soup and her promising to look after Nobuntu. I am so happy to have her here, she is really a great help I wonder where is she. I wash my face and step out of my room, she is not around maybe she's with Nobuntu. The sun is out to play, clearly the heavens are happy let me go and check up on Nobuntu. I am met by a trail of blood coming underneath the door of the room where Nobuntu is in, no no no. Opening the door, the floor is full of blood. I run towards her bed and blood is dripping from her bed and she is sleeping. No! She can't be dead, I refuse. I shake her waking her up and she doesn't respond.

“Mama mama”! I call out to her. “Baby please wake up, don't do this to me. Nobuntu wake up baby, you can't leave me I need you. I swear to God I am going to kill myself, wake up Nobuntu please I promise you if you wake up I will marry you”. I look at the blood and remove the blanket off her and her robe is bloody, the blood is still dripping. What caused her bleeding and where is my mother? Fuck! I get into bed with Nobuntu and brings her head to my chest. “Wake up baby. Wake up sthandwasam' I need you, you've come to far to give up. Please wake up or at least say something to assure me that you are fine, I can see that you breathing but your breathing is shallow. Hold on for me baby love, yoh wena Nobuntu wake up we have

a lot to achieve together”. I can't control my tears, I don't even care about the worms that are warming themselves in my clothes.

“Sphakamiso”!

“In here ma”.

Her: “I can't son. I can't come in I'm sorry, it's too hot in that room. The fire is unbearable”. Fire? What fire is she talking about because there's a fan here and the windows are open.

Me: “There's no fire ma. Maybe you've reached your menopause”.

Her: “Arhhhh, I'm burning Sphakamiso. Ngiyasha”! I look at Nobuntu then think of my mother, what could possibly burn her mara? I lay Nobuntu on the bed and go and check on my mother. She is running around the yard claiming that she is

burning, I don't even know what's burning her because there's no fire.

Me: “Mama, what's burning you and why are you running around my yard like a naked woman”?

Her: “Okay, Okay, I will confess. Ahhhh”.

Me: “Mom. Confess what? What's going on”? My mom is wasting my time, I need to go and talk to Nobuntu she needs to wake up maarn.

“Ngiphakamisela amehlo ami kuwe msindisi

Nguwe ithemba lami ekuhambeni kwami

Wena walizwa izwi lomkhuleko wami

Ngikhala kuwe msindisi

Weluli isandla sakho wangiphakamisa

Ngizolibonga, emagumbuni amane kulomhlaba

Ngizolibonga elakho igama”


I listen to where the voice is coming from and it's coming from the room where Nobuntu is. I leave my mother running around like a mad woman and walk in slowly in the room, I hope my ears are not deceiving me. Slitting the curtain apart I find Nobuntu on her knees singing, tears streaming down her cheeks. It's a miracle, God is alive. I rush and kneel besides her and hug her for dear life, God I thank you. His promises are yes

- amen. He has heard my prayers and for that I shall continue serving him. I look at Nobuntu, she still looks the same but for the fact she is on her knees and singing is evident enough for me that God is the God of possibilities, only if you trust in him.

For daily latest books please visit <https://novelsguru.com/>

And also visit my Facebook page, and like and share it
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3345453369055623>

Thank you guys for downloading this book from my site

please keep visiting https://novelsguru.com/	
HYPERLINK "https://novelsguru.com/" for	supporting
	
me and also don't forget to share it with your	friends.

Dear Friends please download these books direct from
<https://novelsguru.com/> [HYPERLINK](https://novelsguru.com/)
["https://novelsguru.com/"](https://novelsguru.com/) bookmark this site for latest
African books, and also supporting me Thanks.

37

NOBUNTU

God is good. God is a God of impossibilities. He is the Alpha and the Omega, our redeemer. He is Jehovah Raphael... Well, that's what the boyfriend told me. I know that I don't believe in God and that I hardly pray with belief, but God sent me messengers to heal me by praying for me. This shows that some of us are

alive because of other people's prayers, let's normalize praying for each other we are going through a lot, let's be each others prayer buddies. You know while I was sleeping listening to the pains a song came into my mind, I listened to it, something in me was moved. I started singing it from the heart, and my hand twitched I thought that maybe I was imagining things. I moved my leg and it permitted, I did the same with the other one and it permitted too, I moved every part of my body and flicked my eyes open my vision was very clear, I could actually see everything. God is good people. Anyway, I found myself on the floor and started singing the exact same song I heard in my mind. It was talking to me in a way. Yes, my body is still the same with the sores and the worms, but for the fact that I can move and talk it's what I'm grateful for. This means that I will be able to feed and bath myself, giving Nkanyiso the chance to relax. Oh, speaking of Nkanyiso his mother ran out of this yard

like a crazy woman, as I am telling you now Nkanyiso is out there looking for her. I heard her shouting that she wants to confess I wonder what did she want to confess about, it frustrates me that she left us hanging. That fire didn't do much in terms of burning her, argh. But I hope that Nkanyiso will find her so that she will confess. I am done taking a bathing and I look clean, but I know that it won't be long and the bleeding will start and the worms will make their presence felt. Yazi having a man like Nkanyiso it's a blessing, if tables were turned

I would've done the same for him. I change the bedding then mop the floor before the worms starts appearing, my wish is for them not to appear and the blisters not to bleed. Looking at my face in the mirror it's not looking good, the acne is just bad. The room looks and smells nice, I take my phone on the bedside stand and Mngqobi still haven't called and that's strange considering the fact he always leaves a missed call just to show that he has called. I punch in his numbers and dial them, he answers after it ringing for a while...

“Nkanyiso”.

“So, does Nkanyiso talk like me”?

Him: “Whoa whoa, wait. Nobuntu is that you”?

Me: “Who else could it be? Oh, almost forgot. It could be my boyfriend too, so, yes, it is me”.

Him: “Oh my God! But how? I thought that yo... I thought that you were bedridden and can't do anything”.

Me: "It was like that, but I guess God and my ancestors came through for me. I can even walk by myself now and do things on my own without Nkanyiso's help".

Him: "Say what? God is great Nobuntu. I hope our prayers also helped, man I am so happy little one".

Me: "Prayers? What prayers and you were praying with who"?

Him: "Prayers from church with prayer warriors". It never occurred to me that Mngobi is a churchman, but hey I guess I made my assumption too quick. "Tell me here, was there someone else there apart from Nkanyiso"?

Me: "Yes. His mother was here. Why are you asking"?

Him: "Hmmm, I see. You know, she, too, was sent to come and finish you off but we don't know by who".

Me: “What? But she doesn't know me. Why would she want to finish me off”?

Him: “Maybe he wanted to hurt Nkanyiso by killing you. What else could it be? Not unless you possess special powers that we don't know of”. I laugh.

Me: “Special powers? Oh please. If I had those special powers I wouldn't be suffering like this”.

Him: “Maybe they are making you suffer because they don't want you to fulfill your destiny”.

Me: “Yeah right. So, when are you coming to see me seeing that I am no longer that rotten girl”?

Him: “I will come later today and the worms? How are they”?

Me: "Haven't seen them since I've finished bathing and no bleeding".

Him: "That's good and I want you to continue praying. This is far from over Nobuntu, you must pray until your saviour comes forth. We don't even know who that saviour is, but make prayer your habit Nobuntu. This is only the beginning".

Me: "The beginning? The beginning of what? I'm sure it's the beginning of great things. I've had enough suffering to last me a life time, so I will pass this beginning of yours, hhayi Mnqobi I need a break. Like, I need to enjoy my relationship with Nkanyiso and possibly make babies along the way".

Him: "Unganya Nobuntu. A baby must be the last thing in your mind right now, you need to heal and go back to university. I

also hope for the beginning of great things for you. Look, I will have to call you back my pots are burning".

Me: “Cool. When you come bring me something to eat and pass by the shops and get me new clothes, possibly 11-12 dresses. I am too skinny, my clothes look like blankets”. He laughs.

Him: “You are full of jokes wena and I will bring you your food and clothes, bye”. He hangs up...

“Baby I'm hom...” he stops talking as he steps inside the room. I watch him as he he roams his eyes around the room.

“Welcome back my love”. I tell him with a biggest smile plastered on my face.

Him: “Whoa, I mean wow. The room looks clean my love, does this mean that you've fully healed seeing that I see no blood oozing from your blisters and worms moving all over your body”.

Me: “Clearly, but then they can always surprise us. I feel like a normal person after the rough phase I've just passed

through. Oh, and Mngqobi was praying for me too. Did you find your mother”?

Him: “No. I've searched for her everywhere but she was nowhere to be found, I still wonder what is that she wanted to confess. Hhe babe, wonders shall never end but as long as you are healing well my love, that's all that matters”.

Me: “Indeed. But Mngqobi said this is only the beginning, I don't know the beginning of what and by the looks of things until my saviour comes forth I will still suffer, ai. This is draining honestly”.

Him: “We will be alright my love. Let's just enjoy ourselves and forget about a lot of things, futhy I'll be with you every step of the way”.

Me: “I know my love. So

Advertisement

plans”?

Him: "How about we start making a baby"? I laugh.

Me: "Mnqobi will kill the both of us without thinking twice. He has warned me phela". He laughs.

Him: "He warned me before I even pursued you. He told me straight up that he will kill me and I believe that he will". We both laugh...

Me: "How about you go and cook and I'll watch you, hopefully the worms will not come".

Him: "Why not? Let's go". He gives me his hand and I take it, ey I think I am going to make eat 7x a day so that you get your weight back". Chuckling.

Me: "And my hair"?

Him: "I will buy you weaves". I laugh. Weaves? Me? This guy is crazy nina! We walk to the main house hand in hand...

★«★»

LONDIWE

To say that I'm mad would be an understatement. I am breathing fire, that stupid Inyanga did half a job and I paid him a lot of money, how come Nkanyiso & Mngqobi are still hanging around her? The aim was for everyone to hate her, everyone! Approaching the Inyanga's indumba I am shocked to see that it has been burned down to ashes. Who could've done such a thing? Anyway, that doesn't matter. What matters is that he played me, now where am I going to find him? Oh, wait. Makhosazana might know where he is seeing that she was the one who introduced us to him. I try calling and all I get 'the number you have dial does not exist. Please check the number and dial again'. What the actual fuck? I go on WhatsApp and she isn't appearing, she even deactivated all of her social media accounts. How could she?! My God this is not happening, grrrr! All of a sudden I see dust rising up from the ground, a black dust I don't even know where it came from because there sun is too hot. It comes straight to my car and covers it, I caught as some of it gets inside my mouth.

“Why did you do it? What did she do to you”? The voice is scary and hoarse, I am shaking I even pee on myself, that's how scared I am. “Why did you do it”! Roars. I can feel the dust thickening in my mouth it's choking me somehow because I

am unable to breathe. My throats gets clogged and I can feel my skin peeling off, not knowing what's going on or who is behind this really frustrates me! I can't even utter any words, I swear I am going to die today. The pains I'm feeling right now are unbearable, tears are not even coming out but I am crying. This is worse than every pain I've experienced in my whole entire existence of 34 years and for the fact that I don't know what it is- is really making me more scared. “What you did to her is nothing compared to what I will do to you. You are going to beg me to let you go and worms will be coming out of your mouth. People will hate you and flies will follow you everywhere you go. I am coming for you and your friends you will all feel my wrath! You've picked the wrong one, this is not over it's just your beginning by the time I am done with you. Death will be the only option. Leave Nobuntu alone”! It roars and my windows shutter causing my ears to go deaf, within a blink of an eye the dust dissapears. I look around me and everything seems normal, well except for my windows of course but I will get them fixed. Now,

what on earth was that? Or was it all just in my mind? Hmmm, I feel some excruciating pains in my legs, I look down and my skin has been peeled off and blood is gushing out. It wasn't in my mind it happened for real, I try to scream but my voice is not coming out. I try again but still... What's happening to me? Does this mean that worms will soon come out of my mouth? Ishuuu, what did I do?

★»★«

MNQOBI

I am so happy that Nobuntu is healing very well clearly prayer works. I am now driving to Nkanyiso's house with the food that I've cooked. Oh, I am now officially a church goer. My phone rings and it's Crecentia, what does she want now?

“Hi”.

“You need to come to my house urgently. Londiwe is dying”.

Me: “May her soul rest in peace”.

Her: "What? When did you become this heartless Mnqobi? We are talking about your girlfriend here Mnqobi"!

Me: "Ex girlfriend you meant to say, she is no longer my responsibility, so let whatever happens to her happens. I don't care, and next time call me when you have something important to tell me".

Her: "How dare you Mnqobi"!

Me: "I'm still your older brother, bear that in mind. Goodbye". I hang up. I'm sure this is one of their plans to make me fix things with Londiwe, I am not going there, mxm. Nkanyiso buzz me in, and Nobuntu is the first one to run and attack me with a hug, she looks so much better health wise but her body, as usual.

"Little one"/ she chuckles and let's go of me.

"Big bear. Long time no see"/ I laugh.

Me: “You know I'm a sissy deep inside my heart”. She laughs as we make our way inside the house, I find Nkanyiso busy cooking on the stove, I chuckle and greet him.

Me: “Hhe. You cooking Ntwana”.

Him: “I have a woman to feed man, yoh look at her”.

Me: “I thought that she was your little sister when she came running to me. In my head I was thinking, why didn't I bring sweet with”. We all laugh.

Her: “You are no fun right now. Why are you ganging up on me”? She pouts.

Me: “We are not ganging up on you little one. You just look like a 11 years old school girl”.

Her: "A pregnant 11 year old that got impregnated by a 31 years old man". My smile turns into a frown...

Me: "What? You wouldn't dare! Nkanyiso tell me that she is lying"! Nkanyiso looks down. "Dammit Nkanyiso maarn I've warned you"! I charge towards him and Nobuntu bursts out with laughter and so does Nkanyiso. I look at them and shake my head laughing.

Her: "Yoh. You should've seen your face blah, now I know how much you love me, and I love you too".

Me: "You almost made me panel beat this rubbish".

Him: "Says trash". Nobuntu laughs.

Her: "What's the difference? You guys belong in the trash can. Anyway, I see that the Bro's before hoes rule doesn't apply to you guys of which is a good thing, but then I am not a hoe".

Nkanyiso: "You will never be one my love, but I will definitely kill your brother".

Me: "Not before I kill you first".

Her: "Not before I poison the both of you. Anyway, there are no beers here Mngobi did you maybe come with a carry pack or a bottle"?

Me: "And why isn't the no alcohol here? Nkanyiso you always have bottles with you mus".

Him: "The lady of the house poured them down the drain, all of them there's nothing. Only water and juice". I am shocked to say the least!

Nobuntu: "He is lying. The bottles are underneath his bed, mxm. Let me excuse myself and leave you gentlemen to it.

Mnqobi I am going to feast on what you've brought me, thank you".

Me: "I'm sure you will finish the food and nice cut by the way". She gives me a stare and walks away... "Dude. She ain't pregnant right"? Nkanyiso laughs.

Him: "Dude, stop stressing. I use withdrawal method she is safe, for now".

Me: "What? You sex her raw? You go in without a condom? Dude, hha.ah no. She needs to start preventing". He laughs.

Him: "Talking of pregnancy, I've been meaning to ask. Why were all the girls in the clique never got pregnant? I mean, not even one or maybe gotten pregnant and miscarried". Now that he is mentioning it, I wonder why. None of them ever fell pregnant, I've been dating Londiwe for years and I never heard her telling me that she's pregnant, not unless they were aborting. But no man. This doesn't make sense, at all.

Me: “Dude, what are you implying? Maybe they were preventing”. He shakes his head.

Him: “Something is amiss here, but ke what do I know I've never tried getting anyone pregnant. Let me go and search for those bottles while you ponder about this”. He taps his kitchen counter and walks away leaving me with trail of thoughts.

38

[SHORT]

ZWELI

I received a call from my mother telling me that my father is getting better, he can now talk by himself. I am so happy that he has finally healed, but I am not allowed to talk to him I will have to go to the village and go and see him. Work is boring today, since there's nothing much to do why don't I just go to the mall to unwind a little bit. My life has never been this peaceful, ending things with Natasha and not seeing Nobuntu

has to be one of the greatest things ever. I am stressed free, I take my car keys and step out of my office. On my way out I bump into Mngqobi, iyoh. What is he doing here? We fist bump.

“Sure. Heading somewhere”?

“Yeah man. I was going to the mall, want to tag along”.

Him: "Sure". We step out of the building. "We are going to use my car".

Me: "Fine by me". We both step inside his car, he roars the engine to life and drives off. "Long time man, where have you been"?

Him: "Busy with work and spending time with Nobuntu and Nkanyiso if not at the gym".

Me: "So, Nkanyiso really chose Langa over us? Talk about being possessed by a vagina with bleeding blisters and moving worms, how does he do it? He is brave, sies"! I see him

clenching his hands on the steering wheel. Don't tell me that he is angry, he can't be serious. "Don't tell me that you're angry about what I said, it's not as of like I am lying it's the truth". His car comes into a stop abruptly making me to hit my head on the dashboard. He pulls me towards him by my shirt.

Him: "I will not sit here and listen to you calling my little sister all kinds of names. It's not back then where I will keep quiet and not say anything, I will kill you mina Zweli. You will meet your maker faster than you've anticipated, fuck the fact that you are royalty. Ngizokuganda mina Zweli ungazong'jwayela amasimba. This better be the last time I hear you calling her names, enhlek Voetsek off my car. Out"! He doesn't have to tell me twice, knowing him he will clearly do me bad. He let go of my shirt and I step out of his car banging his door along. He roars his engine to life and speeds off. I fix my shirt and send Ben a text going back to my workplace it's not an option right now. I go and stand near the pole, I can't believe that Zweli almost beat me up because of Nobuntu. Such a jerk... Ben arrives few minutes later I guess he was around the neighborhood. I step inside his car and he drives off.

"Where is your car dude"?

"Left it work bra".

Him: "Then how did you get here? Did you perhaps flew". I chuckle.

Me: “No man. Is that weak boy Mnqobi, can you believe it”?

Him: “Believe what? What did he do? I mean, I've even forgotten about him”.

Me: “He came to fetch me from my workplace, well not entirely to fetch me but I was on my way out going to the mall when he arrived, we were using his car and I said a few honest words to him about his sister. Iyoh, nigga completely lost it bruh”. He laughs...

Him: “I'm sure that witch did something to him. Nxa, imagine turning on your own clique because of a stranger? A girl who just rocked up from out of nowhere, and a ugly one for that matter? Yerrr, this niggas ain't loyal. I'm sure Nkanyiso is busy

licking Langelihle's bleeding sores, Yerrr that nonsense is a fool. How do you let go of a hot chick like Athile and go for a random”?

Me: “That one has been fed korobela. I don't even know why we are even talking about them. They are as good as dead and the clique is adjusting just fine without them, we don't need people like them in our lives. They are dead and if we allow them back in our lives we will be cursed like them too”.

Him: “It took only 1 girl to crumble the clique down, clearly the foundation wasn't that strong”.

Me: “It can only be witchcraft”.

Him: “How come she didn't get to you using her muti”?

Me: “That's because I'm strong and I have a royal blood running through my veins, so it was not easy for her to bewitch me. Yazi bruh, it's not easy to bewitch someone who is of royalty”.

Him: “Thanks God I never got close to her, I'm sure I would be also be part of the bloody sores licking squad”. We burst out with laughter.

Me: “Me, you and Thabo really survived that witch's plans”. He chuckles.

Him: “And I'm glad for that”. I see the woman who I saw the last time crossing the streets, she looks decent today I guess she is not really a hobo as I've assumed.

Me: “Dude, stop the car I need to get to that woman”.

Him: “The one that just crossed the road”?

Me: “Did you see any other woman crossing the streets apart from her”? He chuckles and shake his head bringing the car to a stop. I leapt out of his car and jog to the woman she is walking fast as if like someone is chasing her, I finally reach her.

“Hey”. She startles and half screams.

“Leave me alone”! She yells at me and takes off leaving me standing there with questions running through my mind. Who abuses such a loving woman? It looks like she lives around I will have to find out information about her even if it means hiring a P.I. to investigate her I shake my head and walk back to the car in defeat.

“How did it go”?

Me: “She ran away from me bruh. It looks like she is being abused I will have to help her man”.

Him: “Help her? What if she enjoys being abused? And besides, don't you think that she would've went to the police if she needed help? Just stay out of things that don't concern you”. I nod. If he thinks that I will stop fishing information about the girl, he better think again. What he doesn't know won't hurt him.

Me: "Yeah man".

Him: "Good". We take off, but my mind is still stuck on that woman.

★»★«

NKANYISO

Things have been progressing very well for the past three months. I'm back at work, Nobuntu's body is still the same but the bleeding has stopped and the worms comes out of her body when it's too hot, oh

and her body still itches but not like before. She has gained her weight back, let's just say God has been good to us. I know that it will not be an easy journey but we will get there with perseverance and prayer. She still studies via live videos, Zoom helps her a lot and she has moved back to the house. My mother? It is said that she is somewhere in Zimbabwe going crazy and stuff, I still wish to know what is it that he wanted to confess about. That fire must burn her again. Anyway, I am in the office bored out of my mind when Mngobi throws himself in looking livid as ever I wonder what made him this angry. He goes straight to my mini fridge and takes out a can of Heineken, he twists the bottle lid and gulp it down without stopping and I just let him be, he will tell me what's eating him, well not unless he chokes on his beer. I chuckle thinking about it, man I can be stupid at times.

“I will kill that son of a hobo Nkanyiso! One of these days I will kill him”! He paces up & down causing me unnecessary headache.

“What did he do now”? I sigh, Mngobi will kill himself if he still gets worked up by what Zweli says about Nobuntu.

Him: “ The usual. Man, I know that you said that I must ignore him but it's hard not too when he insults my sister, the things he says about you & her. It's not on bruh, that boy is disrespectful”.

Me: “Where did this quarrel take place”?

Him: “In my car”. I look at him waiting for him to tell me more, I'm sure he doesn't expect him to ask him how it happened.

“Well, I went to see him since I last saw him decades ago. I found him on his way out to of his office he was on his way to the mall, he asked to tag along, but I suggested that I use my car and that's when he started saying some nasty shit. Mxm, I told him where to get off and chased him out of my car. Man I

was so pissed I'm just glad that my hands didn't come in contact with his swollen face". I chuckle and shake my head...

Me: "Get us more beers there. I told you to stay away from Zweli, wena just focus on getting that girl from your church you have a crush on. You need to bust some nut". He chuckles.

Him: "Man, that's one girl who intimidates me. I have never intimidated by a girl before, but her? She does it effortlessly". I laugh.

Me: Never thought I will witness the day where you actually get intimidated by someone, well, except before you met me of course".

Him: "You were worse and you were too egoistical plus full of shit".

Me: "Not forgetting handsome". He laughs.

Him: "Boy, you are stupid but thanks for the laugh I really needed it".

Me: "That means you will not charge me much for Lobola".

Him: "Now you pushing it. Let me get us those beers and I want you to tell me what are you plans with my sister".

Me: "Giving her babies it's on top of the priority list".

Him: "I see you are tired of living". I laugh... "Admit it that I'm going to be the best brother in-law you've ever had". I click my tongue and he laughs...

★»★«

NOBUNTU

University, Nkanyiso and Mngqobi are the only important things that matters in my life right now. They've been with me through it all and I am proud to tell you that my blisters are no longer oozing blood, but I've been getting periods none stop and it's a heavy flow. I am always in black clothes, thanks God my weight have picked up, cipla acting really did boost me shame. I now look like the old Nobuntu, Nkanyiso did buy me wigs I don't even know why because we never go out, I am forever indoors. My phone rings and it's a number I don't recognize I wonder who is it...

“Nobuntu hello”.

“Sawubona Nobuntu”.

Me: “Sanele, is that you”?

Him: “Uthini sisi”. (What are you saying) oh wow, I've forgotten that he doesn't know English. Damn you Jo'burg, how could you!

Me: “Uxololo. Unjani fana”. (I'm sorry. How are you boy)

Him: “Ngiyaphila sisi, ave ngikukhumbulile”. (I am well. I miss you)

Me: “Ngikukhumbulile nami. Kutheni ungifonela emva kwesikhathi esingaka”? (I miss you too. Why are you calling me after so long)

Him: “Bengimatasa, okunye ke isimo asimile kahle la ekhaya futhi u gogo uyangicosha, uthi ngihlalephi mina”? (I was busy, and another thing grandma is chasing me out of the house. Where am I supposed to stay)

Me: “Ini? Futhi yini inkinga”? (What? What is she saying the problem is)

Him: “Ufuna ukuhlala nesoka lakhe”. (He wants to stay with her boyfriend) huh? Gogo has a boyfriend? Since when? Erh...

Me: “Isoka? Elakuphi lelo”? (A boyfriend? Where is he from)

Him: “Khona khona la and insizwa encane njani”. (From around here and it's young man) I laugh.

Me: “Imihlolo. Yazi paka konke okungukwakho ngizofounela u Aunt Ncumisa azokulanda”. (Wonders. Pack all your stuff I will call Aunt Ncumisa to come and fetch you)

Him: “Ngizoyenza njalo”. (I will do just that) I am disturbed by the knock at the door. “Ngizobuya ngikufounele”. (I will call you back) I stand up from the couch and go and attend to whoever is at the door who knocks like he/she owns this place. Just as I turned the key the door pushes open and a beautiful woman with a model body pushes the door opening it wide. I look at the two suitcases next to her.

“Who the hell are you”?

“No. Who the hell are you”?

Her: “I am Nkanyiso's fiancé and who the hell are you? Or has this house turned into a mortuary out here looking like all kinds of shit mixture”? I chuckle. “Or are you the maid? Anyway, please bring me my luggage and get me something strong to drink. This house has changed a lot. You still here? Keep it moving sis”. She claps her hands. I look at her then at her luggages, I click my tongue and walk away leaving her at the door. I get to Nkanyiso's room and call him, he answers on the first ring.

“Baby”.

“I am too young to go to jail, please come and sort out your mess or else you will bail me out of jail, come home now”! I hang up and throw my phone on top of the bed, what kind of a test is this now? Haike!

39

NOBUNTU

This Amanda person is such a nag. We've been in this room for almost 6 hours now, and she is busy disturbing us every chance she gets reminding us that she is still around. I look at the peacefully sleeping Nkanyiso who is snoring like a tow truck, well, not really peaceful. He looks like an angel when sleeping, but once he wakes up he kwanyiwa squad. I remove his hand from me slowly and get off bed. This is the 13th time within six hours changing sanitary pad, the bleeding is just excessive and it is really killing my vibe to tell you the truth, even though I am always wearing black clothes but I still get uncomfortable. I wear my robe and step out of Nkanyiso's bedroom I am hungry, I pass by the lounge not realizing that Amanda is sitting because she pops up behind me.

“You honestly think that Nkanyiso loves you? Like, he loves you for real”? I just ignore her and go straight to the fridge and take

out gizzards & necks, it's what I'm craving for, so why not feed my cravings? "I'm the only girl that Nkanyiso loves. I am the only one who holds his heart. He doesn't love you, I mean, have you seen yourself? Have you seen how ugly you look with that horrible acne of yours? I doubt that you were even beautiful when he first met you. Wait, did you give him love portion to love him? Yes, you did. This explains why he fell for you, but let

me tell you something baby girl. I will make sure that he throws up whatever you fed him. My son needs his father in his life, he needs both his parents to show him love". I chuckle, I'm done defrosting the gizzards, I pour everything in the pot and bring to boil. Yazi I really don't have time for Amanda

Advertisement

I will just let her be. She seems like she enjoys talking alone, I guess it's therapeutic for her. My phone rings and Mnqobi is video calling me...

"Big bear"

"Little bear. Is everything okay"?

Me: "Yes. Why"?

Him: "I'm asking because Nkanyiso left me in his office saying that you don't sound fine".

Me: "Oh, that. His fiancé is here". He furrows his brows.

Him: “Fiancé? What fiancé Nobuntu and who the hell is she”?

Me: “It's Amanda. The girl who slept with his brother and fell pregnant for him”. I look at her and she gasps in shock. Guess she thought that Nkanyiso didn't tell me anything, pathetic.

Him: “What is that bitch doing there”?

Me: “She came to ask for a love back and apparently her son needs his father, he needs both love of parents”. He laughs.

Him: “What a funny. What a comedy. That girl is out of her damn mind, when did she realize that her son needs both parents love? And why didn't she tell Nkanyiso on the word go that she is pregnant with his child? What was she doing all these years and who was she giving the love of both parents that the child needs with? Who was his son's father all these years? What if it's Mbuso's son”?

Me: “You are asking a wrong person. All I want is for her to leave this house in peace I have a lot on my plate, devil's agent is one thing I do not need in my life”.

Him: “Why isn't Nkanyiso chasing her away”?

Me: “He is sleeping. We've been at it ever since he got back”.

Lies...

Him: “Nobuntu”. I laugh.

Me: "I am telling you the truth, be glad that I did not go into details".

Him: "You wouldn't have dared me. What are you doing there"?

Me: "I am cooking. You"?

Him: "Me too. Are you going to dish up for that Satan's agent"? I laugh. I look at her and she is very livid right now even her nose is flaring.

Me: "Nah, she has eaten the food she cooked for her and Nkanyiso". He chuckles.

Him: "Sis, sleep with an okapi under your pillow for safety's sake". I laugh....?

Me: "I will do just that. Don't you want to say hi to her"?

Him: "No, thanks. I am not ready for nightmares, look I will have to call you back my pots are burning".

Me: "I know that you will only call me back tomorrow and learn to multitask just like me. I love you".

Him: "Love you too little bear, bye". He hangs up. I chuckle and shake my head, Mnqobi is one crazy man.

“How dare you and your bear talk about me like I am not here? What you need to keep in mind is that I'm the one who Nkanyiso has a child with, and there is nothing that you and this so-called bear can do”. I smirk.

Me: “And I am the main woman in his life right now. What are you trying to achieve”?

Her: “Enjoy it while it last because he will soon be sleeping in my chest”. I chuckle.

Me: “Until then. I am the one who is still occupying his chest in case you haven't noticed”.

Her: “You clearly don't know me. Nkanyiso will be mine again watch the space, or you want to bet on it”?

Me: “I don't bet on something that is rightfully mine. Do what you know best and allow me to enjoy Nkanyiso while I still ‘can’ as you've told me, Miss ‘he will be mine again’, nonsense of a human being. Wait, what are you still doing in this house anyway”?

Her: “I am not going anywhere. You will be the one leaving this house and that's a promise”. Jesus is Lord, ey this is going to be a baby mama from hell I am already tired...

40

NOBUNTU

I am woken up by Amanda screaming like someone is trying to kill her. I leapt out of bed grabbing my robe in the process, I wonder why is she screaming because there are no wild animals here, wait. What if are thugs trying to break in? What am I saying? If it's them they are already inside the house. Nkanyiso also left for work and calling Mnqobi would be too late, ish. Think Nobuntu think fast, but nothing comes to mind then I remembered that I slept with a scissor last night. I take it out underneath the pillow, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death death I will fear no evil. I sneak out, getting to the kitchen my heart eases when I see Mnqobi, he is throwing Amanda with her luggage who is fighting to step inside the house.

“Go back to where you come from! Yazi I am so disappointed at Nkanyiso's for allowing you to spend the night here after everything you've put him through. Yerrr, Yerrr, you have some nerves coming here trying to get Nkanyiso back, how desperate can you be? Hamba”! Mnqobi yells at her.

“I am not going anywhere Mnqobi! Only Nkanyiso has the right to kick me out of this house, not you”! She yells back.

Him: "Then he will find you outside once he comes back from work"! He throws her slippers at her and locks the door, I'm sure you do know by now that banging the door is definitely Amanda's favourite hobby, she is good at it. "Hey. I didn't see you there and sorry for waking you up".

Me: "I've noticed and good morning. Oh, and thank you for the morning drama I needed something energizing to kick off the day. When did you get here"?

Him: "As soon as Nkanyiso told me that he is at work and has left Amanda here in the house. I just don't understand how could he allow his ex girlfriend to spend the night here, he was supposed to chase her away the minute he got here after you called her, but no. He just allowed her to stay knowing very well that this pains you, that's just pure disrespect to you. He is such a disappointment".

Me: "Maybe he has his reasons as to why he has allowed her to sleep over. I mean, I did not even get proper sleep with Amanda's shuffling". Sighs.

Him: “You see? Now this is making you to over think things, and what I can tell you is that Nkanyiso loves you for real. Yes, this was a low blow from him but he loves you and never ever doubt his love for you. I will make sure that Amanda doesn't come here again, that's a promise”. I shrug, I do know that Nkanyiso loves me no doubts about that, but what if Nkanyiso is the real father of Amanda's child? This will mean that Amanda will be part of our lives, she is going to be nuisance. I just pray that he never changes towards me, well, that's if he is the father.

Me: “I know that he loves me. A lot actually, but what will happen if Nkanyiso is really the father of Amanda's son”?

Him: “Nothing will happen. He will just play his role as a father nothing else, you don't have anything to worry about”. I nod, I just feel a bit off by all of this, let's just hope this won't threaten my relationship with Nkanyiso. Let me not think too much about it I will cross the bridge once I get there.

Me: "I guess you're right. Coffee"?

Him: "Full English breakfast little bear". I chuckle.

Me: "Didn't you eat at your house"?

Him: "I had no time I was in a hurry to come here and kick that woman out of here, hau".

Me: "Thank you so much for this Mnqobi. You've just saved me a long day I was going to have. Thank you big bear".

Him: "You are my little sister and it is my duty as your big brother to protect you, and make sure that you are safe". I smile at him. Thanks God for giving me a brother like him. His phone, rings. "Look who's calling? It's Nkanyiso, I'm sure that hone wrecker called him". She is not a home wrecker, I am not married to Nkanyiso, but in Mnqobi's eyes she is one.

"Sho". The phone is on loud speaker.

“Why did you kick out Amanda out of the house”?

Him: “I did what you failed to do yesterday the minute you found her here”.

Nkanyiso: “It was not your place Mngobi to kick her out Mngobi, I had things under control”. He chuckles.

Him: “So, you were expecting my sister to spend her whole day with Amanda in this house? Is that how you got things under control, huh”?

Nkanyiso: “They were not going to get in each others way man, I had a talk with Amanda in the morning and told her not to bother Nobuntu”. Oh, wow, okay.

Him: “Does my sister know that you had a ‘talk’ with Amanda before you left for work? Did you also tell her not to bother Amanda”? He looks at me.

Nkanyiso: “No. She doesn't know and no I did not tell her. But man look, there might be a possibility that Amanda's son can be mine”.

Him: “You didn't see it fit to tell my sister to stay out of Amanda's path, but you managed to tell Amanda. Yet you claim to love her? Is this love? You know what, don't answer that okay? sharp”. He hangs up and looks at me. He is about to say something but I stop him, I heard it all clearly Nkanyiso didn't consider me in all of this. It's fine, I will not stop him. He is making his own choice. But what I know is that I will never be in the same room with Amanda, never. I mean, he is even convinced that the son is his, guess I will have to wait for him to tell me that he suspects that Amanda's son is his. Mngqobi's phone rings and he just looks at it. I won't lie my heart is aching...

Me: "Breakfast is served". I place his plate before him. "Enjoy". I take mine and join him, I don't think it will go down well. I look at Mngqobi and he too is playing with his food lost in thoughts.

Him: "Hey, let's have a conversation with God maybe we might get strength to eat". I smile at him.

Me: "Why not"?

Him: "Pour your heart out to God and don't leave anything out, I will do the same too". I nod at him and we both kneel down...

"Dear God...". Tears just stream down my cheeks.

NKANYISO

After the conversation I had with Mngqobi my mood changed. It went from 100 to 0 real quick, sighs. I know that he is very mad at me but I don't blame him because I'm the one who is wrong, I was supposed to chase Natasha out the very moment

I found her. But I just couldn't bring myself to do it I don't even know why. I saw how it affected Nobuntu, but I turned a blind eye to it she was tossing & turning all night. On the other hand my phone kept on beeping they were messages from Natasha I didn't view them I just deleted them. When Natasha told me

that I am Sambulo's (her son) father I couldn't believe it because I know that she is good at manipulating people, but when she showed me his pictures I had no doubt that he was indeed my son. He is my replica, he is 5 years old and 6 years ago in November I ended things with her. She told me that she gave birth in June the following year which means that by the time I broke up with her she was already pregnant. In my mind I was so sure that it was Mbuso's son since I caught them in bed that year where I ended things with her, it was one messy break up. A part of is happy that there's a possibility that I might be the father but the other part is not because this means that Amanda will be part of our lives, and I don't even know how Nobuntu is going to take all of this I don't want to lose her. This is a mess and I also can't abandoned Sambulo he will need his father's love, I know that I wasn't there for 5 years but I am willing to make it up to him. I am disturbed by someone opening the door without even knocking, I look up only to find Amanda standing at the door wearing the shortest dress ever

Advertisement

and my man down there misbehaves. Dammit, plus it's been long since I last got laid, but I can never hurt Nobuntu like this I'll handle the blue balls.

“What are you doing here”?

“I've brought lunch since your girlfriend or whatever you call her didn't make you one in the morning”.

Me: “You didn't have to bother yourself, I always eat out. Now, see yourself out”.

Her: “How about we have some little fun then? I mean, I am not even wearing a panty”. She strides towards me. I shift uncomfortably in my seat.

Me: “Don't come close to me Amanda. What we had is no more”.

Her: "Let's prove it with a round or two, I know that you craving for me and I still have that effect on you Nkanyiso". She moves her hands over my shoulders and nibbles my ear. "Or are you scared of hurting that nonsense that you call a girlfriend"? This is shit I don't like. I get hold of her hand and twist it, she wince in pain.

Me: "I can tolerate anything but not you name-calling my woman. Her name is Nobuntu and should I hear you referring to her as nonsense or any other names I will kill you, am I making myself clear"? She nods with tears filling up her eyes. I let go of her hand. "Oh, and I want a DNA to prove that Sambulo is really my son. You will see yourself out. She just stares at me, "You want to say something"? She wipes her tears and sits down before me.

Her: "I... I mean, we. Me & Sambulo needs a place to stay".

Me: "Askies"?

Her: “They've kicked us out where we were staying because I couldn't afford to pay rent anymore, we've been sleeping in hotels and now all the money is finished. We have nowhere to go”. She sniffs.

Me: “You have a family. Why don't you go and stay with them”?

Her: “They don't want anything to do with me it's a long story”.

Me: “You have friends right? Why don't you go to them”?

Her: “They've all switched up on because I am no longer working. I have no one to ask help too, you were my last option and Sambulo's crèche's fee is 3 months behind the principal is threatening to chase him out of if I don't pay, I have been taking loans to give Sambulo a good life, now I am overdue in paying them and very soon I will be blacklisted everything it's just a mess. Being a single parent is not easy I thought that I was going to raise him alone but now situation forces me to do the otherwise. Sambulo needs the love of both

parents, he needs to grow up in a healthy environment in a home fu...". I cut her short.

Me: "Hold it right there. I don't care about your downfall, just grant the permission to do a DNA test of Sambulo if he is really mine I will take up my responsibility as a father, until then don't contact me".

Her: "Why would you want a DNA test? Don't you trust me"?

Me: "For all we know Sambulo can be Mbuso's son let's not argue about this".

Her: "I see. Okay, I will grant you the DNA test but we need a place to stay we are desperate, even now I left Sambulo with my landlord. She called me earlier on to come and fetch him she is being problematic, please help us with a place to stay until I am back on my feet. I wouldn't have come here if I was not desperate, please think about this". I lean back on the chair. She sounds sincere. A part of me wants to help her but another part is disputing that, I can't really watch my son to suffer... I

will think of something, but I will have to talk to Nobuntu first and hear what she has to say.

Me: “I will have to talk with Nobuntu first and hear what she has to say, I will need her input”. She chuckles.

Her: “Since when do you need someone's input? Besides, we are talking about your blood here Nkanyiso not some random stranger”.

Me: “My woman's input matters. Whether by blood or not but her input matters, now I will give you feedback once I've spoken to her”.

Her: “What did this girl feed you? You are no longer the old Nkanyiso that I know”.

Me: “Why is it when a man genuinely loves a woman you people automatically assume that he has been fed something? I

guess you've never experienced true love, you were busy with piece jobs relationships". She chuckles.

Her: "No sane man will love a girl that looks like that? Not unless he has been fed something". I shake my head.

Me: "You don't know half of the things we've been through together, you don't know anything. So, I would really suggest that you keep quiet and mind the business that pays you. When are doing the DNA test"?

Her: "What's with the rush"?

Me: "The sooner we get this over and done with, the sooner our lives will go back to normal. You know what, I'll book an appointment with Dr Pastel for tomorrow, end of discussion. Please leave". She looks at me for some time then stands up and walks out of my office. I foresee drama looming in, Amanda is just argh, but I hope that this issue won't strain my relationship with Nobuntu, I hope we will survive this too just like we did with everything else.

★»★«

ZWELI

A long stressful day it was today at work. I look at the time and it's just after 18:30, my phone rings and it's Nhlakakanipho.

“Nipho”. I throw my car keys on top of the table and make myself comfortable on the couch”.

“When are you & Langelihle coming to see father”?

Me: “We were supposed to come weeks ago but your mother called and told me that he was sick so we mustn't come. I was

planning to come down there in a week since mom said dad is getting better”. He chuckles.

Him: "Getting better where? Your mother lied to you. Dad has been sick ever since and the seer can't even tell what's wrong with him. The elders of the village asked for intervention of other seers from neighbouring villages, pops is getting worse day by day".

Me: "How is mother taking it"?

Him: "She is one strong woman hey. I don't even know how she does it, she lives life like it's normal, or maybe she cries herself to sleep every night".

Me: "We will be there in a day or 2 I just need to wrap up some deals this side".

Him: "Cool and greet Langa for me". I hang up. Why would my mother lie about dad's health? Or was she trying not to worry

me? Now, how will I go with Langa seeing that I can't stand her? This is a mess, but we will have to go...

★ » ★ «

NOBUNTU

I am done dishing up when the door flies open, and steps in Nkanyiso followed by Amanda. Oh, wow. Here I was thinking that she left since her car was not around the whole day. Amanda gives me a nasty look and walks to the her bedroom.

“Hey babe” he kisses my cheek. “Can we please talk”? I look at him and fold my arms.

“Talk”.

Him: “Urh...m. I don't know how to tell you this but Amanda and Sambulo will be staying with us until she is up on her feet”. Oh, wow. He did even ask me how I feel about this? He did not talk to me, clearly my input don't matter here even now he is telling me not asking.

Me: “This is your house Nkanyiso do whatever you want. I mean, you've already made a decision without consulting me. It's fine. This is your house”.

Him: “Baby please. I don't mean it that way, it is just until she gets back on her feet she had no place to stay babe”. I chuckle.

Me: “She doesn't have a place to stay? Why doesn't she sell her car? I'm sure the money for it can buy her a house and start her a new life? Why don't you book a flat for her to stay at then if you care that much about her? He scratches his head. “You know what, let me just make things simple for you. I'll be the one leaving I can't stay in the same house with your baby mama, I'm sure you guys need to bond as a family and make up for the lost time clearly I am not respected in this house”.

Him: “Baby please. Okay, okay, she will leave just don't go please. I will ask her to leave immediately, okay”? I look at him and retract my hands from his.

Me: “I'll go and start packing and call Mnqobi to come and fetch me”. I attempt to walk away but he stops me.

Him: "Wait. Wait here, I am coming". He rushes to the room where Amanda is, I chuckle and sit down.

"Why are you kicking me out Nkanyiso? Where am I supposed to go now"!

Him: "I don't care where you go just leave my house! Leave"!

Her: "I am your son's mother Nkanyiso"!

Him: "So? Anyway, we will meet at Dr pastel's tomorrow for DNA tests. Leave". He pushes her out and locks the door. "I'm sorry I was just hyped up about the fact that I have a son, come here". He pulls me into his embrace. "I'm so sorry baby and I will never hurt you intentionally, I love you Nobuntu, never ever doubt my love for you".

Me: "I know and I love you too".

Him: "Am I forgiven"?

Me: "No, you owe me and I will tell you what. Hungry"?

Him: "You don't have to ask me twice, let me go and freshen up". Oh, well, this man is mine...

41

ZWELI

Today I am driving down to the village I don't know how Langa will get there, but what's important is that we are supposed to arrive together and in one car, this is a mess. If I go there alone the elders won't be happy about it, and I'm not really up for being interrogated by them. I guess I will have to suck it up and endure Langa's presence until we get to the village, it's going to be a long drive I tell you not unless, argh, never mind. She must also do something about her sudden bad skin, I have no idea how she is going to cover her horrible rotten looking acne, but then again she is a woman, she will definitely come up with a plan. I will drive the after work plus my luggage is already packed and already in my boot. My mother doesn't know that we are coming, actually no one knows they are going to be

surprised njer. Anyway, I can't find my mystery woman I think she decided to go into hiding since the last encounter she had with me, I might've scared her, but it was not intentionally. My phone rings and it's Nkanyiso I wonder what does he want considering the fact that we haven't spoken in a long time...

“Sho”.

“Sho. Nobuntu tells me that you are going to the village today”.

Me: “Yeah, and”?

Him: “Are you going to come and fetch her or must I bring her”? I sigh.

Me: “I don't know man. Man, the truth is I can't stand your girlfriend she disgusts me, but I must go with her. What choice do I have? I will just suck it up endure the 7 hours torture trip with her”.

Him: "Oh, she is disgusting you? How sweet. I will spare you the none disgusting journey with her and end up throwing up while driving, I will drive her to the village".

Me: "Are you for real man? You've just saved me a lot of vomit, I will tell you what time we are leaving. I want us to arrive there late, that way only a few people can see your horror looking girlfriend". He sneers, I'm sure his veins from his forehead are

popping and possibly gritting his teeth in the process.
That's what he does when angry...

Him: "You will text me the time then". He hangs up. I wonder if Langa alerted Boniswa about us leaving, let me call her and check, she answers after few rings...

"Njandini". I chuckle. She is very disrespectful this one, yasis...

“Did Langa tell you that we are leaving for the village this evening”?

Her: “I am not going”.

Me: “What? You must come with, you are her servant Boniwe”.

Her: “I am not going, and they will assign her another servant. Tell everyone that I'm now a married woman I no longer slave for people, especially royalty, no, your family to be specific”.

Me: “But you've never slaved for Langa, and my family have their own servants”.

Her: “I know. But I slaved for your family still, they assigned another servants because I no longer stay there. Your family is a bunch of ungrateful pricks, tsek. Have a safe trip you little demo.”. She hangs up, WTF bahlali? Erhh, it seems as if like Boniwe have forgotten about the royal rules. She has forgotten about their brutal punishment if you defy them, sighs, she better come to her senses before evening befalls us.



NOBUNTU

I am sitting outside basking in the sun reading *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, Mngqobi brought me lot of books, he said they are to keep myself sane if assignments are draining. He said I need to unwind every now & then and reading helps a lot, but right now, I am bored out of my mind. My mind is unsettled, lot of things are occupying it, plus today Nkanyiso is going to Dr pastel to do the DNA test, I am not okay. Should it happen that Sambulo is indeed his son, he will have to rent or buy a house for Amanda & Sambulo nearby just so he can be closer to Sambulo since Amanda claims that they are homeless. It baffles me that Nkanyiso can't read in between the lines that Amanda is taking him for a ride, or maybe he is too excited at the thought of him being a father and that is blinding him. I mean, dude is talking boys days out already and teaching Sambulo soccer, his look says it all, and when his eyes sparkle when he talks about him. Life, I fear that Amanda will use this as an

opportunity to win Nkanyiso back using Sambulo, he will jump every time Amanda mentions Sambulo's name. I don't think I am ready to be a step mother, what if Sambulo won't like me? Plus with all this curse going on in my life currently anything is possible, well, I will cross the bridge once I get there for now let me just relax and take a breather. Wuuh, almost forgot that we are going to the village to see how the king is holding up. I was surprised to learn that the king is sick, and it's been close

to a month now, I feel so bad that we couldn't go there sooner, but then I was also sick in my own way. I hope he is not grave ill. Now, I will have to think of a plan to minimize the acne in my face, I have to be presentable in the presence of my in-laws. I mean, even make-up is not even helping it's a disaster, sighs. Life ke potato I strue. I am dragged out of my operation think of a plan for my horrible face by people talking. I look at the direction of where there voices are coming from and it's Amanda with a young boy, he is cute no lies about that, guess he is Sambulo. Well, there is a little resemblance between him

- Nkayiso. Whoa, what are they actually doing here? Didn't Nkanyiso tell Amanda that they are going to meet at Dr Pastel's? Sigh. This woman is very determined to get Nkanyiso back, and I'm sure she is planning to make my life a living hell, as if it was never hell. They eventually reach me and looking at them they don't look like desperate people who are homeless as Amanda claimed.

“Mommy who is this ugly woman and what happened to her face”? That's the first thing that comes out of his mouth, no greeting no nothing. He covers his nose and looks at me with disgust, I chuckle. Yah neh...

“That's the scary animal I told you about that took your real father from me Sambulo. She is the reason why your father neglected you and never supported you, it's all her fault”.
What the hell? What is Amanda teaching this child and why is she feeding him lies about me? Haike, there goes being a good step mother, I no longer qualify. Amanda is brewing hate between me and his son, and of which I am not even going to entertain.

Him: “She is cruel. No wonder she looks ugly. She has evil sores, she is a witch mommy and my teacher said God hates witches. God hates you”. A 5 year old saying this? Is he even 5? And what kind of a day care does this child attend with teachers who are teaching him rubbish? Hha, ha.ah. He doesn't have any respect.

Her: “I know right, and she said that she will never accept you as your father's son. She said she will poison your food and kill you if you come and visit your father, she is so cruel my boy”.
She smirks and folds her arms.

Him: "I hate her already, she has a evil heart. I will tell dad to chase her out of this house, she is very evil". I shake my head and continue reading my never ending book...

Her: "Maybe your father will listen to you because he doesn't take me serious when I talk to him about it". What kind of parenting is this? This is not normal I tell you. "Are you excited about meeting your father? I mean, he is excited to meet you, he has been calling me ever since. And you look exactly just like him

Advertisement

you are your father's photocopy". He giggles.

Him: "I am very excited mom. I hope he is cool like daddy Jerome and he will buy me lots and lots of toys, and decorate my room here like daddy Jerome did back at home". I look at Amanda, she gives me a nervous smile and brushes her son's hair", I chuckle and shake my head. Wawu! So, she lied to Nkanyiso and he fell for her lies, typical.

Her: "We have to get going now son, your daddy is waiting for us".

Him: "But I thou...". She cuts him short. Her: "No! Stop thinking and let's get going your father don't like people who can't be on place in time, he is very strict with time keeping. We've already wasted too much time by coming here". I chuckle, "And then?"

What's amusing you- you scary looking creature"? Sambulo laughs. Nc nc nc is nyiwing with this child, Nkanyiso is in for a biggest surprise of his life.

Me: "I am laughing because in this case your son will fight my battles with you on my behalf, he has a sharp tongue this one. I hope he won't tell Nkanyiso what 'daddy' Jerome do for him, and how cool his room is. Oh, and best of luck with the DNA testing". I smile at her. She looks at me from head to toe and walks away pulling Sambulo's hand, she is mad pissed. Who cares because she will be the one burning herself in a fire? I will just sit back and relax, and watch how the fire is going to consume her, it is going to be so fun. I still wonder, what did she came to do here or maybe she wanted to show me her disrespectful and unruly son? It's official people, her son hates

me, after all she has been feeding his ears poison about me. Oh, well, such is life though. The journey of baby mama will be in full swing, we will be woken up ka 03:00 am being told that Sambulo is dreaming, he misses his father, he needs new clothes to watch TV, ai women are full of drama shame arh arh. Arrival of Amanda and her son made my mood more damp than it already was, let me just go and take a nap. I have a long journey, and I wonder how am I going to get there seeing that Zweli can't stand me. Boniwe blocked me everywhere, Jo'burg really changed her. But I believe that something will come up.



NKANYISO

We are already in Dr Pastel's practice and we are 10 minutes late because Amanda says she got a tyre punch. I don't really care, ever since they got here I can't take off my eyes at Sambulo, he really resemblance me. Now more than ever I am so sure that he is really my son not Mbuso's.

“Good afternoon Nkhanyiso and miss”. She greets us stepping inside her office.

“Afternoon Dr”.

Her: “You guys are very late, now I had to cut my lunch short because of you”.

Me: “I am very sorry Dr. Amanda got a puncture, apologies”.
She looks at Sambulo for some time.

Her: “Why would you want to do a DNA test when this young man here is your replica? He looks like you”.

Me: “I don't pay you to ask me questions”.

Amanda: “It was just an honest question”.

Me: "Was I talking to you"? She shakes her head. "Dr please do what you must do I have a long day ahead".

Her: "Apologies. Open your mouth I will need a sample of your saliva".

Me: "Why don't you just take a string of both our hairs? That's simple if you ask me".

Her: "You are not a Dr Nkhanyiso. Just open your mouth and let's get this over and done with". I do as told and she inserts a small swab, then do the same to Sambulo. "You will come back in 2 weeks time for the results".

Me: "2 weeks? Can't you fastened the process? 2 weeks is too much".

Her: "Unfortunately no the lab is full, you will have to wait just like others". This is madness, 2 weeks it's too much, but

Sambulo do look like me, no doubt. But I still need to be sure, phela he might look like me only to find that he is Mbuso's.

Me: "Will that be all"? She nods. "Good, I am leaving. Let's go".

Amanda: "You can go with Sambulo I need to talk to Dr pastel, I am right behind you guys".

Me: "Talk to her about what? Is she your Dr? Come let's go".

She stands up fixing her dress and we leave Dr Pastel's office".

Her: "Was that really necessary Nkanyiso? You've just caused unnecessary drama. I wanted to talk to her about something important".

Me: "You wanted to tell her to temper with the results"?
She gasps.

Her: "What? Why would I do that Nkanyiso? I mean, even Dr Pastel saw that Sambulo looks like you. So, why would I

bother myself by asking her to temper with the something so obvious”?

Me: “Don't forget that I know you Amanda, and I know what you are capable of”.

Her: “Mxm, whatever”.

Sambulo: “Mommy I'm hungry and I'm craving for a burger and braai meat”. He removes the headsets he had on ever since he got here.

Her: “Tell your father. You know that I don't have money”.
I look at her and shake my head, she is unbelievable!

Him: “Daddy I'm hungry”. I take out my wallet and give Amanda some cash.

Me: “Go and buy Sambulo something to eat”.

Her: "Hau Nkanyiso. Aren't we going to eat together? Don't you want to bond with your son"?

Me: "Do I look like I want to play happy family with you? Until I am sure that Sambulo is really mine don't expect me to play happy family with you. Wait, even if he is I will not. We will just co-parent and I will do right by him. Bye".

Sambulo: "Are you leaving"? I nod. "Are you going to that horrible wo...". Amanda cuts him short.

Her: "Let's go and buy something to eat. Daddy has to be somewhere urgent, he will make time for you".

Him: "Why is he not like d...". Again she cuts her short, I wonder what did he want to say.

Her: "Let's go and buy you your favourite Burger meal. Bye Nkanyiso". She doesn't wait for me to respond, she is already

pulling him by his hand and hurriedly leave, something is not right and I will get to the bottom of this. Why did she keep on cutting the son short when he wanted to say something? Another thing, they do not look like people who are desperate and don't have any place to stay judging by their outfits, and they look fresh like people who relax in a bathtub. I walk to my car, I will have to pass by clicks and buy Nobuntu some sanitary pads, if it was possible I would buy all of them. This bleeding of hers is too much, Dabulizizwe must just come back already, no one can help her. It's enough.

★»★«

ZWELI

9 hours later we are already at the village, at least it's dark so people won't see us and I'm sure some are already sleeping. Nkanyiso unloads Langa's things with the help of Mngqobi, yes he decided to come too, but they won't be sleeping here. They've booked at a guest house, Nkanyiso says that he wants to be close to Langa. I don't know how is she even going to get time, and I don't know how we are going to behave as husband

- wife. It was going to be better if we were still close, now we are more like strangers. But whatever we do we must be professional, we must not make people to be suspicious. Langa bids Nkanyiso & Mngqobi goodbyes and we make our way

inside the yard. Langa has a hoodie covering her face, the gate guards come and take our bags, but they look disgusted by Langa, the very same feeling I have. Guess it's not just me there's a whole lot too... Stepping inside the house we find Nhlakanipho and Mandisa (his girlfriend) watching a movie. We greet them and only Nhlakanipho responds.

“What is she doing here”? He asks me covering his nose and there goes that disgusted face again. Him & Nombeko look at Langa who is looking down with disgust.

Me: “She is my wife”.

Mandisa: “Sies, she is so disgusting”.

Him: “Go to your room and come back alone, and she mustn't come to join us for breakfast tomorrow morning we don't want to vomit, we really don't”.

“And he remembers that he has a family”. Buhle says emerging behind me. “Welcome home brother”. She pretends as if she doesn't see Langa.

Me: “Thanks sis. Let me go and freshen up then I come back, we have some catching up to do”.

Mandisa: “I will go and make popcorn so long”.

Nhlaka: “Come alone we don't want to throw up everything we ate, even now my tummy is starting to get upset. Leave before I throw up right in front of you”. I chuckle and ascend the stairs with Langa following on my tale, the room looks clean. Langa will have to sleep in the closet or behind the couch just not in

bed with me or anywhere near me. She sits down on top of the couch, iyho, if few people are disgusted by her presence, how is tomorrow going to be like? No. She will have to lock herself here in this room and not go out, I don't want her to embarrass me.

Me: “You can start looking for a space to sleep in here, just not in my bed or anywhere near me. My room is very vast, so, a 5 m distance will do just fine... Let me go and freshen up I have a movie date with the family, you can play with your acne when bored. And I hope by the time we are done with the movies you would be long sleeping by then, I don't want you to be the last thing I see before I sleep. I am not a fan of nightmares, I leave her on the couch playing with her phone. “Don't even think of killing yourself because we will go and throw in a cabbage hole”! I shout while in the bathroom.

42

★Insert 42★

NOBUNTU

I can hear the door slowly opening then some footsteps, and someone shaking me waking me up. I open one eye and I see the most beautiful woman in the whole entire world, she looks like a goddess standing before me with the biggest welcoming smile plastered on her face. This is my first time seeing her, I know all the servants of this place, but this is my first time seeing her. Maybe they hired her after we left she is replacing Boniwe. I open my eyes full and sit up right.

“Nobuntu”. Her voice is so calming.

“Hello. And you are”?

Her: “I am Nombeko”.

Me: “Oh, are you new here because it's my first time seeing you”?

Her: “No. I am a visitor, I am passing by. Oh, poor child, for how long are you going to suffer? You've never experienced happiness in your life, it's sorrow after sorrow”. Why is she telling me something that is not new?

Me: “It's just how my life is. It has been destined to be like this, I am tired of people pitying me. Instead of coming with solutions on how to help me, you pity me. Yabo, if I was getting R200 for every ‘pities’ I've got I'll probably be a millionaire now”. Rolling my eyes...

Her: “The only solution is for your mother to do right. Why are you no longer praying”?

Me: “Haike! We might as well forget about my life becoming normal, and live happy just like any other person because of that selfish woman who calls herself my mother. I doubt that she is even my real mother, like honestly”.

Her: “She is your mother. She is just being hard headed that's it, and she harbors hatred within her. You need to be patient with her, everything will fall into place. All in good time”.

Me: “I swear this ‘all in good time’ line is Jesus himself because we have been waiting for him to come back since ancient days. And for your information, I do pray”.

Her: “You just pray for the sake of praying not because you are praying to God to guide you & give you strength. Even after he came through for you- you still doubt his powers”.

Me: “You will never understand, after all you've never experienced half of what I've been through for 25 years of living. Just when I think that things are going good, I am in a right path. Haike, afike u ghabadiya we life and turn it upside down”.

Her: “You will be fine Nobuntu just hold on a little bit longer”.

Me: “Hold on to what? Tell me here, how am I going enjoy my stay here when everyone is disgusted by me? They are not even trying to pretend or filter their disgust towards me, they mock me and call me all sorts of names openly. You know, I've

even gotten used to this name- calling. But then I don't really give a damn about them, I am here to see the King. Honestly, I am tired of everything. I'm exhausted, even your presence exhaust me". I lie back in bed, and cover my head with the duvet cover, she removes it and looks at me for some time then shakes her head. "What"?

Her: "Nothing. Let me leave you to sleep".

Me: "Finally, thank you"! I cover myself again...

"Nobuntu. There is another way". I slowly remove the duvet and look at her again...

Me: "Another way? Another way to do what"?

Her: "To fulfill your destiny and claim your happiness back. You don't really need your mother, but in order for you to do that you must find your father, the rightful King of Buhlebezulu

village. He is suffering in this cruel world, and he is all alone". I look at her confused as ever than I ever was in my whole entire life, what is she saying?

Me: "I don't follow. What exactly are you saying? Are you saying that the current King is not the rightful King"?

Her: "Exactly".

Me: "But how? How did he become a King if he is not the rightful one? Doesn't the seer know about this? I mean, he is the royal seer after all".

Her: "The seer too, is not the rightful seer of this place".

Me: "Huh? What exactly happened? How did everything get so twisted? Didn't the current King know that he is not the rightful King of this village? The elders didn't know too"? She shakes her head.

Her: "He doesn't, and so are the elders. He was made to believe that he was the rightful king by using witchcraft, he is just a commoner like every other being. They made the King, your father crazy. He was declared unfit to be one and he was deported along with the rightful seer, black magic is real Nobuntu whether people believe in it or not, it's real".

Me: "Oh, wow. This is just, I don't even know what to say. Who is the mastermind behind all of this"?

Her: "All in good time. Finding your father, will lead you to finding the real seer. Your brother is the royal Prince, not Zweli. He doesn't have Royal blood in him, find your father real fast. He is your saviour, pray Nobuntu. Pray like your life depend on

it, don't only pray when you're going through a rough rollercoaster in your life. Pray even if everything is sailing smoothly, thank him for the gift of life. Some people have died because of black magic, rejoice in his presence that you are still breathing"/ I nod... "I will take my leave now".

Me: “Wait. Before you leave, will the current King live”?

Her: “Yes. His ancestors are protecting him and they are refusing him to wake up. Once he wakes up he dies”.

Me: “What? Why can't the seer help him”?

Her: “As I've told you before. The seer is not the royal seer, Nqobani's ancestors are protecting him from the harm that is planned to come his way should he wake up. Your father must come forth, only then his ancestors will wake him up. I will be on my way out now. Take care and don't forget to pray, there's a light at the end of the tunnel. You are so blessed to have your boyfriend & your brother as your support system, cherish them”.

Me: “Wow. I really need to process this, I mean, it's lot to take in. To tell you the truth I am still confused. Oh, and by the way. What if Nkanyiso & Mngqobi turn their backs on me too”?

Her: “They won't turn their backs on you. They are not easily shaken by black magic, especially your brother, and their hearts are not pure. Don't worry your protector is protecting you from anyone who will want to do black magic on you again”.

Me: “A protector? As in a guardian angel”?

Her: “More like a demon angel. It's very rare for demons to protect the pure. Goodbye Nobuntu”. She walks towards the door and smiles at me one last time then walks out.

★»★«

I wake up my heart beating out of my chest. I am drenched in sweat, I look around and there is no one I am still sleeping on the couch. The dream, it felt so real. I wonder what does it mean, I sit up right. Who was that woman? The King? My

father? The seer? Ishuuu, it was definitely a bad dream. I check the time and it's just after 03:00am, I look on the bed and Zweli

is sleeping he is snoring. Did that woman say that he is not the rightful Prince? So, none of these people here are off royalty?

Ai, but then it was just a dream, Hmm... I get off the couch and go and rinse my face, there goes my sleep!

★»★«

MNQOBI

Sleep is so foreign to me this night. My heart is beating out of my chest, I am nervous, but I don't know what got me nervous of which I find rather strange. I wonder how Nobuntu is holding up, I hope that they did not welcome her in a horrible way.

Nkanyiso is sleeping peacefully on the floor he did not want to share the bed with me, apparently he doesn't trust me. I don't even know since when because we've been sharing beds everywhere we went, he is just one funny character. I look at the time and it's 03:05, sigh. This means praying. I kneel down before the bed and close my eyes.

“Yow, dude. What are you doing”? Nkanyiso woke up on a bad timing yazi...

“I was about to pray”.

Him: "Oh, I've disturbed you pastor M? Sorry man, but I am missing my woman".

Me: "Iyoh, Nkanyiso. Only few hours left before the sun comes up, it's tomorrow already".

Him: "No. It's not. It's midnight".

Me: "Ai, whatever ke. Come join me in prayer then"?

Him: "What? Dude no. I've prayed before sleeping, I will pray again in the morning when I wake up". I chuckle.

Me: "But, dude, you are already awake. Let's pray".

Him: "You know what? You pray while I go and heat us up some food, I am hungry". I laugh.

Me: "Go man. I will pray by myself and don't disturb me".

Him: "Ask God to hola you with a real woman too, not these slay Queens" I laugh.

Me: "Just go man". He laughs and dissapears to the kitchen... Nkanyiso is one crazy guy

Advertisement

sigh, I am just happy that he truly loves my sister. I pray that their relationship survives everything that will try to threaten it, not everyone is happy with their Union. But then, God will protect them. I, too, wish to find a girl that I will love the way Nkanyiso loves Nobuntu. It's a different rare kind of love.

"You are done praying pastor M". I chuckle.

Me: "No man. How can I, when you are here"?

Him: “Hhe pastor M. So, what are we doing today? Are we going sight seeing”? I laugh.

Me: “What? And please stop calling me pastor M. How about we go to the mall”?

Him: “That's not a bad idea. Or we can always go and visit your family from your mother's side”.

Me: “I don't know where they stay man, and I can't just go to their house without telling them that I'm coming”.

Him: “Ask Nobuntu to give you her aunt's number or let her call her and inform her to expect visitors today”.

Me: “That's not a bad idea, I will call her in the morning”.

Him: “Which morning because it's morning now”?

Me: “Dude, she is still sleeping. Have you forgotten how much she loves her sleep”? We both laugh... Just then his phone rings.

Him: “Guess she can't sleep too, she misses me. Babe”. He puts the phone on loud speaker.

Her: “Hey. I was taking my chances I thought that you are sleeping seeing that it's still the early hours of the morning”.

Him: “Oh, not at all babe. We are wide awake eating”.

Her: “Big bear is awake too”?

Me: “Yeah, little bear I am awake. I couldn't sleep”.

Nkanyiso: “Why don't I have a pet name? Yini? Or am I not part of your family”? She chuckles.

Her: "You are part of the family babe I just don't have the perfect name for you just yet. I am working on it".

Me: "He doesn't deserve any pet names. He is old".

Him: "But you are older than me. So, you don't deserve to have a pet name too". Nobuntu laughs.

Me: "Why are you awake"?

Her: "I had a very confusing and strange dream big bear. It felt so real you know, but I was dreaming, I couldn't sleep after it".

Me: "Want to talk about it"?

Her: "I will after I've processed it since it's confusing me".

Me: "Hmmm, I wonder what it was about".

Her: "You wouldn't believe me if I told you".

Nkanyiso: "Baby"?

Her: "Love".

Him: "Can you call your aunt on behalf of us and tell her that we are coming to visit, I mean, since we are closer to them why not ugly bear meet them"?

Her: "That's actually a good idea. I will call her as soon as the sun rises and let her know".

Him: "That would be lovely. How is it there"? She sighs.

Her: "I think I've wasted my time coming here. Yoh, whatever voodoo shit they did to me is strong, even people here have turned on me. They are so disgusted by my presence, last night I

was ordered to stay in the bedroom, and never come out until we leave. It's so bad yoh, I will not even get to see the King or have breakfast, lunch and supper not unless Zweli brings me food”.

Him: “That's it. I will come and fetch you in the afternoon, we are leaving”.

Me: “Don't make hasty decisions Nkanyiso. We have to come with a strategy”.

Him: “Strategy se kak! Get your bags ready, I will be coming to fetch you, and they better not dare try and stop me”.

Her: “My clothes are still packed. And I've already made a decision that I should've made a long time ago. Big bear, I will inform aunt Ncumisa about you wanting to visit”.

Me: “What decision Nobuntu”?

Her: "You will know soon enough it's for my own sanity. Talk to you guys in a few, and I love you". She hangs up. Me & Nkanyiso look at each other. What decision is she talking

about? I hope it's not something H for Hektik or extreme, my mind is running wild right now.



[NARRATED]

Seeing his father in this bed not doing anything really tears Zweli apart. His father looks so peaceful and he is too skinny than the last time he saw him. He wonder how is his father still alive considering the fact that he has been out of it for close to a month now, he also doesn't understand how the seer is failing to see what's wrong with his father, it just doesn't make any sense considering the fact that he protects royalty. If it's black magic, why didn't he see it coming? It just doesn't make any sense, not unless he too has been blinded, but how? He is asking himself all the questions, unfortunately for him there is no one to answer him.

“Get better dad. I know that you can hear me. You are strong, I know that you can fight for your life back, I love you”. He looks at him one last time, and leaves his bedroom at once, and go and join the others in the dining area for breakfast.

“Hau Zweli. Why did you come down alone, where's Langelihle”? MaZungu asks him as he settles on his chair.

“Do you want us to lose appetite for the whole day now”? Buhle answers her.

MaZungu: “I was asking Zweli not you, or has your name changed to Zweli now”? Buhle shakes her head and looks down. “Where is she”? MaZungu continues asking Zweli.

Zweli: “I left her in the bedroom”. He answers so much to his annoyance.

MaZungu: “Why? She is supposed to come and join us for breakfast”.

Zweli “It's best if she doesn't come and join us, trust me”.

Nhlaka: “You better take his word he is telling the truth”. He says covering his nose thinking about what transpired yesterday evening.

MaZungu: “You are all talking nonsense and are not making any sense. Ask one of the servants to call Langa for us”.

Amanda: “That's my cue to leave”. She is already on her feet ready to leave.

MaZungu: “Sit down Amanda at this instance”! She bangs the table, and that drags Zweli's mother from her thought. She's not even entertaining them, and she looks stress free. She looks like she doesn't have a dying husband lying in that bed in their bedroom. “Have anyone went and call Langelihle to come and join us”?

“Yes, ma'am. But I don't think it's a good idea for her to come down especially while you guys are in the middle of eating, you are going to throw up everything you've eaten and possibly cease eating for the next coming days upon seeing her. Oh, and I will suggest that you look for something, a thick cloth will do

to cover your noses with. Because wow!”. Says one of the servant who went to call Langelihle, she didn't even reach the bedroom door due to the excessive smell that was coming from the bedroom. She shouted for her.

MaZungu: “Why would we throw up at the sight of Langelihle”? She looks at everyone seating down, especially the young adults who look very much ready to throw up once Langelihle descends the stairs.

★»★»

Nobuntu just finished taking a bath and she is in a long dress. She ties her doek and covers her shoulders with a mini blanket, she doesn't know how today's reception is going to be like. She understands that they don't like her currently, but they must at least try too just for peace sake, and for the fact that they've called her to join them for breakfast it's really annoying her. She is more surprised at the fact that the servant called her from outside her room, she did not even bother knocking. She sends her aunt a message about Mngqobi's visit since she is not taking her calls. She looks at herself in the mirror and she looks

very much the same, this acne is bruising her self esteem, she walks out passing few servants who are going on about their duties. They cover their noses as she passes and flies are following her, she stops on her tracks and smells herself.

“But, I am not even smelling, why is everyone covering their nose? I was going to say that it is because of my acne, but they are covering their noses not eyes. What could be the problem”? She thinks to herself, and there flies are beginning to be too many. She sighs and continues walking, before she can even reach the dining area everyone scurries across the dining area going separate ways.

“Yerr! What's that smell? I mean, I smelled that smell from the staircase, yerrr”. The Queen comments covering her nose, Nobuntu appears and Buhle throws up right there & then. She looks at everyone, now she is more convinced than ever that she smells, but why can't she smell herself?

MaZungu: “Yerrr, did you take a bath after having sex last night Langelihle? You smell like a rotten fish, yasis! Go & take a bath. Oh my God! And what happened to your face”? She covers her nose with a dishcloth.

Buhle: “Thanks to you MaZungu for ruining our day! Sies Langelihle maarn, go and bath. My brother chose a wrong a wife, sies maarn. Get out of our faces you look horrible and you are disgusting”. Nobuntu just stands there defeated tears

streaming down her cheeks, she thought that she was strong and don't care about them mocking her. But now, here, right in front of her it's a different story because they are ganging up on her.

“Guards! Take this filthy thing out of my house, and call Sebenzile's cleaning company to come and spring clean Zweli's room of this creatures stench smell, out now”! The Queen orders the guards who comes rushing, they get hold of Nobuntu and they drag her across the floor, to outside and eventually out of the yard. Buhle & the others are laughing. The guards did not even care about her screaming & pleading them to let go of her, they shut the metal doors locking her outside. She brings her knees into her stomach, and weeps, right now she doesn't care about the villagers who are passing by. She makes a decision right there & then, she wants out of this marriage and they will grant her- her wishes whether they like

it or not. The gates open again and Buhle throws her luggage on top of her, and spits on her then laughs and go back inside the yard. All this while the seer was watching everything, he did not even try meddling...

43

MNQOBI

We are parked outside this big house. Ncumisa is the one who directed us here, she was resisting me to come and meet them, but me being me being I did not back down. She eventually agreed for me to come, now here we are parked outside. Someone approaches the car, I roll down the window for her.

“Hello”. She greets us with a big smile plastered on her face, we greet her back. “My mother is requesting for you guys to come inside the house”. She tells us this looking at Nkanyiso, she better not waste her time and think that Nkanyiso will entertain her.

Me: “Thank you”. I guess she didn't hear me because she is still starring at Nkanyiso, I chuckle & shake my head.

Him: “Ey sisi, don't look at me like that I have a girlfriend who I love very much, wena just do me that favour and not look at me. I don't want you, so please respect yourself”.

Her: “You are not that handsome anyway, I know handsome men. Men who look handsome without trying”.

Him: “Good for you and them”. He opens the door and steps out, the girl clicks her tongue and walks inside the yard leaving us behind.

Me: “Dude, that was not cool”.

Him: “Why did she look at me in the first place? She is too forward for my liking”. This woman standing here at the door is the replica of my mother, she doesn't look pleased to see us though. We greet her and she steps aside allowing us inside the house.

“Thembelihle please bring our guests some refreshments. You can follow me”. We get to the lounge and we sit down...

“What can I do for you”?

Me: “My name is Mngqobi and this is Nkanyiso”.

Her: I've asked; what can I do for you”? I clear my throat.

Me: “Before we go any further, do you know a woman named Thembi”?

Her: “There are too many Thembi's out there? Thembi who? be specific and stop wasting my time”. Geez, so rude.

Me: “Let me show you her pictures”. I take out my phone from my pocket and go to gallery, and give her the phone. She looks at them not believing it, she widens her eyes and looks at me.

Her: "Th... This is my older sister, her name is Noncedo not Thembi. How do you know her"?

Me: "She's my mother".

Her: "What? Are you being for real"? I nod. "Is she still alive? Where is she"?

Me: "Yes, and very much healthy. She resides in Jo'burg".

Her: "Thanks God. We've finally found her, do you know for how many years we've been looking for her? We even thought that she died and gave up searching for her".

Me: "She is alive. It's a pity that she never told us about our real family, and where we come from".

Her: "What? Why didn't she tell you about us? I can tell that she is still the lying old Noncedo she was before she disappeared. Now, how did you find us? Who lead you here"?

Me: "Nobuntu. My sister". I see her face changing within a second, she looks like she wants to vomit. Hau, I thought that they were in good terms, what changed?

Her: "Don't you dare mention that witch's name in my house, not now, not ever".

Nkanyiso: "You'll find me in the car I am not in the mood to entertain unnecessary shit". He tells me this already on his feet.

Her: "Did I maybe say anything wrong? I mean, I just said do...".

I cut her short.

Me: "Please don't, he is pissed off already, just don't piss him off any further".

Thembelihle: “Why is he pissed off? Are they perhaps having a thing because the last time I checked Nobuntu is married to the Prince the most handsome me I know”? Nkanyiso looks at her and so do I.

Ncumisa: “Oh no. Don't tell me that she jumped from one dick to another in just a short period of 5 months, how loose can she be”? Nkanyiso chuckles and walks out.

Me: “I'll be on my way too. I will come some other time”.

Her: “We still haven't come to a conclusion of sorting this issue of your mother, why are you leaving? Or are you also upset about what I said? But it's true”.

Me: “These are my numbers. You can call me and we will discuss a way forward, it was lovely meeting you even though it was for few minutes”. I give her my numbers, Thembelihle snatches them.

Her: "Oh, I will to talk with the elders and let them know about you and that Noncedo is still alive and forgotten about us".

Lihle: "Why don't you join us for breakfast"?

Me: "I am full, but thanks for offering I will be on my way out now. Bye".

Ncumisa: "Go well son and I will keep in touch".

Lihle: "Let me walk you out". I just look at her and walk out, she follows behind me. "So, when are we seeing you again"?

Me: "I don't know but not anytime soon".

Her: "That's a bummer. Well, at least I will get to see you more since we are related. So, your friend". We finally reach my car.

Me: "What about him"?

Her: "Can you at least hook me up with him and I will hook you up with one of my friends"? I chuckle.

Me: "Unfortunately for you, he is taken and very much happy. And as for me? I am not looking, stay well". I step into my car and hoot then bring the engine to life. "Well, that went well".

Him: "Clearly. Now, where to from here"? The clouds start to gather of which I find strange because I did check the weather and it showed no rain I guess geologist's can lie too.

Me: "To the mall then we go and fetch Nobuntu".

Him: "Then we are leaving"?

Me: "Obvious". He nods, we embark with our journey I hope the weather won't disturb us.



NOBUNTU

It is only now that I catch my breath after being chased by dogs. I was walking thinking of how stupid I am, and how what took place at the Royal house was embarrassing. Sighs. I am just glad that the villagers don't have smart phones or else I was going to be all over social media trending. Me being me I decided to go to my old "home" to see how they are holding up, especially Sanele. I had covered my face with the doek I was wearing hiding my hideous face. Haike, I did not even take a step inside the yard when Sanele and some boys from the village started throwing stones at me, and insulting me, erh. I was taken aback by Sanele's sudden behaviour, his eyes were not welcoming, not even a bit. It's like he grew this sudden hatred for me, I was shocked to tell you the truth. While I was puzzled about Sanele & his friends doings, my grandma poured me with cold water

and called me a witch, Thakasile blew a whistle, and before I know it the villagers who live nearby came out of their houses and started chanting "Umthakathi. Makashiswe"! Marching towards me. Amongst them I also saw Zana & Buhle, my supposedly bridesmaids. The way things are happening I have no doubt that someone is behind this, and it can be the royal people. Bloody rubbishes, yasis. That was when one of the most respected man in this village unleashed his dogs to chase after

me, iyoh. I've never ran like that in my whole life entire life, I was Caster Semenya for a minute I've even dropped my luggage when I heard the voices of the young men behind me talking amongst each other. I kept on wiping my endless tears and praying for these young men not to catch me, I was on a verge of giving up when all of a sudden dust rose up from the ground, it was not your normal dust. This particular one was just too thick, black and too fast it was more like a snake but in a dust form, ai, ke boloi I strue. I ran as fast as I could when I was saw it coming towards me in full swing, but to my surprised it passed me I did not even dare look back. The clouds started gathering and became too dark, clearly it's going to rain and I had nowhere to hide my head.

I look behind me and I no longer see the young men following me

phew. That's a relief. I take out my phone from my breasts I am just happy that amidst of all this shandis I still have it, I punch in Nkanyiso's numbers when rain droplets hit my bald head. Arh, even the doek got missing along the way... Another drop hits my bald head, and before I know it- it starts raining. I run to the standing alone vacant hut for saftey, half of it's roof is no more I can see it all the way from here. Well, at least it will shelter me

until the rain dies down. 5 minutes later I am inside it, the floor is in good condition, but what surprises me is that it is not wet, it is dry and looks very well polished. The rain doesn't even get inside, now this is creepy. I slid down and think of my life currently, it's a mess. There is no network connection here, dammit now I am left to stare at this dull looking wall. Sitting here right now thinking about my life it's depressing me, I need to pray and connect with God. I know that the sun will shine down on me one day just not yet, phela I am not patient when it comes to such. The thing is I want God to answer me immediately, forgetting that there are a lot of people praying to him too. Sighs, I keep on torturing myself unnecessary with things that are not worth my time. I need to focus on things that matter in my life, divorcing Zweli will be the first step. My burdens are just too many they are also contributing to my weak faith in God, but that stops today. I am putting my happiness first now, everything else will come behind me. Then

there's that dream issue, ai that one really puzzles me, yazini. I kneel down...

“Heavenly father. It is me again, Nobuntu. I'm sure that you're probably annoyed me because I always remember you when I'm going through a rough phase, but you need to understand

that anything 'good' doesn't really last in my life. Hence I forget to pray thanking you, ae God, anyway, I ask you to please bear with me and understand that I am not perfect. I have flaws, but then I plead with you to give me all the strength that I need I have lot of task to complete. Please, ease some of the burdens for me and let them rest in your hands, hhe God, life is rough out here. Thank you so much for the protection, and please continue guiding me in the right path. Hopefully one of these good days I will testify about how you came through for me. People will see you through me, please make me whole again and may I never go astray, amen”.

A very terrible thunder rumble outside, it's one scary thunder. It started raining with stones, but still this hut is so dry, I stand up and go and stand at the door watching the rain. The stones are big I must say, what if I'm dreaming again? Hhayi, phela anything is possible with everything happening currently. Ke film this one...



ZWELI

After the show we witness few hours ago when Nobuntu was being thrown out like an animal that she is, and how the villagers acted towards her. We all started having our meal in

the garden since Sebenzile's were busy spring cleaning the house. We were throwing jokes about her & there when there weather started changed, we were forced to get back inside the house. The seer was very tense when all of that was happening. Immediately as we stepped inside the house, thunder rumbled in way that made all our windows to shatter, I swear I heard my father gasping since I was in the same room with him. But when I turned to look he was still the same, I guess it was my mind playing games with me. Now that it has stopped raining the after effects are bad. The roof of house suddenly have holes, one of the trees that was known to be the strongest is down it fell on top of one of the servants chambers, but everyone is unharmed, but they are still in shock. This has never happened before, heavy rains did come & Go, but this has never happened, ever. My mother is having a very intense conversation with the seer. MaZungu is passed out on the couch...

“That was one scary moment. Zweli, did you see the aftermath the rain has caused”? Nhlakanipho asks me. I nod at him. “Do you know what this means”?

Me: “No. What does it mean”?

Him: "If the rain did this much damage in this house that was said to withstand any storms, of which was a lie after what happened few moments ago. Imagine what it did to the villagers huts"?

Me: "Don't mention it man. I'm sure a lot of their things are damage, my heart goes out them".

Him: "And they will come here to lay their grievances, dad is sick he can't attend to their needs. Are you catching on- on where I am going with this issue"?

Me: "I don't know. You tell me". He chuckles and shakes his head. "What's funny"?

Him: "You can be so slow at times. This means that you must step in his place with immediate effect". I laugh.

Me: "That's a good one little brother. A joke of the century".

Him: "I am not joking Zweli. You were supposed to come here the very same day dad got sick, but your mother made excuses for you. The elders tried reasoning with her, but she did not want to hear it. Now that you are here, you must take dad's position with immediate effect since you are next in line after all".

Me: "What? Man, I don't know anything about chieftaincy, nothing at all man. Where will I even begin? Mother will handle this since she knows how things are done". He shakes his head.

Him: "You are here now and the elders won't take her excuses. You can do this, or ask mother to go through the process with you until you get it right. Good luck". He pats me on my shoulder and walks away... This can't be happening, I am not ready I don't know anything, this is a mess. I rub my face with my hands when the door to my room opens, and my mother steps in not looking good. Her eyes are red, it's evident that she has been crying. She looks at me and fresh tears makes their way down her cheeks and to the floor, I hope she is going to tell me that my father has passed on, I pray.

Me: “Mom”? She shakes her head and sniffs. “It's dad okay”?
She just looks at me and continues crying. “Mom! Is dad okay”?

“Your father is still the same. It's time for you to step into your father's position with immediate effect. Where is your wife”?
My uncle Mzwandile tells me. I look at him slowly not believing what he is saying to me...

Me: “Pardon”?

Him: “You have 5 minutes to avail yourself to the throne room. The council is waiting for you”. I give him a blank look.

Me: “Can't you give me time to prepare myself? I mean, I don't know anything about chieftaincy. Uncle please, I ask you to give me more time”.

Him: "Your mother shouldn't have made excuses for you. You are left with 3 minutes". He tells me and walk out. I sit down in defeat...

Me: "Mom, please plead with them. Ask them to give me more time".

Her: "I... I... Tr... Tried so..n. I rea..lly did, I'm s..orry". She walks up to me and embraces me. I am defeated, I will just have to run away tonight, I will not take my father's position.

Apologies for any errors...

44

NOBUNTU

We are back home after the horrible weekend I had back at the village. I even got to see who is me who exactly who, this

weekend showed me who was the realest with me. I guess is true when they say, "when days are dark. Friends are few" I've got to experience that first hand. The heavy rain did some extreme damage back there, yoh. 98% of the huts are damaged beyond repair it will take months if not years for the villagers to get their village back to what it used to be. I mean, even their vegetable gardens are ruined, shame. Everyone in the village were at the royal house to lay their grievances, life is good. I don't want Sanele or anyone for that matter calling me asking me to help them, not anyone. My phone has been ringing none stop it was Zweli calling me and some of the royal family members, I ended up blocking them. They thought that I was going to jump the minute I see their calls, after how they treated me? They better think again because they don't really mean anything to me anymore I am done with them, what I need to do is to find a good lawyer to handle the divorce. I am just happy that we did not marry in community of property, we just married for the sake of being married, and Zweli keeping his inheritance. Another weird thing happened though

Nkanyiso & Mngqobi didn't detect the smell that everyone claimed I had, at some point I even thought that they were lying. Then the dream. It still doesn't give me any peace, I need to talk to Mngqobi about it maybe he might know what it means. I also can't believe that aunt Ncumisa hated me too, no wonder why she was ignoring my calls, haike. Wonders shall

never end. Well, at least Mngqobi's visit to her was fruitful, it is now between them to fix things because I am done with them. I am jogged out of my thoughts by a knock at the door.

Nkanyiso is at Mngqobi's it's a soccer night for them. I attend to it only to find Athile standing with her coat open, she is wearing a lingerie and heels, and having a bottle of wine in her hand. Upon seeing me she quickly ties the coat and gives me a fake smile, I chuckle and shake my head.

“Wh... What are you doing here”?

“I live here. What are you doing here”?

Her: “Yo... You live here? You are doing vat & sit with him? How desperate can you be? Do you honestly think that Nkanyiso loves you? He is just pitying you”!

Me: “Says someone half naked who came here wanting to seduce my man. How desperate is that of you? It just shows that you are cheap, and you think that seducing Nkanyiso will make him fall in love with you”?

Her: "Nxa. Whatever! Nkanyiso doesn't love you".

Me: "Good for him. Now, what do you want here? Oh, wait. You came here to seduce him. And to your disappointment you did not find him, how hurting is that? I can feel your pain don't worry".

Her: "I... I wanted to discuss something with Nkanyiso".

Me: "Why didn't you call him"?

Her: "He has blocked all my calls".

Me: "That should tell you that he doesn't want to talk to you. Can't you read between the lines"?

Her: "Is he home"?

Me: “Nope, he is not”.

Her: “Where is he? So, he can't stand your presence”? I chuckle.

Me: “Clearly”.

Her: “When will he back”?

Me: “Am I his time keeper? If you don't want to tell me what you want I suggest that you leave”!

Her: “I am not leaving until I talk to Nkanyiso”!

Me: “Okay. Wait for him there I'm sure he is on his way back”. I attempt to close the door...

Her: "Wait. I can't wait for him outside here".

Me: "Why not"?

Her: "I don't want to hurt your feelings, and I don't want to be the reason you & Nkanyiso break up". I chuckle.

Me: "What could hurt me? Or are you pregnant"? She looks down, and plays with her fingers. She nods. I laugh and shake my head. "Another baby mama drama just when think I was going to deal with one, now I have to deal with 2? Great just great"!

Her: "W... What? 2? Who else"?

Me: "Another one of your kind who doesn't know when to let go. I don't want to be like any of you when the time comes if me & Nkanyiso don't work out. I will let him know that he is going to be a dad again, congratulations".

Her: "Aren't you hurting"?

Me: "Not at all. Nkanyiso & I have been through a lot, and you being pregnant for him doesn't change the way I feel about him. I still love him regardless because I know that he will never choose you over me, Athile. I hope that you are going to raise the child, to be a better person than you. How far are you"?

Her: "I don't answer to you".

Me: "Okay, Bye". I close the door and continue making myself something to eat. What did Nkanyiso give these women because wawini, sisters here want more of whatever he has given them. I mean, they even fall pregnant for him. Way to go girls. I pray that I don't become like them, and know when to let go when it needs to be.

★»★«

NKANYISO

Soccer night with Mngqobi was fun, but now it's time for me to go home. I am taken aback when I see Athile's car parked right at the entrance blocking me to drive in. What is she doing here anyway? Sighs. I step out of the car and go, and knock on her window, but I get no response I guess she is inside. Oh, shit. What if she is giving Nobuntu a hard time? She doesn't need anymore drama. I use the small gate to get inside my yard, and

I find her sitting at the bench just outside the kitchen playing with her phone.

“What are you doing here”? She stands up, and walks towards me, I just look at her.

“Hey Nkanyiso”.

Me: “Ufunani”?

Her: “You should teach your girlfriend some manners and tell her how to treat guests”.

Me: “You still haven't answered my question”.

Her: “I heard that there's a possibility that you might be a father”?

Me: “It seems as if like you don't know why you've come here, you know your way out”.

Her: "Well, I come bearing good news of which you will find thrilling".

Me: "Talk".

Her: "I'm pregnant". She low jumps and claps her hands.

Me: "Oh, congratulations".

Her: "Aren't you excited? I mean, you are going to be a father Nkanyiso. This is exciting news we should be celebrating".

Me: "Yeah, they are, and there's nothing to celebrate it's just pregnancy. How far are you"?

Her: "5 months". I move my eyes to her tummy, and it's flat, I chuckle. She realizes that I'm looking at it and she giggles. "Oh, no. I take after my mother. She shows when she is 7 months, and when it does it pops".

Me: "Oh. I see. We are going to do a DNA test once the baby is born".

Her: "What? Nkanyiso, do you think that I will lie about you being the father of this baby"?

Me: "Yes, because we've always used condoms, and if I remember correctly the only time we did not use a condom was at Mngqobi's, and I also remember giving you money to buy morning afters. So, you trying to tell me that you did not buy them"? She sighs.

Her: "It must've slipped my mind, but I am sure that this is your baby Nkanyiso, I would never lie"!

Me: "Or you must've did it deliberately. Anyway, we will do the DNA once the baby is born if he is mine I will take full responsibility. We will talk again once the baby is born, you can see yourself out". I stand up and walk away leaving her calling my name I get inside the house... I find Nobuntu praying let me not disturb her, sighs. Will I ever get a break? Will we ever be in

a happy & healthy relationship with Nobuntu, because every time when we take a step forward something pops up, and take us 10 steps back wards. Now look, my past reckless behaviour is slowly but surely coming back to life. Imagine Nobuntu being a step mother to two of my children? What If I've fathered more babies out there and sooner or later the mothers will soon show up on my door stop, iyoh. I don't think Nobuntu will get fed I strue. It's true when they say "every action has a consequence" these are my consequences. I lie my head back on the couch, how much more can Nobuntu take? I am jogged out of my thoughts by Nobuntu kissing my cheek, she sits next to me. I smile at her...

"Hey

You done praying"?

“Yes, I am. I've been calling your name for the past 3 minutes. Are you okay”?

Me: “Yeah. Let me go and take a bath”.

Her: “Before you go tell me what's troubling you”? I sigh.

Me: “Will we ever have a happy & healthy relationship”?

Her: “Yes, why”?

Me: “With everything going on and my past catching up on me we are in for a rough ride”.

Her: “I know. But what we need to do is to stick with each other one of these days God will come through for us. This is like a test, a test to test us how much we love each other, and how much storms we can withstand. Kahle kahle this is a trial,

it is preparing us for marriage”. I laugh. “I am serious babe, we will do just fine as long as we pray, and believe in him. After all, a couple that prays together. Stays together, right”?

Me: “I guess you are right. I am lucky to have a woman like you in my life, thank you for being part of it”. She smiles and puts her hand around my neck.

Her: “I am glad to have you as a boyfriend too. Not every man could've done what you did for me, you a rare breed and a God's blessings to me. I mean, I am even practising how to be a step mother”. Laughing.

Me: “Speaking about that there's something I want to tell you”.

Her: “You want to tell me about your second baby mama to be”? I furrow my eyes at her. “She came here to tell you the good news I mean, she was wearing a very sexy lingerie she clearly wanted to break down the news to you in a very seductive way, and possibly have celebratory love making”. She

laughs.

Me: “She did what? Anyway, I told her to give birth first and we will go and do DNA tests. Even if she found me alone, she wouldn't have stepped inside this house”.

Her: “Really? Do you how sensitive ladies can be if you ask them to do DNA? They think that you are automatically saying that she sleeps around. She feels disrespected”.

Me: “I just want to make sure that if she was really carrying my baby”.

Her: “Is she really pregnant”?

Me: “I don't think so because her tummy is flat, and when I asked her she told me that she takes after her mother. She will show once she is 7 months, and when she does it will pop”. She laughs.

Her: “Kanty how far long is she”?

Me: “She said she is 5 months”. She chuckles & shakes her head.

Her: “Wawu. I will say this again, you sure know how to pick them. What exactly are you giving these girls”?

Me: “Hmmm... Let me see, well, something of which you've never tasted before, I swear once you do. You will be just like them, and don't want to let go”. She snorts.

Her: “Oh please. Stop bluffing, I'm sure you not that good”. I give her a serious stare. She laughs and rolls her eyes. “For all we know I can be telling the truth. Go and take a bath. I will dish up for you so long”.

Me: “Am I smelling”? She chuckles.

Her: “No. You are just exhausted, and we are done talking about what was troubling you”. I look at her and smile.

Me: “Yes ma'am. I love you”. She smiles at me. I stand up and walk to the bathroom...

★»★«

ZWELI

Things got really heated up back at village, the villagers grievances were too much in a way that I ended having a headache, plus I did not have any answers or solutions to their grievances. The pressure that the elders was putting on me was too much, they also demanded Langelihle's presence of which we had to lie about her not being there. They were not convinced about the excuse, but they did not push any further. Now, Langelihle is not taking any of my calls, she has ceased

any form of contact with me. One of the elders even said that maybe the rain was caused by Langa's ancestors, they were very angry about how we were treating Langa. Maybe he was telling the truth... It will cost millions for the village to go back to it's old state, It's too much. Anyway, I ran away from the village this early in the morning, now I stay in a flat, I am keeping a low profile, I've even changed numbers, so that no one can contact me. I will avail myself once my mother and the uncles have fixed almost everything in the village, I am not ready to take the throne, not just yet. Can my dad just get better? I mean, how did he do it? I am not ready. How did I get here?

★»★«

LONDIWE

I don't know how, but I've managed to get my hearing back. I don't know if it was done deliberately or what because what my family says about me is tearing my heart apart. Yazi, it's like I am burden to them, and they are even scared to come near me let alone look my way. I don't blame though, I mean, I am a mess, I smell and more over a paralyzed corpse. It hurts me more not remembering how did I end being like this I always channel my inner thoughts trying to dig deep, but nothing comes up. Not even a single thing, and I don't remember half of my life, all I remember is my childhood life of which is not really fun to remember.

“No. We need to take her to the hospice, she is not getting any better and as for me I am tired of cleaning her up after every 3 minutes. It's draining me honestly”. That's my little sister Pheladi saying.

“I couldn't agree with you more. I've called them, and they will be here in few minutes time, hhayi Londiwe really surprised us with this sudden incurable sickness of hers”. She claps her hands.

Pheladi: “About time. My life needs to go back to normal”. They can't send me away. They are my family, they are supposed to support me and be with me through it all. They can't turn their backs on me when I need them the most. I don't even think I have tears to cry anymore, in fact it's like I have no ounce of water in my body I don't even pee.

Philanii: “Whoa, thanks God they are here. That was fast, are her bags ready”? My second sister asks.

Mom: “All packed, and ready to go”. They all walk back inside the house leaving me outside. I look at the health workers as they approach me, all of a sudden I taste something slimy in my mouth, and another before I know it they feel up my mouth, I can't even open it. My mother steps out of the house with my bags in her hand, and a huge smile not to missed plastered on her face, guess they really want me gone. I am finally leaving their house, giving them space and easing their burdens. I want to plead with them not to let me go, but my mouth is sealed. “These are her bags hopefully she will be better when taken care by your hands because we've failed her”.

Woman: “We will do our outmost best, and make sure that we nurse her back to health, plus we have the best doctors”. She takes my bags, and gives it to them. My mouth manages to open, and worms spew out of my mouth landing on the woman and my mother. The woman drops my bags and takes off, my mother attempts to run, but the worms are already going up her body. She is screaming, and my hearing switches off. Pheladi & Philani comes running out of the house only to find my mother rolling on the floor covered with worms. I just stare at her...

MNQOBI

Nobuntu called me earlier on asking me to come over she has a delicate matter to discuss with me. I wonder what is it because she sounded so serious over the phone. On my way out I bump into Cresencia she doesn't look too good, I stop on my tracks and look at her as she plays with her fingers looking down I can't really hold a grudge against her, she is still my sister.

“Crescentia”.

“Hey. I see that you are on your way out, I thought that I should come and visit you just like old times, but if you are on your way out it's fine. I will come back some other time”. She says all of this looking down.

Me: “I have a few minutes to spare, please come in”. I unlock the door and we make our way inside the house, “I will prepare you something to drink, and the last time I checked I had some cookies, so make yourself comfortable”.

Her: "I'll be in the lounge. Oh, how I missed this place". She walks straight to the lounge. I take out my phone and call Nobuntu, she answers after a couple of rings

"Big bear".

"Little bear. I just wanted to inform you that I will come a little later Crecentia is here".

Her: "Okay, cool".

Me: "Aren't you mad"? She laughs.

Her: "Mad at what? Oh, no. She is your sister mus I really don't mind. I'm sure she misses how close you guys were before everything else started taking South. I will see you when you get here".

Me: "I love you".

Her: "You seriously need to get yourself a girlfriend this is no longer cute". I laugh.

Me: "Ohoo, once I do, you will never hear me telling you that I love you". She laughs.

Her: "I recieve enough 'I love you' to last me a life time, bye".
She hangs up, and I find myself laughing alone.

"I've been waiting for my drink for over 5 minutes now. What's taking you so long"? Crecentia shouts from the lounge. Oh, wow. I've forgotten about her.

Me: "In a few, I was searching for the cookies". I pour the juice and put the cookies in a saucer then take it to her, trays are for strangers.

Her: "Thank you. Where's yours"?

Me: "I'm fine don't worry". Then silence befalls us, this is so awkward. "So, how have you been"?

Her: "I've been living life the best way I know how. How have you been"?

Me: "I've been good hey. I can't complain, I've even rekindled my relationship with God". She laughs.

Her: "You? I thought you wanted nothing to do with church you hated it ever since we were young. What changed or who dragged you to church"?

Me: "Let's just say God remembered me, and was like 'yey Conquer I've been watching you going astray, now go back to church you silly thing', and baam there's me being led to a

church. I church for real now, and besides that church helped me you know”.

Her: “Wow. I am happy for you”.

Me: “I know. How is your mother”? She sighs.

Her: “She is not good. You bringing Nobuntu into her life was such a bad idea, mom is now sick because of your recklessness”.

Me: “She will be fine. In fact she should be fine because I brought Nobuntu months ago in her life, and she rejected her and humiliated her. Now, how is she sick”?

Her: “Wow. Even now you choose that girl over us? You don't care about our mother's health Mngqobi. You do know that we all that she has, right? Just the two of us and no one else”.

Me: "That's where you are wrong Crecentia. Mother has as family, and it's very much alive".

Her: "What? What family? How do you know & when did you meet them"?

Me: "Nobuntu told me about them, and when we were at the village few weeks ago, I went to her sister. She was so shocked when I showed her our mother's picture, apparently your mother is very slick she is also a lie. Anyway, Ncumisa said that he will let the elders know. So, she doesn't have us only. Plus her family is vast I saw them at Nobuntu & Zweli's wedding. She just needs to swallow her pride and do what's right".

Her: "You did what? You went behind her back and searched for her family? You did not even ask her how she feels about this. How could you Mnqobi"!

Me: "I was looking for my family. My family Cresencia, I need to have a sense of belonging, I was doing this for myself and not for anyone else. If she doesn't want her family, I do. And by the

look of things I don't think you yourself is ready to meet them. So, I don't really care what you & your mother say”.

Her: “You have changed Mngqobi. A lot for that matter. Why would you want a family that chased out our mother as if she was nothing? Why”?

Me: “Until I get to hear both sides of the stories then I don't care about what your mother says. She might be lying for all we know”.

Her: “Wow. You have really changed”!

Me: “I know, and thank you for noticing”.

Her: “Let me just leave, and good luck with forming a new relationship with your new family. I wish you all the best”. She is already on her feet.

Me: "I will. Thank you for stopping by, and greet mother for me. Oh, and don't forget to pray- prayer works".

Her: "Don't contact us when things are going bad for you. You will remember us".

Me: "No. God loves us all. You & your mother will be the one reaching out to me, I hope when the time comes it won't be too

late". She clicks her tongue, and walks out banging my door. I shake my head, may God remember them...



KHETHIWE (QUEEN)

Things are a mess, the Royal house is in chaos everyone is in carhoots with one another, the once peaceful Royal house has turned into a circus. The villagers are always camping outside our yard looking for solutions, some are trying so hard to fix their huts and renewing their yards back to what they were before. While some have nothing at all, those who have nothing we've allowed them to stay at the village hall until

things go back to what they used to be before. Food is being supplied to them. Most people lost their livestock due to the heavy rain, the municipality is also taking it's damn time to fix things around here, and I know that it will cost us millions. Zweli ran away, and so did the seer I don't even know where did they disappear too. And they are both unreachable. I hope the seer did not convinced Zweli to leave with him since he is his father, hhayi, but he ain't that stupid to tell Zweli such, knowing Zweli he would've confronted me. Sighs, this is just argh. I look at my husband, and he looks the same I don't even how he is alive for 2 months without eating or drinking any liquids it just doesn't make any sense. He would've known what to do in times like these. I blink away the tears, and leave his room I need to pay the witch a visit again she has answers to my questions...

I get there, and step inside the hut. It is too quiet than how it usually is, and I ain't seeing her kids (tikoloshis/short man).

“Mother”? I call out, and no answer. Her traditional stuff & herbs are still here though. That's a relief, maybe she has went to fetch woods let me sit down and wait for her. While sitting here I see a huge mirror before me, I've never seen it before and Madlamuka never consults using it, or maybe she has

upgraded. While surprised by it a slide show of my pictures since I was baby up to now comes to live. Erh, while shocked by it a video of me pops up. I am now shaking because I am watching every evil thing I did to people, every single thing, and people I've killed. No! No! I attempt to stand up, but I am glued on the floor I can't stand up something holds my head

and makes me watch everything I did. I am crying, but my cry is muffled... After watching my evil deeds that I did words written in bold pop up.

★Confess what you did. Confess your evil deeds before I

cripple you for life, confess Khethiwe. Remember no bad deeds

goes unpunished, confess before it's too late★

I read it over & over again then it disappears. Who is behind this? What's going on? I hear evil laughter echoing throughout the hut. My whole body is shaking, and my palms are sweating I feel like I am about to lose my breathe. I hear some groaning, the deem room is now bright I can see Madlamuka sitting in the corner covered in scorpions, yoh her cheeks have been sucked by something with sharp fangs. I try to scream, but nothing.

Her tikoloshes are being amputated by unseen forces. This is horror, no doubt about that. I don't think I will sleep, in fact be the same again. Madlamuka let's out a painful loud shriek when the scorpions enters her ears & nose causing her hut to shake vigorously. I attempt to stand up, and my feet permits me too, her things start falling.

★You are next!★

Is the last thing I remember seeing. Opening my eyes, Madlamuka's hut is in ruins. Everything is no more, I run to my car when dust rises from the ground in a bolt speed. I fiddle with my bag looking for my car keys my hands are shaking, I get hold of them I open my car, get in, and bring the engine to life. I speed off leaving trail of dust after me, never in my life have I been this scared. Once in the road I take a deep breath, but I am still shit scared I keep on looking at the side mirror and

there's no dust this is a nightmare in broad daylight.
I'm traumatized, I can't confess!

★ » ★ «

NOBUNTU

“There will be mountains

That I will have to climb

And there will be battles

That I will have to fight

But victory or defeat

It's up to me to decide

But how can I expect to win

If I never try?

I just can't give up now,

I've come too far from where

I started from

Nobody told me

The road would be easy

And I don't believe He's brought me this far

To leave me

Never said there wouldn't be trials

Never said I wouldn't fall

Never said that everything would go

The way I want it to go

But when my back is against the wall

And I feel all hope is gone

I'll just lift my head up to the sky

And say help me to be strong, oh

I just can't give up now"

I hear someone clapping their hands, I turn to look and I find Mngqobi leaning against the door frame. I laugh & pause the music.

“I sometimes forget that you have a beautiful voice little bear no wonder Nkanyiso fell in love with your voice before you”. He gets inside the house, and I laugh.

“Mxm uyaphapha. I wasn't expecting you so early”.
Hugging him.

Him: “Yeah. Crecentia didn't stay for long”.

Me: “How is she”?

Him: “She is okay. But she blames me for my mother's health”.

Me: “Coffee”? I nod. “How so”?

Him: “By bringing you into our lives”. I laugh.

Me: “But your mother rejected me, and ever since then I've never tried to reach out to them. They are just bored. Anyway, I've asked you to come here because I want to talk you about something serious, let's go to the lounge”.

Him: “I guess it's really serious if it needs us to go and sit in the lounge”. I roll my eyes & chuckle. We sit down.

Me: “I've been having disturbing dreams lately”. I narrate them to him, and I also tell him about what I've experienced the day the heavy rain befell the village, he scratches his head...

Him: “I have no idea what they mean, I think we need to look into them or find someone to clarify them for you. How is it possible that we are Royal descendants? Mother never told us that”.

Me: "We don't need clarity. We need to find our father, he is all alone out there feeling cold and have no one".

Him: "Where do we start looking? And that mysterious hut? What's the story behind it? I think we will have to go to the village again, and hopefully we will find answers".

Me: "Find them from who? Anyway, I think a person who can answer us is this old man in a different traditional royal attire I always see when praying, I think that must be the seer".

Him: "Wow. He is the same man I see too when praying, he is in the bushes".

Me: "I think we are seeing the same man, but what baffles me is that he never says anything. He just looks at me".

Him: "Exactly like my mine, but he has a crown in his hand. I thought that I was going crazy, now that you are also

experiencing it I guess I am not crazy. I think I will have to ask Ncumisa about our father maybe she knows him, and might give some lead on where to find him”.

Me: “No buts. I see the crown in his hand too. Do you think that Crecentia also see him”?

Him: “I really don't know, hey. But if she was I'm sure she was going to tell me”.

Me: “Maybe, I think we need to pray more about this hopefully something will be revealed. Prayer works hey, to think that I have been doubting his powers, but since I started praying somethings are very clear to see. Your coffee is cold”.

Him: “God is indeed good. We must pray, we need to make a day where we are going to fast and pray together, never mind the coffee”.

Me: “That's not a bad idea, I love it. You will tell me the day then”.

Him: "You look much better, and it looks as if like your blisters are disappearing slowly but surely".

Me: "They are indeed, I am so happy maarn, just need the bleeding to stop then I'm all good".

Him: "Soon enough you would be back to the normal you, and live happy with Nkanyiso". I laugh.

Me: "With his baby mamas hovering around I don't think so".

Him: "How many are they kanty? I only know Amanda who is the second one"?

Me: "Athile. But that one I think she is not pregnant, she just wanted a way to get Nkanyiso back".

Him: "Her nerve". His phone beeps indicating a message, a smile creeps out in his lips. He reads it, and puts it back on the couch. He meets my gaze, and he laughs. "It's just my prayer warriors reminding me about today's bible study". I laugh, he thinks that I'm stupid this one huh.

Me: "I did not say anything".

Him: "But your eyes are disputing that".

Me: "Yes wena, Mr optometrist". He laughs. One of these days you will have to me take me to your church I want to meet your prayer warriors that makes you smile like this. Let me go & refill your coffee then you will leave Mr prayer warrior".

Him: "Uyaphapha wena, but worry not because the baby mamas will deal with you on my behalf". I laugh.

Me: “You better get me a good darn lawyer then, I'm sure there's one amongst your prayer warriors”. I run out of the lounge before he says something spiteful...

★»★«

NKANYISO

The test are 99.9% accurate that's what Dr Pastel told us after she gave us the results. She looked happy more than me, yes I am happy, but not like how Dr Pastel & Amanda were when we

got the results. Amanda did not come with Sambulo, apparently he is attending a friend's party.

“So, now that you know that Sambulo is yours what's the way forward”?

Me: “Nothing changes I will support him, and we need to set up a schedule on when will I have him over”.

Her: “What?! Nkanyiso you know very well that we don't have a place to stay, and the hotel bill is too steep. I told you that we must stay with you”.

Me: “Oh, staying with me won't be happening, but I've brought you guys a house just 45 minutes drive away from mine. You don't have to worry about paying bond and all, it is under Sambulo's name. The only thing that connects us is Sambulo, nothing else, and I would really appreciate it if you can respect my relationship with Nobuntu. Call me only when it's urgent, and it has do with Sambulo nothing else. Bye.” I leave her standing there with mouth agape, I am done playing games...

★Insert 46★

[SHORT]

NATASHA

I am in a restaurant with my mother today I decided to go back and claim Zweli back. I will not sit back & watch Nobuntu have her way, and be happy with my boyfriend, never. This break made me think things through, and I am not letting Zweli go that easy. My mother took me to another Inyanga since the one

I used to go to did a number on me, this is one is powerful a lot of women vouch for him.

“Are you ready to fight for your man”?

“Are you kidding me? I wouldn't have gone to your plug if I wasn't serious. Zweli is mine mama”.

Her: “I know my baby. I mean, ever since he married this girl he hasn't come to visit us, this girl really is a bad influence to Zweli”.

Me: “Tell me about it mama, but all of that is coming to an end very soon. I will kick her out of my house like a dog that she is. You, to tell you the truth sis has been making me to breathe through the wound”.

Her: “How was she doing that? Weren't you the one who said she was ugly”?

Me: "I might've lied about that. She is not ugly, she is a very beautiful dark skinned girl. I was saying all those nasty remarks to break down the little that was left of her already bruised self-esteem, and mom did I not break it? I shred it into pieces. I

plugged in my friends too, and before I know it I had a Savage crew who called her names every chance they got".

Her: "That was cruel of you Natasha. I never taught you to make fun of other people, worst of it all is that she is the exact opposite of how you've described her to me".

Me: "I know as I told you I was threatened by her, but she never cared about me yazi".

Her: "Clearly you were not that important in her life. Anyway, the muti will work just fine, and very soon Zweli will be yours again, that young boy is your soulmate". I laugh.

Me: "No doubt about that".

Her: "Have you thought of giving him a baby? I swear falling pregnant for him will make him fall in love with you".

Me: "Yoh mama. We have been trying for a baby with no positive results, it's all just a waste of time, or maybe it's

because we were too desperate for a baby. This time around I just want to let things be, God will bless us when the time is right". She laughs.

Her: "You have some nerve to call God's name while you busy using muti be careful of that man above, he will show you flames".

Me: "God helps who helps themselves. So, I, too, am trying to save my relationship".

Her: "If you say so. Oh, your driver is already here".

Me: "He is rather early".

Her: "I asked him to arrive early phela remember that you have a lot to do, and wear that lingerie while preparing the food. Make him realize what he has been sleeping on girl, go make your mama proud I'll be waiting for positive results".

Me: "I won't disappoint you mama. Let me get going I have a lot do when I get to my house". We both stand up, and she walks me to Peter's car... She helps me load my bags in the car. "I will miss you Ma".

Her: "I will miss you too princess. Take care". We hug, and I get into the car...

In no time I have arrived at my destination I unload my bags, the security guards are supposed to be here, but they aren't of which is strange. Or maybe Zweli gave them a day off, I get inside the yard. The first thing I do, I go and check Nobuntu's room I stand near the window, and I hear no movements I guess she went to school. I step inside the house, and it is too quiet for my liking. The dust is also too much it's like the house

has been last cleaned a month ago, kanty what does Nobuntu do around here? Oh snap, almost forgot that she is now dating Nkanyiso, such a hoe she is. The bedroom is also messy I need to tidy up here before I start preparing food, I change into more comfortable clothes. First stop it's the kitchen, as soon as I get to the kitchen I am surprised to find the kitchen full of dust, but how, because when I came in here there was no dust. Now, where on earth does it come from? I mean, even the windows are closed. I shake my head... I look for a broom where I always

put it, but I don't find it while busy looking for it I hear things falling, and glasses breaking I jump, and look around but I see no one. Okay, now this is scary. I run to my room to get my phone, and I find the door locked I run to the next room, and I am inside it I take a deep breath and lean against the door, there's no key here. Something bangs the door I close my eyes, and press my lips together trying not to scream... The banging on goes for a couple of minutes then it stops. I slid down the door, and bring my knees to my chest this is, I don't even know what to say...

★»★«

NKANYISO

I need to go and talk to my father about doing imbeleko for Sambulo. He needs to be introduced to my ancestors, I hope by then Mbuso would've come back from the states, heard that he went that side to re evaluate his life. Nobuntu

Advertisement

did not really have a problem when I told her about the paternity she is willing to accept Sambulo as her own son, I hope Sambulo will not give her a hard time. I am disturbed by my office phone ringing I wonder who's calling.

“Nkanyiso Dube hello”.

“Too formal”. I chuckle.

Me: “Fuck you Ziyanda maarn. Why are you calling me from my office phone”?

Him: “Because I am at work too. Why didn't you tell that you have a son? A whole son Nkanyiso”!

Me: “I was going to tell you guys when I've bonded with him enough”.

Him: “Is he really yours”?

Me: “He is really mine, man. I did DNA tests and they came out 99.9% man”.

Him: “I am so happy for you man. When are you letting dad know about this”?

Me: "I will let him know today, I also want to talk to him about doing imbeleko for Sambulo".

Him: "That's good man. At least Tyler will have someone to play with my son really needed a friend".

Me: "How did you know that I have a son because I did not tell anyone except for Nobuntu? And I don't remember you having her numbers"?

Him: "Oh, Gina showed me a picture of you holding his hand, it seems like you guys were at some candy shop".

Me: "A picture? Where did she get the picture"?

Him: "I think Amanda put it as a whatsApp status, and the caption was cute man. Are you guys in the process of rekindling what you had back then"?

Me: "What? Man, I can't drop out on my last year in university, and go back to highschool. Dude, I ain't doing throw backs, forward is where I'm heading bro". He laughs.

Him: "I hope you telling the truth man, and put Amanda in line I also told Gina to stop communicating with her she is bad news".

Me: "With a capital letter B".

Him: "How does Nobuntu feel about this"?

Me: "She said she's fine man, but I don't trust her".

Him: "Why? Why don't you trust her? Do you think that she might harm Sambulo"?

Me: "No man. She ain't heartless, I meant her being fine about all of this".

Him: "Did she maybe say something offish"?

Me: "No, not at all".

Him: "So, you are assuming on her behalf"? I sigh. "Just give her the benefit of a doubt, she might be telling the truth you know".

Me: "I guess you're right man. Look, I will call you back after I've spoken to your father".

Him: "Be ready for interview". I laugh.

Me: "That's why I will go, and see him after drinking two".
He laughs.

Him: "You should face him sober man he will feel like you're disrespecting him".

Me: "He won't even notice that I'm drunk maarn wena".

Him: "I trust you man, talk to you later". He hangs up. My father is really going to put me in an interview, wuhhh hhayi. He is such a drama King, but I hope he won't give me a hard time.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

I am standing before the mirror examining my body, and it is healing just fine. I am going back to what I used to be these past months. There sores are disappearing slowly, but surely. I

am disturbed by a hard knock at the door that could only be Amanda. When Nkanyiso told me about the paternity results, I was really happy for him, but not entirely I am just not ready for baby drama. What's more important now is to find my father, that's it. I slip on my dress, and go and attend to it...

Just as I've predicted she has an overnight bag with her, I hope she is not going to spend the night here.

“What are you doing here”?

“Hello to you too Nobuntu, I hope you are doing well. And what gives you the right to ask my son what is he doing in his father's house”?

Me: “Nkanyiso didn't tell me that you will be bringing Sambulo over”.

Her: “So now, he must run everything with you? This is his blood, so next time don't you ever question him coming here”.

Me: “Blood or not I am still his girlfriend. You can't come here any day you feel like, and start throwing the words ‘his blood’ around, sooner or later it will be fruitless, it wouldn't even taste nice in your mouth. Does he even know that Sambulo is coming”?

Her: "Just let my son in and stop being dramatic"!

Me: "I am not being dramatic. You need to know where to draw the line". She laughs.

Her: "So, a whole you doesn't want Nkanyiso's son to come any time he feels like it? You are telling me Sambulo's mother where to draw the line? You must be out of your damn mind"! I look at her and chuckle. I open the Butler for them.

Me: "Please do come in".

Her: "Let me go and show you where to put your bags, and don't mind this woman".

Him: "I don't like her".

Her: "No one likes her don't mind her". They walk away.... I laugh, and switch on the kettle I need a strong cup of tea.

“Go, and watch anything you want while I prepare you something to eat”. She tells Sambulo walking in the kitchen.
“You will see more of me. I promise you Nobuntu, I will make your life a living”. I laugh.

Me: “Did you ever had any scar in your body”? She scoffs.

Her: “Never. Don't you see how smooth my skin is”?

Me: “I see, it is very smooth. What do you use”?

Her: “I am not your friend Nobuntu, stop asking me questions”.

Me: “Does your son have any allergies”?

Her: “Why do you want to know”?

Me: "So that we know what to feed him & what not to feed him"?

Her: "I will be making food for my son myself".

Me: "You too is sleeping over"?

Her: "What do you think"?

Me: "Didn't Nkanyiso tell you never to come here"?

Her: "He did".

Me: "So, you decided to ignore what he told you"?

Her: "Do you honestly think that he will kick me out once he finds me here? He failed the first time, what makes you think that he will succeed now"? I laugh.

Me: "Right. You do know that I am not Nkanyiso, right"?

Her: "Pshhh, too obvious duh".

Me: "And I will not fail to chase you out, want to try me"?

Her: "You won't do anything to me".

Me: "Do you watch how to get away with murder"?

Her: "What the actual fuck"! I walk towards the utensils holder, and take out a butter Knife. I look at it then at her, and chuckle. She opens her eyes in horror. "Every information is in his bag". She runs out of the house, leaving me dead with laughter.

Damn, what a coward. I open the fridge and take out a polony, I don't know why she ran away because I was going to use this knife to slice the polony.

"Sambulo, do you eat polony"?

"Yes"! I continue laughing, ey yah neh, baby mama drama. Who does she think she is taking chances? Aike, life yi film straight.

47

[3 MONTHS LATER]

NOBUNTU

It's been a blissful & blessed 3 months for me. I have fully healed and my skin is back to normal, sis is gaining weight, and happy as ever. Wait, sis is still bleeding, but not like before the bleeding is moderate now more like getting your menstrual cycle, so today I am going back to university my class starts at 11:00am. I am very grateful to the lectures for not giving up on me, and for sending me assignments, the online learning really helped too and I wouldn't have done it without Nkanyiso he has been an awesome support system if there were medals given, I was going to give him for being the awesome & GOAT human

being ever! Oh, yes, Amanda? Amanda never came here after that little incident of polony we had. Yoh, she told Nkanyiso that I wanted to kill her, drama! And Nkanyiso being Nkanyiso laughed about it, and told her that next time I will really kill her

should she behave like a harlot in my presence again. When she brings Sambulo over she leaves him at the gate, but lately she has stopped bringing him apparently I am a psycho she doesn't trust me near her son. But Sambulo is such a good kid maarn, minus the poison his mother feed his ears with about me being all sorts of things that she says I am. He is really fond of me, maybe that's the reason why she stopped him from coming here she couldn't bear me being close, and playing a good stepmother to Sambulo. Nkanyiso meets with him in public places, well, Mnqobi must always be present Nkanyiso's orders. The search for my father is just not coming right, we have no leads about his whereabouts none whatsoever. We went to the village one time to look for the hut, and the strange thing is that it wasn't there all we found was waste, sighs. Maybe it was all in my mind because wawini ku confusion ku tricky. In my prayers I still see the same old man, but with a twist this time around. I see him standing near the river and beyond that river there are houses I don't even know where the river is, it's draining really. But me & Mnqobi are not giving up until we find him. Speaking of Mnqobi, he is very busy lately with his prayer warriors I can't help it but think that he is seeing someone from his church, as long as she makes him happy I am very much happy. He, too, deserves some love, real love that is, and I'm sure whoever the prayer warrior is, God tailored her for

Mnqobi. Now that I'm better I will have to go to their church I might even be lucky and catch him in action. Anyway, I am done bathing now I am just waiting for Khaya, my driver to drive me to school. I will pay him monthly I still have my card with me, and there is still no sign of Boniwe even Khaya last saw her 5 months back, and from what he witnessed she did not look good, I wonder what was wrong with her. And now that she is unreachable I'm kind of worried about her, I hope she is fine wherever she is.

“Babe. I don't like that dress you are wearing it is too short”.
I chuckle.

“It's not that short babe”. Rolling my eyes.

Him: “I don't want to argue with you Nobuntu. Have you forgotten that we are going to have dinner with my brother and his wife”?

Me: “Yoh, I've completely forgotten about it. Thank you for reminding me babe. Do you think your brother will approve me and won't his wife have a problem with me”? This will be my

first time meeting with his brother, actually his real family member, not the woman I did not get to see or Makhosazana who just vanished.

Him: "He has long approved of you, now he wants to officially meet you, and don't worry yourself about Gina. I, too, don't really like her, but I am tolerating her".

Me: "I guess this is the beginning of great things right"?

Him: "Of course they are babe, now change onto more appropriate clothes".

Me: "Why did you buy me this dress if you are going to restrict me from wearing it"?

Him: "I did not think that it was this short. I thought it was below the knees, so please you can wear it when indoors with me". I laugh. Right!

Me: "At least let me take few pictures and I will change into more appropriate clothes, my social media accounts need to be updated it's been long".

Him: "Fine then".

Me: "Thank you bunny".

Him: "Do I look like a rabbit to you"?

Me: "No. You look more like a King Kong hence I opted to give you a better pet name than calling you a gorilla".

Him: "A handsome King Kong right"?

Me: "Oh please don't flatter yourself. Umubi wena shame".

Him: "Uzonya yazi Nobuntu". I laugh.

Me: "Have you ever seen me holding a butcher knife"?
He laughs.

Him: "You wouldn't do that my loving, besides you love me too much to even attempt to threaten me".

Me: "Mxm. Let's go and take pictures before I run late".

Him: "Yes ma'am". I walk first, and he shouts my name, I look back, and he mouths "I love you". I chuckle...

Me: "I love you too". God, I am grateful.

★»★«

NATASHA

I am a prisoner in my own house, wait a haunted one that is I am living in a horror house with creepy sounds at night, and being sexed all night I don't even remember when was the last

time I had a goodnight sleep. I've never stepped out of the house for the past 3 months I am always indoors, but never in my bedroom, and I've lost too much weight. I am not even keeping in contact with anyone, I am as good as a Zombie. Whatever evil thing is haunting this house really torments me, I don't even know how real food taste like any more all I eat is rotten meat and drink water filled with dust if I don't eat I get scratches in my body, and the pain would be unbearable. But now, I am even used to eating the rotten food after countless times of vomiting, the pains have become a part of my life I am even numb to them. To me, this seems like I am normalizing living this creepy current life of mine. My hair is messy and I have eye bags I've been crying ever since. Things are better in the afternoon, but once night-time comes it's a scary movie I think death is better than this. I shouldn't have come here I should've just stayed at home, and did not come here, or possibly reclaimed my life, and forgot about Zweli, but no. My heart decided for me, I followed it I forced things I regret coming back here. I look at the time, and it's just after 15:00pm a long day it is, and staring at this colourful weirdly written signs decorated wall ain't making things any easier for me

Advertisement

it depresses me even more. I don't know how many times I've tried committing suicide, but here I am still alive... Mxm, I stand

up and walk to the kitchen, hehehe I'm walking in the beach because wawu the sand in here, unbelievable! I try opening the door and it is still locked, sighs. This is just not on, I look around me, and the furniture looks ancient nothing like how it was before, haikhona it belongs in the musuem. I sit down in this damn sand I need a miracle, should I come out of this hell house alive I swear the first thing I will do is to go to church and praise God. But then I just need to know what or who caused this and why make me suffer for things I don't know about? It just doesn't make any sense honestly... Praying for that small breakthrough is the only option left for me now. While sitting here the sand arises and covers my whole body, I am trying to stand up, but my legs are failing me. It covers me until the neck only my face is uncovered, I can't even scream all I do is to just sit here, and wait for whatever fate this sand holds for me.

“Hello Natasha”. I shoot my eyes open in horror when I see Boniwe standing before me. Her body is in a dust form, but her face is normal with red eyes. Co...could it be that she was the one who was tormenting me for the past 3 months? But how? What exactly is she? “Surprised to see me”? I just stare at her, and not say anything. “R.I.P is the order of the day for you. Any last words”?

“W...what do you want from me”? My voice comes out as a whisper.

Her: “What do I want from you? Well, let's just say. I want your soul. Satisfied with the answer”?

Me: “No. Why do you want my soul? What did I ever do to you”? She laughs, and shakes her head. This is me trying to be strong, but deep down I am scared as hell.

Her: “You must have a chicken memory you forget to quick. Let me remind you sis”. Well, what is she going to show or tell me? “On second thoughts, I'd rather not. But R.I.P”. In quick motion the sand have covered every part of my body restricting me from breathing...

★»★«

ZWELI

It's been months since I've been here in this hotel, I never went out, and I am about to exhaust all my savings. Today I decided to go back to my house it's been long overdue, and I'm pretty sure that things are better at the village. I also hope I will still find my job secured, phela I'm the best that company has ever had... The uber arrives I get in, and off we leave. The uber will

drop me off at the train station from there I take a train to my house I'm sure it's in a bad state especially dust, but it's not that much since no one stays there and all the windows are closed so is the door.

Hours later I am on my way to my house. The uber drops me off, and I am surprised to find the gate open because I remember locking it when I left, argh it can only be Natasha. What is she doing here? We broke up mus, I walk inside the yard I am going to kick her out of my house. I take out my keys and try opening the door, but the door is not budging. What could be the problem now? The keys are fitting perfectly fine, but the door it's not opening it seems as if like something from the inside has blocked it from opening. I try knocking maybe Natasha has put something behind the door I walk around the yard, and I peep through the windows, nothing, sighs. What now?

“Natasha”! That can only be Natasha's mom. What is she doing here? Oh, wait. Maybe she has come to visit her daughter or maybe she is just passing by, I'm sure Natasha didn't tell her that we broke up.

“Neliswa. What a pleasant surprise seeing you here”.

“Where is my daughter Zweli”? I look at her

Me: “I just came back from my vacation I don't know where she is. Didn't she tell you that we broke up”?

Her: “What? You guys broke up? When”?

Me: “It's been months now”.

Her: “You said you've been gone for how long”?

Me: “I did not say, but it's been 3 months now”.

Her: “What? But she told me that she was coming to you 3 months back and that was the last time I heard from her. I've

been trying to reach her to no avail, and you were also not reachable, so I decided to come and see if you guys are okay”.

Me: “I really don't know where she is, it's been 4 if not 5 months ever since we separated”.

Her: “Where on earth could she be then if not here? This child is going to make me age so young, Jesus”! I look at her and shake my head, I don't know what young she is talking about because she is very old, her skin is wrinkled too and the make-up makes her look way older than her actual age. “Anyway, why are you standing outside instead of getting inside the house”? I scratch my head.

Me: “The door is refusing to open. I think Natasha is here”.

Her: “Then kick it do...” she doesn't finish her sentence when the door creaks open. She jumps up, and holds her chest, and all of a sudden I feel cold, a cold breeze emerges from inside the house. “Jesus! Why is your house so damn cold Zweli”?

Me: "How am I supposed to know? Since you are there one who is looking for your daughter, why don't you go in first"?

Her: "Are you crazy? You go in first this is your house not mine".

Me: "No. You go in first because if I do go in first, and find your daughter I will kill her". She laughs.

Her: "Kill whose daughter? And you think that I will just stand by and watch you kill my daughter? You better think again Zweli".

Me: "Clearly".

Her: "I guess we are both no... Wait, this is my daughter I will just go in imagine a grown man like you scared of getting inside his house, sies. You are fucken weak maarn". She clicks

her tongue and steps inside the house. I hear her scream I rush inside the house only to find Natasha's body covered in worms, no foul smell or anything. The house is still the same as I left it, but the coldness is still here, what exactly happened here? This house is extremely cold. I run out of the house, and go and throw up in the drain. Yasis! Natasha's mother's wailing is not

making things any easier for me. Why on earth would Natasha opt to die in my house? Argh maarn, this is not ayoba. I am not even moved by her passing to me it's more like a stranger who has passed on her mother will have to deal with the funeral arrangement because I am not getting myself involved she was no longer my responsibility. But her family must come and cleanse my house to do away with the bad luck. I will go and spend the night at Thabo's house possibly spend few days there until everything is settled, Yerrr. Day ruined...

★»★«

NKANYISO

I've been waiting for Nobuntu for over 5 minutes now, and she is nowhere to be seen I wonder where she is. I mean even her phone is off I hope nothing bad happened to her. My phone rings and it's Ziyanda, I sigh and answer.

“Ziyanda”.

“Are you guys still coming or what”?

Me: “We are still coming I am just waiting for Nobuntu give us 5 minutes”.

Him: “Alright. See you in a few. Grab more beers on your way here, and possibly wine for the ladies”.

Me: “Sure thing”. He hangs up. I try calling Nobuntu again and her phone puts me through voicemail, dammit Nobuntu where the hell are you! I pace up & down it was going to be better if I had her driver's numbers, maybe he was going to tell me how far are they, or maybe the car broke down? Sighs. This is not good, at all. I look on both sides and still no sign of Khaya's car, I shake my head and walk back to my car I am about to step inside it when Nobuntu calls my name from a distance, her high squirmy voice never misses me. I turn and look back, and she is

running towards me with only one shoe, and her shirt torn. She finally reaches me, and before I can ask her what happened she collapses I catch her before she can drop on the floor, dammit. I pick her up and put her in my car I grab the bottle of water from the seat and sprinkle some on her, she ain't responding. Shit! I analyze her body and she doesn't look hurt, but her lower lip is slightly cut I can't take any chances let me take her to a doctor. Why was she running or who is she running away from? Where is Khaya? What happened to her? Fuck! I will have to let Mngqobi know as soon as I arrive at the doctor...

48

MNQOBI

“Thoughts will try to convince you that you’re not strong enough; you need more faith. Don’t believe those lies. Jesus, in His human body, felt weak. He felt discouraged; He didn’t know if He could go on. God sees you being your best: raising the children, fighting that addiction, facing that illness. When you run out of strength, don’t worry, angels are coming. Help is on the way. You’re going to feel strength that you don’t have, joy

when you could be discouraged, hope when you should be depressed. You're going to have the power to endure, the favor to overcome, the determination to outlast". Prayer warriors claps hands, and he proceed to say..

"There should be something you're believing for where you are relentless. You aren't moved by how impossible it looks, you're not discouraged by how long it's taking, you don't give up because people told you no. Your attitude is, "If I have to believe my whole life, I'm going keep believing. I'm not going to

take no for an answer. I'm not going to settle for less than. I'm going to keep pursuing what God put in my heart."

Pastor Benjamin tells us as we nearing towards the end of the evening service and my phone have been ringing none stop I wonder who it is. I take it out of my pocket and I have 17 missed calls and 4 messages all from Nkanyiso whatever he was calling me for must've been very important, I view the first message, and the first words I see are "Nobuntu. Medicol". Medicol? What is she doing there? I get up from my seat, and walk out without telling anyone anything I don't mind the

stares I am getting finding out what's going on with my sister is my priority now.

“Hey. The service is not over yet, where are you going”?
Modiegi ask me as I am about to step inside my car.

“My sister needs me I think she has been admitted”.

Her: “Oh my God. May she recover quickly, and I will pray for her. Will she ever catch a break”? I sigh.

Me: “I don't know. I really don't hey, the next minute she is fine, then the next minute is back to square one it's draining honestly”.

Her: “Never cease praying and I promise you God will definitely come through for her, be still and know that he is God”. I shake my head. “What is it”?

Me: “She doesn't really need any prayer she just needs my mother to do what's right to her since my father has gone AWOL. Let me get going”.

Her: “Your father? You don't know your father”? I nod. “You better get going then, and please do update me about her progress. Her light is near but far”. With that said she walks back inside the church much faster than how she came to me. Her light is near but far? What does that even mean? I snap out of my thoughts and step inside my car

The drive to Medicol is rather short in no time I am inside the hospital before I could even talk to the receptionist I see Nkanyiso pacing up & down, I rush to him.

“What happened man? How is she”? We bro hug.

“I'm still waiting for Dr Pastel to tell me what's wrong with her. She collapsed before she can even tell me what happened to her. Her shirt was torn and her lower lip slightly cut”. I sigh, and sit down.

Me: “Could she have be... No man, let me not think of the worst. Where is Khaya”?

Him: “I don't know man I wish I knew. What is taking Dr Pastel so long? She has been busy with her for the past 30 minutes”! He kicks the chair in frustration.

Me: “Calm down man. I'm sure she is still busy with her, she will let us know once she figures out what's wrong with her”.

Him: “What's the to figure for the whole fucken 30 something minutes? She is a professional man she should know what the fuck is wrong with her”!

Me: “Sit down Nkanyiso, and keep it together for Christ's sake. Get hold of yourself man. Nobuntu is fine she will pull through this is nothing to her, don't worry man”. He sits down, his knees are shaking. I say a silent prayer in my heart asking God

to intervene I think it's time I have a chat with my mother again
Nobuntu can't suffer just because of her selfishness.

“Smiso bro. Mngqobi”. We fist bump, and goes straight to
Nkanyiso and crouches before him. “What's going on bruh?
Talk to me Smiso”. Nkanyiso doesn't respond to him. “Mngqobi
wempi, what happened”?

Me: “We are waiting for Dr Pastel to give us a feedback”.

Him: “This is my first time witnessing my brother like this man,
I hope she pulls through from whatever she's going through”.
He gets up, and stands next to Nkanyiso.

Me: “We can only hope for the best”.

Him: “Gina will be bringing us food just in case we stay a little
bit longer I am dang hungry as it is”.

Me: “Such a lifesaver. Wuhhh, speaking of the devil here she comes, and she has company with her”. Seeing Amanda my 10% remaining mood switches off to 0% instantly. “What is she doing here”?

Him: “Amanda? Oh, she was going to join us for dinner apparently Gina invited her. I, too, don't even know why she did that I bumped into her as I was stepping out of the house.

Me: “Your wife is very spiteful. How can she invite Nkanyiso baby mama to come and dine with you? Isn't that being spiteful? What was she exactly hoping to achieve by doing that”?

Him: “Ask her because I have no flippen idea”. They get to us, and the first Amanda does walks straight to Nkanyiso, and puts her hand on his shoulder. Nkanyiso yanks it off his shoulder, and stands up while clicking his tongue.

“I've brought dinner to you guys since it didn't happen, and I couldn't really let the food go to waste”.

Me: "I'm glad that the dinner didn't happen. I'm sure you've even poisoned the food seeing that you were very spiteful to enough to invite your best friend Amanda to a couples dinner, I'm just glad that my sister didn't have to see how spiteful you can be. Enhlek, keep your food I don't think I can stomach any of it". She gasps.

Her: "I... I meant no harm, I swear I didn't know that Amanda will be coming I was surprised to see her on my doorstep, and I couldn't really turn her away that would've been very rude of me". I chuckle.

Me: "Tell that to someone who cares because I don't give a care about your lame excuse".

Nkanyiso: "That's it I'm going in". He walks away. I stand up, and go after him so does Ziyanda who told the ladies to remain behind. He pushes the door of Nobuntu's door open, and we find a very traumatized Dr Pastel with knees on her chest, and

hugging her legs she is shaking. Me & Ziyanda look at each other while Nkanyiso walks straight to Nobuntu's bed. Dr Pastel stands up, and takes off. Her glasses are full of dust, but funny enough the room ain't even dusty.

Ziyanda: “What the hell just happened? Why was she so traumatised”?

Me: “You are asking the wrong person bruh, I mean I just came in with you”. He laughs.

Him: “I am indeed asking a wrong person”. We both walk towards Nobuntu's bed, and she is peacefully sleeping. I look at Nkanyiso and his eyes are full tears he takes Nobuntu's hand to his, and drops his head down. The door opens, and a Dr step in.

“My name is Lwazi I'm taking over for Dr Pastel. I don't know what went wrong, but she is not okay. Can you please excuse me I need to asses her, and find out what's wrong with her”. We nod

Advertisement

and walk out leaving Nkanyiso behind. I hope Lwazi finds out exactly what's wrong with her...

★»★«

ZWELI

I am still in utter shock by what took place it was very scary, and very much unbelievable something to see. Natasha woke up from the dead as soon as the mortuary people got here she gasped for air, and the worms were gone. It was like a scary movie, when she woke up she just stood up, and ran out of the

house like a mad woman her mother was in shock in a way that she froze, and sitting in one position until one of Natasha's uncle came to fetch her. No one will actually believe us if we told them such. I, too, couldn't remain in that house after what I've witnessed infact I am going to sell it because wow. Thanks God Thabo allowed me to come and crash with him for few days until I find a buyer for that house. I don't think I will recover from this any time soon.

“The coffee is failing to go down your throat”? He laughs after saying this. I click my tongue, and pour the coffee in the sink then rinse my cup.

“You are not funny man. I am traumatised this is not a laughing matter”.

“Need some counselling”? He laughs again.

Me: “Shut the hell up Thabo”!

Him: “It's just that I find it hard to believe that Natasha became Jesus for a day! Are you sure you weren't dreaming? I mean, sometimes we dream while wide awake”.

Me: “Mxm. I knew that you were not going to believe me you should ask Natasha's mother and Natasha herself, it was so scary man”.

Him: “Yeah right. Let's go and watch soccer just to keep you your mind occupied before you finish my coffee”.

Me: “I'll be right behind you man. Is Ben still coming”?

Him: “Yes, he is. Wanted him to bring you something”?

Me: "Vodka please. I need something that will knock me out to sleep possibly for a couple of days".

Him: "Hau, you're tired of living? Mini Jesus asked you to commit suicide"?

Me: "Thabo. This is not a laughing matter man".

Him: "Hade man, let's get going the match is about to start". I nod, and follow behind him as we go to his lounge. I hope Ben comes with something strong I really need to forget about what took place earlier on it's not fun, at all. What baffles me more is that, we don't even know where the worms disappeared too.

★»★»

NOBUNTU

“Let me go”!

“Awuhlaliseke wena sikhokhelwe imali ebhaya for wena”!
(Behave, we've been paid so much money for you)

Me: “Ngiyekeleni ngiyaxolisa”. (Leave me alone, I am sorry)

Him: “Voetsek wena! Vala lamanyala odla ngawo”! (Shut your mouth)

Him 2: “Ey kuzosinika inkinga loku asizidedele once”. (She will give us problem let's rape her) I was shaking in fear my heart beating out of my chest.

Him: "Sicede ngaye bese samcisha". (Let's just finish with her then we kill her) They picked me up, and put me inside a car. From a distance I saw Khaya being dragged by some of these men dragging him to the nearest bushveld, and by the look of things they've been paid to do whatever they wanted with me.

They've hijacked us as soon as Khaya stepped on the accelerator, I guess they've been following me, or maybe keeping tabs on us for a while now if not forever.

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

I will fear no evil.

For you are with me

You rod and your stuff they comfort me.

Lord, I ask you to please protect me from whatever harm
that comes our way

Hide me & Khaya under the shadow of your wings

May what the devil planned for us not prosper

Send us your soldiers to intervene on our behalf

I ask all this

In the name of the Son. The father, and the holy spirit.

Amen”!

They banged the door closed causing me to jump, and one
brings the engine to life while waiting for their accomplices
to do whatever they wanted to do with Khaya. And that's when
dust rose up from the quiet streets of the suburbs in bolt

speed, for some reason I think that this dust is my protector from my ancestors, or possibly one of God's Angel's you will never know. Whatever the case may be I was just grateful for it for coming to my rescue in times of my aid. Anyway, I don't know how, but the dust took all the men including Khaya I don't even know why it took Khaya because him too was a victim like me.

“Khaya”! I called out his name, but it fell on deaf ears.

“He is part of all this too. Don't worry I will be dealing with them one by one, I am always protecting you always Nobuntu. Once all this is over, you will experience happiness like never before”.

Me: “Who. Who are you”?

Voice: “I am Arizona. Your protector. When you are in distress worry not because I am always with you”.

Me: “Can I just see you? I know I'm supposed to be scared and all, but funny enough I'm not”.

Arizona: “Because I am not one to be feared by you but those who are after you. I will reveal myself in a human form, but first close your eyes”. I nodded, and closed my eyes as if the dust could see me, yeah right. That was me just being crazy. “You can open them now”. I widen my eyes as I saw Boniwe standing before me, her lower body was still in it's dust form, but her upper body was her in a flesh.

Me: “Bu...” words couldn't come out of my mouth I was tongue tied not believing my eyes.

Her: “I know, I have always been protecting you. Come now”. I blinked still not believing it, I think I made a mistake by blinking because I found myself running towards Nkanyiso's car.

★»★«

My head feels so heavy, and my body is tired it's like I have been running or something. Before opening my eyes, I can hear people talking from a distance, then beeping sounds of machines it is no science that I'm at the hospital. I don't even know why Nkanyiso brought me here, or maybe he panicked I'm sure his brother is disappointed about us not coming, and to think that I was eager to meet him, and that nonsense happened mxm. Otherwise there's always a next time. I still can't believe that Khaya was also part of it too, that time I even prayed for him. But the big question is who paid them & why? Can't I just catch a break bathong, this is too much.

Hmmm, now how am I going to explain to Nkanyiso, Mnqobi and the Dr about what really happened to me? I mean, they won't believe me. If I don't tell them the truth, then this means that I will have to tell them a believable story, there's one problem though I just don't know how to lie, ai. Disaster with a capital D! I slowly open my eyes, and I see Nkanyiso, Mnqobi and some guy talking fancy seeing them here. Whatever they are talking about must be important because the don't even notice that I'm awake. Oh, well let me just let them be. I sit upright, and Mnqobi is the first one to see me. He rushes towards me, and the others follow too. Nkanyiso kisses me all over my face...

Him: “Thanks God you are awake babe. What happened to you”? I chuckle.

Me: “It's a long unbelievable story. I guess this is Ziyanda since he looks like you”.

Him: “What? I don't look like this monkey”.

Ziyanda: “Says an ape”.

Mnqobi: “Still you guys belong in the monkeys family”.

Them: “Shut up”! We all laugh... Hmmmm, my life.

49

KHETHIWE

Things here at the village are progressing slowly but surely. No, wait. Who am I kidding? It's a disaster, a whole flippen disaster months later with no hope of making it to what it used to look like before. The streams are running out of water, it never rains. The crops of the villagers are drying up, their live stocks are dying, the trees are no longer green. The once beautiful Buhlebezulu village has turned into something else, something even tourist wouldn't dare like to take a tour around it. The mobile clinics comes once in a while, the old people are getting sicker day by day I don't know how many of them we've buried.

Then there are women who keep on getting pregnant in this current state. Why bring a child in poverty while you yourself is still struggling? It just doesn't make sense., Nothing is actually going right here, lucky are those who are working in the city. Well, they are not that lucky though because transports prices suddenly went high everyone is trying to make ends means, and I can see that some of them things are just not working out no matter how hard they try. I've even lost some serious weight with all the problems the villagers always brings me, if its not someone stealing someone's live stock is these neighbours who complain every now & then about each others activities. The

other neighbouring villagers are growing weary of lending a helping hand to us, our village is the most populated one compared to the other villages. Looking at the state of this village very soon we will be forced to go, and seek refuge in other villages, and that would really be very embarrassing to me. Imagine a noble being treated like a commoner, like hello. I, too, am of royalty I am a Queen. Nhlakanipho & Buhle left for Venda few days later after the disappearing of Zweli and the seer I don't blame them this place is unbearable. Things started getting worse after the treatment we gave to Langelihle the last time she was here, I can't help it, but feel like this is our punishment from the ancestors. My husband is still out of it, but he is still breathing I still don't understand how he is alive,

and there is nothing I can do since Madlamuka passed away she was the only person who could've reversed the curse. Now, more than ever I need him. Everything is weighing heavy on my shoulders I can't take it any more, even the elders are not having faith in me some have stopped even attending the meetings I always summon. I have no one I am all alone, for the first time I don't know in how many years I break down, I need to catch a break.

Once upon a time my life was perfect. I had a loving husband, and supportive children. We lacked nothing, and we were very respected in this village people were bowing at our presence, but now? Now? They treat me like I'm one of their kind, well I am one judging by my current situation, never in a thousand years have I thought that one day I will be this helpless, and have no one in my corner! It's shocking to say the least. I look at my husband, why did I do what I did to him? I was protecting him Because of secrets that were going to creep out of my closet? The lies? The cheating? The betrayal? I was doing it for what exactly? Because here he is lying here in this very same bed with no care in the world, while I, on the other side is the one suffering? Life is not fair. A knock comes through at my

door I'm sure is one of the guards he has come to tell me that someone wants to see me.

“I'll be there in a few”. I wipe my tears and reapply my make-up I fix myself, and step out of my room walking to the throne room to see who ever came to see me. People just never stop coming here even though I tell them that there's nothing I can do to help my hands are tied. I am surprised to see Langelihle's grandmother waiting for me looking rather mad at something or someone, this woman never comes here, ever. Why now all of a sudden?

“MaZungu. Ungahlala phansi”. I tell her as I sit down, she does too. “Ngingakwenzelani”? (What can I do for you)

“Ngifuna imali”. (I want money) I sigh.

Me: “Imali? Imali yani MaZungu”? (What money)

Her: “Yamalobolo ka Nobuntu futhy ke ukhumbule ukuthy azanke nimuhlawule ngizofuna naleyo mali ikati lilele eziko

sebhekene ngabomvu le endlini”. (Her dowry money, plus you did not pay a fine for her I also came for that money. We are very angry, we are looking at each other back at home) I laugh.

Me: “Awungihloleli wena? Sakhokha zonke izomfanelo zaka Langelihle”! (Are you not taking me for a ride? We paid everything for Langelihle)

Her: “Ngiyakuzwa lapho. Awusho ke. Le yokumnakekela asase yingane kufikela mhla waba u malokozana wenu yona ngikhokhwela nini? Phela ngimukhulise kubuhlungu u Nobuntu kungekho muntu ongilekelela ngaye, angisho nonyoko

wangiphonsa ngaye ebona ukuthy uzoba yinhlupho. (I hear you there. Now, tell me. The money that I used to take care of Nobuntu with until she became you'd bride, when am I getting it? I've raised Nobuntu all alone without the help of any one, even her mother dumped her with me because she saw that she will be trouble) I chuckle, and clap my hands. This old wrinkled face woman is unbelievable right now. Raising Langelihle was her duty as her grandmother I don't owe them anything, and besides Langelihle is not my responsibility she better go, and milk somebody else money because I am not

going to give her anything. Speaking of money, I am running very low too of which I had to cut the guards & maids salaries. Some left, and those with no families whatsoever remained behind, and proceeded with working, and they never complain shame. I look at Langelihle's grandmother once more, and laugh. This old hag is taking me for a ride, I take a deep breath. “Bengisacela ungiphumele ngesicabha ngoba ayisekho into engingayi khuluma nawe. Okunye ke naku, u Langelihle akusi inkinga yami sekayi nkinga ka Zweli nangabe unesikhalo semali tshela u Zweli. Manake, usungam'tshela no Langelihle ukuthy ufuna imali yakho le owamkhulisa ngayo uphila kamnandi le egoli udla laka pondo”. (Can you please leave my house because there's nothing more to talk about with you. Another thing Langelihle is not my problem, but Zweli's. If you have money problems talk to Zweli. Wait a minute, you can also tell

Langelihle that you want your money that you raised her with she is living a good life there in Jo'burg) if me telling her this will make her leave my house then I'm good, she annoys me. She laughs

Her: “Hehehe uzonginikeza imali yami Khethiwe o kanye ngozowazisa bonke abantu ngokuthy wenzani ungangilokothi

Khethiwe"! (You will give me my money or else I will tell everyone what you did, don't test me) this old woman is stupid.

Me: "Khululeka ubatshela. Kuhle ngoba nawe uyabandenyeka phakathi kwaloludaba, hambake uyobatshela phela njengamanje". (Be free to tell them. It's a good thing that you are also involved, go and tell them now). She looks at me for sometime then clicks her tongue, and shakes her head.

Me: "Usase la"? (You are still here)

Her: "Ayikapheli Khethiwe eyami imali uzoyikhokha uthanda ungathandi. Ngiphe izi number zaka Zweli ngizotshela u Sanele abashayeke ucingo". (It is not over. You will give me my whether

you like it or not. Give me Zweli's numbers I will tell Sanele to call him)

Me: "Angazi ukuthi ziyasebenza yini ngoba ukugcina kwami bezingangeni, cela ungasabuyi la kwami". (I don't know if

they are still working because the last time I called it didn't go through, and please don't ever come back here)

Her: “Ngisazobuya Khethiwe”. (I will come back). I give her the numbers. “Ngisazobuya Khethiwe”. With that said she stands up, and walks out of the throne room. Phew, this woman is a drag. She knows a lot about me, a lot. I lean back on the chair and take it all in...

★»★«

NKANYISO

I woke up very early today to make breakfast for Nobuntu since today is her birthday, and she is not going to university since they will be writing exams soon, I've also asked for a day off at work I want to spend this whole day with Nobuntu. Well, it will not really be the whole day because later on Mngqobi will be

doing a braai for her she doesn't know about it though, he has invited maybe 6 people, that's how big our circle is. And we are cool with that... After that incident that she was involved in few days ago I've asked one of my father's drivers to drive her to & from university everyday. I still don't believe the part where the men who wanted to rape, and possibly kill her were “taken in by dust” a mere dust? It's highly impossible, or can it be? I guess not, but then she might've told me the truth seeing that Khaya is no where to be found, it's a good thing that the dust took them because I would've landed in jail. My phone rings while making breakfast for Nobuntu, and Sambulo is the one video calling me he is too clever for a 5 year old I wonder why is he video calling me because he never does, oh well, let me just answer...

“Young man”.

“Sure dad. Is Buntu with you”?

Me: “No. She is still sleeping, why are you asking”?

Him: "I've been video calling her, but she ain't answering go and wake her up".

Me: "Okay. Call again in a minute".

Him: "No. I don't mind holding". I laugh, and walk to my bedroom to wake Nobuntu up, she is sleeping do peacefully I point the camera towards her

and Sambulo starts singing for him, no wait, nigga is screaming. Nobuntu slowly opens her eyes, and smiles as she sees Sambulo on the screen singing for her, I just don't understand people who wake up, and smile or be active. How do you guys do it, because wawu I am always grumpy in the morning when I wake up. I give Nobuntu the phone, and go back to the kitchen to finish what I started before she gets off bed Sambulo will

have to entertain her until I am done, I love their relationship truly speaking.

Few minutes later I walk back to the bedroom, and I find her sleeping again, women and sleeping you can never separate

them. I put the tray on the bed side cabinet, and wake her up by screaming happy birthday in her ear. Her eyes flaps open, and she laughs then covers her face with her hands.

“I feel so ugly right now, and thank you for the birthday wish even though Sambulo beat you to it by being the first one to wish me”.

“That little rascal, of which makes me wonder what time did he wake up”.

Her: “Maybe the time he called you he must've just woken up”.

Me: “Maybe. So, baby ding ding I made you breakfast today is all about you you, and you. I love you”.

Her: “I love you too babe. Oh, how I wish that everyday was my birthday so that I can be served breakfast in bed”.

Me: "Even if it was you would probably be getting it once a month, nakhona when I'm in the mood".

Her: "Mxm, whatever. Let me go, and brush my teeth".

Me: "Just eat you will brush them after eating".

Her: "Are you joining me or should I eat alone"?

Me: "Would you honestly eat all of this alone"?

Her: "Why are you answering a question with a question baby love"?

Me: "But you are also answering a question with a question".

She rolls eyes.

Her: "Let me just eat, and just let you be".

Me: "I am not letting you to eat this alone I am joining in".

Her: "I am not surprised. You love food". We both laugh, and dig in... My phone rings, and it's my father.

"Baba".

"Did I disturb you"?

Me: "I'm in the middle of breakfast".

Him: "Let me not keep you then I just wanted to inform you that Dabulizizwe is coming back in 2 weeks time, I told her about Sambulo she is willing to do the cleansing and imbeleko ceremony as soon as she lands so that we can get everything she will need to use. She sounded really concerned about something".

Me: "Thank you dad for letting me know I will let Amanda know too so that she gets prepared too".

Him: "No worries. When are we meeting your girlfriend? It's been long overdue waiting for the right time to come so that you can introduce her to us, or are you dating another man"? I laugh.

Me: "What? Dad no. You will meet her soon".

Him: "How soon is soon Nkanyiso? Or do you want the girl to think that you don't have a family? Hhayi maarn Smiso akwenziwa njalo".

Me: "I will introduce her after Sambulo's ceremony dad. I've got to go now".

Him: "Okay. Bye. Know that if you don't introduce her a week after Sambulo's ceremony I will find her myself, and introduce her to the family. Do what's right Smiso." he hangs up.

Me: "That was my father. He was telling me that Dabulizizwe is coming back in 2 weeks time to do a welcoming ceremony for Sambulo".

Her: "That's good news baby love I'm sure your family will love him, after all he is one lovable child".

Me: "Yeah. You will be tagging along with right? I don't want to get bored". She chuckles.

Her: "An entire you getting bored? Wuuhhh please, stop it. You will be with your family I'm sure they are not boring".

Me: "Come on sugar love. Please come along with me we can even ask Mnqobi to come along with us, so that it will be less awkward for you. I need your support as my girlfriend".

Her: "Let me think about it, and I will let you know if I will be coming with or what I don't really want to intrude".

Me: "They won't even notice that you are there, do it for Sambulo ke if not me". She scoffs.

Her: "Fine, but you owe me big time".

Me: "I always owe you it's nothing new wena sugar love".
She laughs. "Any plans for today"?

Her: "Same thing that I do every day, but I hope that something will come up I'm sure if I had friends we were going to go to the mall for some brunch, then to a spa for some pampering, and getting my nails done, but well friends dololo I only have you & Mngqobi".

Me: “Hmmm. You don't even have friends in university”? She nods. “I see. How about I make one of what you mentioned a reality”?

Her: “A spa treatment baby love will do just fine I really need to relax my body”.

Me: “Spa treatment it is then”.

Her: “What are exactly is your plan seeing that you've skipped work”?

Me: “I have some few errands to run”.

Her: “Oh, okay. I love you yezwa”?

Me: “I love you too muntu wami”. We continued eating while conversating about anything njer.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

After having breakfast Nkanyiso gave me some money to go, and spoil myself. I don't even know what I am going to do, but I do need the spa treatment luckily for me the spa is opposite the mall which means that I can have lunch afterwards, and buy some few items, if only Sambulo was with me. This is a first for someone to do something for me on my birthday, the first birthday where more than 100+ people wishing me a happy birthday, oh that would be my social media friends. Back in the

village Sanele was the only one who used to wish me a happy birthday, but this time is different. I mean, hello I even woke up to breakfast in bed, and Sambulo singing for me so early in the morning. This to me feels like Christmas nina, like wawini. Now, here I am about to spoil myself. God, I am grateful thank you. I am about to get inside Exclusive spa treatment when someone calls my name from behind I turn to look, and it's Snikelelo she is with some girl. I wait for her until she reaches me, we hug.

“Fancy seeing you here. How are you”?

“It's a once off thing since it's my birthday. I am good thanks, and how are you”?

Her: “Breathing. Happy birthday sweet cake. Are you meeting someone or you just came to spoil yourself”?

Me: “I just came to spoil myself, alone for that matter. What brings you here”?

Her: "Oh, this is my sister's Spa I just came to do a routine check. Don't you want some company? I mean, I, too, am bored I can do with some company".

Me: "I don't mind really, but what about the girl you were with"?

Her: "One of God's children who needed some assurance that God, is the way, the truth, and the life".

Me: "Is it the only way"?

Her: "Not entirely. So"?

Me: "Sure you can join me".

Her: "And you've just scored yourself a free spa treatment take it as my birthday gift to you".

Me: "Thank you so much Snikelelo".

Her: "You most welcome". We make our way inside her sister's spa, and goes to the reception. I roam my eyes around this spacious place some people are living big outchea. So, spa's also have nail technicians? I thought that they only dealt with body massages. Oh, well. The perks of not knowing much about things like these. "Full body massages plus waxing is officially underway let's go". She tells already pulling my hand.

Me: "Waxing"? She laughs.

Her: "Of course baby love. Trust me after it, your vagina will be hairless".

Me: "Askies, angizwa kahle"?

Her: "It will be fun maarn, I do it almost after every 3 months".

Me: "Why"?

Her: "For the fun of it, and besides my boyfriend loves it". I look at her, this is weird having such talks with a prophetess, I mean, wawini guys it just feels so wrong, but what can I say. "Before a prophetess, I am also a normal human being, and I have feelings

too just like everyone else. Right now look at me as a friend, not as a prophetess or as a God's messenger, okay”?

Me: “Yeah, sorry”/

Her: “It's fine maarn, we have a lot to talk about, and please feel free to talk to me about anything. Outside church I am Snikelelo a girl from the township”. I chuckle, and follow behind her... We get into this other big room, and she shows me where to go and change. This place is beautiful, wait. I think I didn't tell you guys that I am only spotting now, and well... Hhayi, cut cut...

50

MNQOBI

Preparations are underway in regards to Nobuntu's surprise party/braai. The truth is I didn't know that today is Nobuntu's birthday Nkanyiso told me 3 days ago, in fact he asked me if I know when is Nobuntu's birthday, ey. I told him straight up that don't know, and shame he was kind enough to tell me that's why I decided to throw this surprise party for her.

Modiegi is the one doing all the cooking, Gina offered to help her, but I refused I still don't trust her. And don't think I ever

will. It is very evident that she doesn't like Nobuntu of which makes me wonder why because Nobuntu is a good person, she never provokes anyone, or maybe they just hate her because she is just Nobuntu, or maybe they are just not happy that she is involved with Nkanyiso? Anyway, whatever the case may be they better stay away from her. I couldn't invite Ziyanda and not her, she, too, needs to be near her man. I just pray that she didn't invite Amanda since they are friends, right now she is busy drinking wine sitting in one of the chairs watching Modiegi cooking you can see that she is bored, if it was up to her she wouldn't even be here. Nkanyiso went to buy meat and some alcohol I did not invite too many people, I only invited Nkanyiso, Ziyanda, Modiegi, Gina, and Thabo said he will see,

Crecentia did not even entertain me, but I doubt that Thabo will come if Crecentia is not here. She just blue ticked me... My phone rings, and it's my mother, oh, she finally unblocked me. How thoughtful of her.

“Mama”.

“When are you coming to see me”?

Me: “Coming to see you after how you chased me out of your yard? Wait, you actually locked me outside and insulted me calling me all sorts of names with the help of your daughter embarrassing me in front of your neighbours, now you want me to come and see you”?

Her: “Please Mngqobi. I need to talk you about a serious matter, can you stop by before the end of the day”?

Me: “Unfortunately I can't. I'm throwing Nobuntu a surprise party I can only come tomorrow morning”.

Her: “You go around wasting money on useless things? When last did you give me money to buy grocery, and pay the house bills”? I laugh.

Me: “I don't remember me giving you money to buy grocery, and the last time I checked you are working mama. What exactly is your beef with Nobuntu? Did you even know that today is her birthday”?

Her: "I don't have any beef with her I just don't like her, and why would I want to know about her birthday? She is not important to me. What time must I expect you tomorrow"?

Me: "You want me come to your house? That's one thing I would not do. We can meet somewhere for breakfast, and we can talk about whatever you want to talk about".

Her: "Oh, okay". I can detect the disappointment in her voice. "Happy birthday to that nonsense of a girl, and no don't pass the message to her. I will see you tomorrow morning. Actually, you know what? Let's just cancel this so called meet up because

it's pretty much clear that this nonsense of girl is more important than the woman who gave birth to you".

Me: "May the grace of the God locate you mama, and remember he loves us all equally". She laughs.

Her: “Oh please. Don't start with that God bullshit of yours, and stop trying to bring my family back in my life. Stop it”! She hangs up before I can answer her back, okay that took a complete twist I did not expect it at all. My mother needs some serious deliverance, God better intervene before it's too late. I put my phone back in my pocket, and continue with marinating the meat Ziyanda is the one making fire.

“Urh...m. Can I please talk to you if you are not busy”. I stop marinating the meat, and look at Modiegi. Before we go far she is my friend not my girlfriend, soon to get married to a deacon at church. She is one of the strongest prayer warriors amongst all of us, but lately she hasn't been attending evening services, but the deacon will be the only one attending.

“What is it Modiegi”?

Her: “I've invited some of the prayer warriors to come, and join us I hope you don't mind”.

Me: "I don't mind I just did not think of inviting them I didn't think they will come, but as they say the more the merrier. I should text Nkanyiso to bring more cold drinks for the prayer warriors".

Her: "That would be wonderful, thank you". I nod at her, and cover the meat with a foil. "Mnqobi". I thought she left.

Me: "Yes Modiegi".

Her: "Do you know the Zithobele river"? I give her a blank look.

Me: "Zithobele river? No, I don't. Why are you asking"?

Her: "Besides it resides broken & poor people. Besides it resides the wounded ones, there's no hope for them, but by

the grace of the God they are still alive, and never complain about anything. They are content with what they have even if they go to bed hungry they still praise God, but there's this

particular man that has been crying for the past 27 years for only one thing, just one thing. And that one thing is to reunite with his kids, he yearns to know his kids, and take back what's rightfully his. They've stripped him of everything, his wife's sister couldn't bear to witness her sister being a Queen. So, she stirred one of her best friend to shake the kingdom a bit. I guess the foundation was not strong enough. The walls crumbled, and eventually the building collapsed. All the good was removed, and only the evil remained". I don't know when was the last time I was this confused. What is she exactly saying? Why is she telling me this story? Ai, maarn.

Me: "Urh...m. What are you talking about Modiegi? Why are you telling me all of this? I mean, I don't even understand who you are talking about". She is about to answer me when her phone rings, she excuses herself, and go and answer it leaving me confused. Was she telling a true life story or what? Let me not crack my brain about things I don't know anything about. I take out my phone from my pocket, and text Nkanyiso to buy more cold drinks, I take the meat outside.



NOBUNTU

My day is turning out to be better than how I've imagined it to be. Snikelelo is a ball of diamonds & feathers she is one cool person, and very humorous character I've been laughing ever since. We are now settling in at Nando's after our massages, and all the lingerie she has made me to buy, not forgetting heels, and some few soft music discs. Apparently they are for when we are going to do the deed, she is so sure that today I am going to pop the Cherry since it's my birthday, and Nkanyiso

sent me to a spa treatment because he wants to set the mood for tonight. Gosh, she is too much honestly, but I would never trade her for anything it's like I've known her for years. Yes, I did tell her that I am still a virgin, but not virgin virgin since the hymn was broken by manyala called Zweli even mentioning his name leaves a bitter taste in my mouth, yuck.

“Thank you for today Snikelelo. Honestly you made my day, the time I left home I did not think that my day will turn out to be this fun. Like yazini, I thank God for bumping into you”.

“You are most welcome, in fact I should be the one thanking you. You know the last time I was out with someone was 10 years back, nakhona with a church mate”.

Me: “On my side it has been months ago with my big sister, ever since then I've been going through trials & tribulations, yoh”.

Her: "God, is still in progress with your life Nobuntu. Ngithy minah yhey, what he is preparing for you is unmatched to any pain that you've gone through".

Me: "I believe. God has been so good to me honestly, I have seen him at work with my brother's life".

Her: "That is one man who will make a great preacher one day".

Me: "Speaking of him. Is he maybe seeing someone at church, or have a lady friend that keeps him busy, or maybe attend Bible study together"? She laughs, like seriously laughing guys...

Her: "I don't know if he is seeing someone yet, and yes he has a lady friend they are pretty close".

Me: "I knew it! I knew that he is busy with someone hence he attendeds weekday services every day".

Her: "They are not dating wena maarn. Modiegi is getting married to one of the deacons at church, they've been dating for a while now, and they love each other dearly".

Me: "What a bummer. I honestly love this Modiegi woman for him, I really do". She laughs.

Her: "You don't even know her Nobuntu".

Me: "I know. But I really do like him for Mnqobi not this deacon of yours, mxm". She laughs.

Her: "Shame man. I'm sure your brother will find a good woman when the time is right".

Me: "And that woman must be Modiegi". She snorts... My phone flashes indicating that I have a message I pick it up

Advertisement

and view the message and it's Mngqobi.

★Come to mg house now Nobuntu something big happened,

hurry★

What? I waste no time I start picking up my things.

“And now? Where are you going”?

Me: “We have to go Snikelelo my brother needs me asambe njengamanje”. She stands up, and picks the other shopping bags and we walk to her car. Yes, baby girl drives. She loads the shopping bags in the car while I settle on the passengers seat, she steps inside and roars the engine to life she is driving like a maniac, I am just praying that we arrive safe a Mngqobi's house safe because wawu, sis here is Michael Schumacher.

15 minutes later we park outside Mnqobi's yard, we both leapt out of the car, and rush towards the house. The door is slightly open, I push it open, and people appear from the lounge shouting...

“Happy birthday Nobuntu”!

I cover my face with my hands, and cry. I am crying tears of joy I did not expect this at all, Snikelelo pulls me into a tight embrace.

“Haibo. That's my woman sisi give her back”. He pulls me into his chest I chuckle in between the tears.

“Hhayi wena”.

Him: “Happy birthday sugar pie”. I retract my head from his chest, and face everyone I don't see Mnqobi amongst them. I don't even know half of these people here, but I am thankful to them for stopping by. They all wish me happy birthday, and give me hugs except for this one particular woman, well,

unfortunately for her I don't care about her. Ziyanda & Mnqobi show up few moments later Mnqobi has a cake with him, and Ziyanda cup cakes I chuckle.

Mnqobi: "Happy birthday Little one". He puts the cake on the kitchen counter top, and come and hug me.

Ziyanda: "Happy birthday Makoti". He hugs me too. I am so overwhelmed I can't utter any word, all I do is nod. I can't believe that they did all of this me, a whole me.

Nkanyiso: "Let's go, and get you settled sugar pie". I scoff, I really don't like this pet truth be told.

Snikelelo: "I guess I am automatically invited to this party since I am here, I mean, you can't really turn me back now that I am here right? That would just be plain rude, you know mus, and Nobuntu here is my best friend I will have to say a speech about her".

Him: "You've only known her for like 2 minutes".

Her: “Wuuhhh shame you don't know anything, uyaphapha njee wena”. We all laugh.

Mnqobi: “It's rude to keep the guests wait, and we don't really like eating cold food”.

Nkanyiso: “Wait, I have one final surprise for you sugar pie”.

Snikelelo: “That surprise will find us eating I am hungry guys, let's go and settle down”.

Him: “Mxm. Uyaphapha wena prophetess, go and eat”.

Her: “Thanks God he has invited me to join the party.

Hallelujah”! She walks away laughing.

Him: “I think I like her for you to be friends with each other she seems like a good person, and very humorous”.

Me: “She is a ball of varieties maarn. I like her too. Now, what's the surprise”?

Him: “Close your eyes you will definitely love it”. I nod, and close my eyes. Few moments later I feel tiny hands covering my eyes, I chuckle.

“Guess who is it”?

“It's my all time favourite boyza aka Sambulo”. He retracts his tiny hands from my eyes.

Him: “How did I know that it was me? Did Nyiso tell you”? I laugh, and look at Nkanyiso.

Me: “No. He did not tell me, I know you phela”.

Him: "Oh, okay. Happy birthday Buntu". He pinches my cheeks, and kiss me. I laugh, and pull him into a embrace.

Me: "Ncoahhh, thank you so much my boy".

Him: "I love you, and look at what I've brought for you Nyiso chose it for you, but it's from me". I laugh, and pick him up he lies his head on my shoulder. It's a big Teddy bear.

Me: "Thank you so much, this means so much to me baby. I love you too. I lie place my head on his head, and Nkanyiso pulls us both into an embrace.

Him: "And I love the both of you with all my heart".

Us: "We love you too".

"Okay, happy family we are almost done eating". Mngqobi tells us. We laugh, and go and join everyone in the garden. Snikelelo is already eating while the others were waiting for us.

Me: "Apologies for keeping you guys waiting even though some of us are not very patient". They all look at Snikelelo, and laugh. I would to thank all of you for coming, like people I did not expect this, and my boyfriend didn't even give out anything that today will be different beautiful day for me. Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards making this surprise party a success, may God richly bless you. Oh, and thank you to my boyfriend he is the best boyfriend, he boyfriends very well maarn. People this man right here I have been given by God himself in a silver platter, wuhhh guys he is one in a million. I

love you baby love. To my brother bathong, the big bear before me. Thank you so much for everything you have done for me, yazi you are the best, also thank you for teaching me how to pray if it wasn't for you I don't know where I would be. I love you biggy. Hmmm, I turn to look at Sambulo, and he is all smiles next to me, I pick him up. And also thank you to this little champ for loving me like I am his mother, thank you for the gift also. I love you bunny. He giggles, and hugs wraps his hands around my neck. Again, thank you everyone for being here to make my day extra special". They all clap hands, and some ululates.

Snikelelo: “Why are you not thanking me for completing your day”? Everyone laughs.

Me: “Thank you for making my day Snikelelo, thank you for being my Michael Schumacher for the day, wena miss fast & furious”. Everyone one laughs. “We may proceed with eating.

Mnqobi: “Thanks God”! Everyone dishes up, and this woman is in a contest stare with me. Who is she again, and how is she relevant? Geez, she is a bore. Everyone seems to be enjoying themselves, God, thank you.

★»★«

LONDIWE

I am now staying all alone, after that incident my family left calling me a witch, and unfortunately my mother lost her sight after telling people that she was covered with worms. Everyone in the neighborhood hates me they all can't stand me, I can also feel that I will soon depart, but I need to depart in peace. Confessing my evil deeds will be the first step. I am tired of leaving like this, this life is not the best life at all I am ready to confess, but where do I even begin? I can't do anything by myself, but funny enough I am always cleaned up especially when I just release my stuff. I have this very bad smell, the one

that made everyone here in the hood wear masks kids no longer play outside. Even, I, too, I can't stand the smell the sad thing is that I can't even vomit. Flies hardly fly around not even the big green ones, I am still surprised that the community haven't burned me yet...

“Dear God.

I know that I am a sinner, a biggest one for that matter

I know that I don't deserve your forgiveness

But please give the strength to confess mg evil deeds.

I am enough with the punishment.

If I die, let me die with a clear conscious

Let me rest in peace.

It is said that evil never defeats the good,

I am a witnessing. I confess with my tongue that you are God.

Nothing surpasses you, and you deserve all the honour

Give that chance to confess my evil doings.

The wicked never sleep, they are forever busy

But, it is said in your word that you are the way, the truth and the life.

I am ready to confess. I am willing to repent.

Amen”.

I look up the sky, and the weather is just beautiful. They will hate me for doing what I did, but my conscious will be clear in the grave.

51

★Insert 51★

[SHORT]

NOBUNTU

The surprise went well truly speaking, and I've been showered with lots of gifts something I did not expect, this is one of the days I will cherish forever it was amazing. Others have already left since they are working tomorrow, bo Mngqobi banezimanga

throwing surprise parties during the week, but what can I say? It has been done with love, nothing but pure love I am happy. Snikelelo left too, her sister called her I am now left with Mngqobi, Nkanyiso, Ziyanda, and his wife Gina the one who was

giving me nasty stares, and 3 of Mngqobi's prayer partners. I also got to meet Modiegi, let me just say she will make a perfect wife for Mngqobi they are almost the same age after all.

Amanda came to fetch Sambulo few hours ago who didn't want to leave, but Amanda managed to bribe him I don't know with what though. Everyone is sitting in the lounge conversating about everything & anything, and I am here in the kitchen cleaning I know that I am supposed to relax since it's my birthday, and all, but I can't, I just need to keep myself busy...

Anyway, I have my earphones on minding my own. Blaq diamond x Ngaqonywa is one of my few favourite song in my music bucket it never bores me I can even play it 50 times a day, and still enjoy it likes it's my first time hearing it.

“Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith, wee

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith (ongaqonywa mama)

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith (ongaqonywa mama)

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith, wee

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith (ongaqonywa mama)

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith wee

(Ongaqonywa mama)

Mina ngiyocaca nayee ay ay mina ngiyoshada
nayee (awuthonono wam)

Mina ngiyocaca nayee ay ay mina ngiyoshada nayee

Mina ngiyocaca naye ay ay

Mina ngiyoshada nayee (ntombie yam leeh)

Mina ngiyoshada nayee (awuthonono wam)

Mina ngiyocaca naye (ntombie yam leeh)

Ay ay mina ngiyoshada nayee

(Awuthonono wam)

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakithh

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith wee

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith (ongaqonywa mama)

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith (ongaqonywa maaaa)

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith (ongaqonywa mama)

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith wee

Ongaqonywa maaaa)

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith (ongaqonywa mama)

Sengize ngaqonywa ngakith wee

(Ongaqonywa mama)

Isiphelile (isiphelile) iminyaka(iminyaka wen)

Bengibuza (bengibuza)emakhaya (bengibuza ngawe, bengibuza ngawe) bathi simubona nini(simubonanini umakotiii)

Awukhulekani bazali

Awukhulekani bo mama

Usendleleni umama

Usendleleni umfazi yhee

Uzowuvusu umuzi

Uzowuvusa umuzi ka baba

Aya ya”

Someone taps me on my shoulder I turn to look, and it's Gina. What does she want? I remove the earphones she is folding her arms.

“What are you playing at”?

“Uhr...m”?

Her: “I mean, why are you with Nkanyiso”?

Me: “Why are you with Ziyanda”?

Her: “Because he is my husband, what about you, huh? What are you to Nkanyiso, and what did he even see in you”?

Me: “Why don't you ask him yourself? Should I call him for you so that you can ask him what he saw in me because he is the only person who can answer that question for you, not me”? She laughs.

Her: “You want to call him to fight your battles for you? Why do you cower? Can't you defend yourself like a grown woman that you are? Oh, wait. You are still a little girl who jumps from dick to dick”. I sigh, and shrug.

Me: “How is me saying that I want Nkanyiso to answer your question regarding what he saw in me is deemed as me being a coward? I mean, he is the only one who knows what he saw in me, right? So, he is the one you must ask. Anyway, why am I even explaining myself to you”?

Her: “Nkanyiso doesn't love you sweetheart. His heart is with Amanda not you, after he is done with you, he will go back to where he rightfully belongs, in Amanda's hands”. I laugh.

Me: “Now I see. Amanda sent you on her behalf. She practically asked you to fight on her behalf, isn't that being a coward? Listen here Gina, whatever Amanda is planning on doing to cause a rift between me & Nkanyiso doesn't shake me even one little bit I even sleep peacefully at night in his chest. Nkanyiso, and I have been through a lot, and if you think that I will let Amanda destroy that then the both of you don't know

anything. Did she tell you that I watch how to get away with murder? Did she? I think the fuck not because if he did you wouldn't be here right now talking nonsense, I can kill you right now, and make your death look like an accident, don't get familiar with me I am not your friend. You city girls just know how to unleash the ghetto in us that we didn't even know existed. Now, be a good girl, and go back to the lounge and entertain your husband or something”. She just stares at me dumbfounded then giggles.

Her: “Wow! I knew that you are a psycho, but this? Hahaha, you take a cup woman. Just so you know whatever portion you fed Nkanyiso will soon vanish”/ I laugh.

Me: “Arhh, there's that killer statement that your clique used to like. If I didn't know any better I would say that you guys use muti to make your partners love you, I mean, the ‘love portion’ word is forever at the tip of your tongues. What I can tell you though is that, a relationship based on forced love never ends well, it always ends in death be careful Miss Gina. You look like a good woman yazi, but then what do I know? Maybe you've been bitter since you were born. Okay, Amanda's messenger go, and tell Amanda that; angeke aze amuthole u Nkanyiso. Mtshela ukuthy angeke amunuke, uyezwa. Tell her that she will never get him, he is mine”. I look at her from head to toe, put back my earphones and continue with tidying up.

Yoh, these girls are just a drag honestly, fighting someone's battle is just a complete waste of time honestly. These girls should just do something to better their lives, if I didn't know any better I would say that they admire me of which is a good thing. I'm sure they don't even sleep at night, their minds are

occupied by my name, wawini girls the amantombazana, they are their own enemies. Instead of fixing each other's crowns they drag each other down. They don't know unity, but then again such is life. Maybe one day in the future we will have such women. Women who build each other up... So, today I want to pop the cherry, but fear is creeping in. What if he rejects me? What if... Ai, cut cut. I think I should just give it to him tonight, we've been dating for almost a year now, and he has never, I mean, ever pressure me into it. He has been patient with me, well. Not unless he was getting it somewhere else except from his hands, actually let me not think of the negative right now I need to be positive, and I am also comfortable being naked around him it won't be that awkward right? Perfect, let me uber home, and go and prepare for my first ever samanyobinyobi samabhebhana... Tonight is the night.



ZWELI

Life is really not kind to me currently nginywa everywhere, I've been replaced at work. Ben, my best friend replaced me he took my position, and he did not even seem bothered by it. But then I can't really blame him he was the second best, I am one to be blamed really because I gambled with my job telling myself that I'm the best they ever had, and I was still going to get my job back, but I was wrong. Look now I am job less, and

I've never done job hunting my whole life my dad was the one who pulled strings for me, now that he is bed sick, well the last time I checked he was, I don't know about now, but if he

has passed on I'm sure the media would've covered it. I guess I will have to start job hunting. Where does one even start? Well, online applications will do, and I'm positive that I will get any job I want with me being a Prince. Oh, yes. And I already have buyers for the house I just need to go through some paper work. The doorbell rings I attend to it, and it's a sheriff.

“Good evening I am looking for Zwelibanzi Zulu”.

“That would be me. What can I do for you”?

Him: “Can you please sign here for me”. He hands me a clipboard and a pen, I take them and sign then give it back to him. He gives me an envelope then walks away I close the door after him, and walk to the lounge. I open it, and I am met with divorce papers, I laugh, and shake my head. Langelihle is divorcing me? A whole Prince? Who would've thought... I browse through the papers, and well she wants nothing from me she wants a clean divorce. I throw the papers on top of the table, and laugh not believing this it's just unbelievable, I did

not expect any of this it was the last thing on my mind. Wow, Nkanyiso must've advised her to divorce me. Oh well, they deserve each other piece of shits! Hmmmm, I don't know whether I should sign the papers, or just tear them apart just to spite her, but that would be bitter of me, in fact let me just sign them and get this over, and done with. I don't want anything connecting me to her anyway... Oh, I also need to call my mother just to find out how she is holding up. I know that she is worried sick about me, but then I'm quite sure that the seer told her that I am fine she doesn't need to worry herself about me, after all I am a grown ass man. Tomorrow I will have to start with job hunting in big companies online applications won't do for me, while debating about which company I'm going to go to first I feel something slimy passing by feet since I am barefooted I look down on my feet, and it's the black Python that used to terrorize me it has been long since I last saw it, I attempt to jump, but it rolls itself on my legs preventing me to stand up.

“Let go of me you stupid snake”! Yelling, trying to wriggle my legs out of its squeeze, but they ain't budging. “Jesus Christ! What do you want from me”! Tears are on a verge of coming out since it is crushing my feet, it is said that men don't cry, but this is me now crying due to the unbearable pains I am feeling

on my feet. Tears stream down as I am getting weaker by a minute, my eyes shut down as I feel some deep sleep overcoming me I have no choice but to sleep, maybe the pains will end, or maybe I am just hallucinating when I wake up it will be all over.

★»★«

NKANYISO

Nobuntu left few hours ago she didn't even tell us that she is leaving. I guess she was too tired, or better yet wanted some time alone to digest everything that happened today, seeing her that happy really made my heart leapt with joy her happiness matters shame.

“All done”/ Mngobi tells me as he loads the last gift in the boot. Nobuntu received lots of gifts from complete strangers, people who she has never met they made her day to be more special if that's not love, then I don't know what is.

“Thank you man. I better get going now I will see you around”.

Him: “Pleasure all mine bruh. Witnessing Nobuntu that happy, and free was the biggest highlight of the day”.

Me: “No doubt about that. Oh

and please thank your fellow prayer warriors for us we really appreciate”.

Him: “I think you should thank them yourselves”.

Me: “Give me their numbers then, and I will thank them”. He shakes his head. “Why are you shaking your head”?

Him: “You need to stop by the church sometime, and thank them personally they will really appreciate it I swear you won't die”/ I laugh.

Me: “I will see man. Let me get going”.

Him: “Drive safe”. We bro hug, and I step inside my car, and bring the engine to life, and I hoot while driving out of Mnqobi's yard. Blaq diamond x Ngaqonywa is keeping me company I never liked this song, let's just say Nobuntu made me fall in

love with it, and the other one by them named “Uthando njermina ang'salazi”. Basically I was dating imikokotelo all my life before I met her, this song is truly telling my love life story currently.

In no time I am parked on the driveway the lights are all off it's just after 20:00, and Nobuntu sleeps around 22:00. Maybe she was just tired, I will unload the gifts tomorrow right now I need a bath, and some action movie I don't want to wake Nobuntu up. I step inside the house, and the light in my room is on I can see it underneath the door, guess she is still awake. Oh, well. I walk into the room, and I am welcomed by Beyonce x dance for you, and Nobuntu leaning against the wall in a sexy lingerie, and a glass of wine in her hand. The smile plastered in her face is not to be missed, I am in utter shock not believing my eyes. She strides towards me, at least the heels are making her to level up with me since I'm taller than her. Her hands find themselves unbuttoning my shirt, mnumzane has already reacted at her sight.

“Tonight is the night where I give all myself to you. You deserve some me”. She whispers in my ear, and nibble on it then push me to the bed, and gets on top of me snaking her fingers in my

body looking straight in to my eyes. Wuuhhh Morena waka, my underground gang finally paved a way for me...

NOBUNTU

Never in my wildest dream did I ever think that I would be the first one to initiate sex, blame it all on Snikelelo. She's the one who mentored me, such a little freak. Well, even the wine gave me that boost. Looking at Nkanyiso straight in the eyes came from a very well thoroughly practice... He brings my head to his, and presses his lips against mine. His lips are gentle, tender as he explores mine, his tongue teases my lips until they part involuntarily, granting him access to my mouth. He kisses me slowly, leisurely, as though he has all the time in the world. His tongue strokes against mine, and lightly sucks my lower lip, sending a liquid of surge straight to my pussy. His hands eases of my cheeks, and cradles the back of my neck instead, I find my

hands on to his shoulders as he flips me over with him being on top of me as twirls my tongue with his, I am in another dimension. His kiss feels so good, yazi we always kiss for a second, but now that I am fully kissing him is one great feeling ever. He pulls out, and looks down on me, and a smile breaks out of his lips. His lips are wet & shiny, a little swollen from our

kiss. Mine probably are too. He kisses my neck, lightly nibbling on the sensitive spot where my neck & shoulder join, and I shiver from the pleasurable sensation. I close my eyes as a soft moan escapes my lips, his hands are caressing my thighs, he brings them to him, and I wrap my legs around his firm thighs. One of his hands is now on my buttocks, kneading the soft flesh. His other hand is travelling up my belly, my rib cage. He reaches my breast and cups the left one in his palm, squeezing it lightly. My nipples are already hard, and his touch feels good almost soothing. He kisses my collarbone, my neck, my stomach. He leaves a most trail in my skin, bathong he is really taking his time. Then he closes his lips around my right nipple, and sucks on it as a soft moan escapes my lips, my hands buried in his bare back. My body arches, and I feel a tension low in my body. He repeats the action with my other nipple, and the tension grows. He senses it because his hand ventures between my thighs, and feels the moisture there.

“I can tell that you are ready for me”. He murmurs, stroking my folds. I wimper as his lips travel down my body, okay, I think he is about to travel down my pussy, and suck it. Yhey, my minds blanks out when he reaches his destination... He pulls my legs apart. He pats me gently, then pull apart my pussy lips. And he kisses me there sending something foreign to my body. His

mouth licks and nibbles around my clitoris until I'm moaning, and then he closes his lips around it, and slightly sucks in it. The pleasurable is so strong, so startling that my eyes flip open I don't understand what's happening to me, but it feels so good. I'm throbbing between my legs. My heart is beating so fast I can't catch my breathe, and I find myself panting. He laughs softly. I can feel the puffs of air from his breathe on my sensitive flesh. He easily holds me down and continues what his doing, yhey I was missing out nina. The tension inside me is becoming unbearable I'm squirming against his tongue, and my motions seems to be bringing me closer to some elusive edge. Then I go over with a soft scream. My entire body tightens, and I'm swamped by a wave of pleasure so intense that my toes curl, and try lifting myself up but he is holding me down. I can feel my inner muscles, and I go into another dimension, and something being released in my body. I squeeze my eyes shut trying to take it all in, but it seems like nigga ain't done with me

yet. He crawls up again, and tries kissing me, but I turn my face to the left. He chuckles.

“Hhayi wena, taste yourself hau”. I am embarrassed to test myself since I've been spotting and shit, but it's not that bad right? I mean, he went down on me without giving a care in the world, so why not I just taste myself? He makes me look at him,

his eyes are small bathong. He kisses me, his kiss tastes different now it tastes salty, but I like it.

His kiss is a little rougher than before. His tounge penetrate my mouth, and his hips settle heavily between my legs. One of his hands is holding the back of my head, while the other one is between my thighs, lightly rubbing and stimulating me again. I can feel the heat and his erection pushing against my inner thighs.

“I want you to relax, and free your legs I promise to be gentle”/ I nod while fear creeps in. He shifts his hips a little, and uses his hand to guide his dick towards my opening. I gasps as he begins to push inside, and my legs starts shaking, he steadies them I

hope he is not big bathong, wuhh. Okay, he feels big as the head of his dick slowly enters my body. It begins to hurt, to burn, and I cry out pushing his shoulders he stops and looks at me.

“Should I stop? Am I hurting you”? I shake my head. “Then relax it won't hurt that much, okay”? I nod. He continues to press, and my flesh slowly gives away, and allows him past my vaginal barrier, tearing through with one firm thrust. He doesn't stop

until his full length is buried inside me. The pain I am feeling right now, yohhh, tears are slowly approaching. I can feel his hardness lodging deep inside me, I whimper. He starts moving slowly, leaving trail of kisses on my neck and cupping my breasts, his movements inside is making things worse, but I love it. And then he reaches our bodies with one hand, and uses one finger to press against my clit, keeping the pressure light & steady. His thrusts move my hips, causing me to rub against his finger in a rhythmic way. To my surprise, I feel the tension gathering me inside again. The pain is still there, but so is the pleasure. His thrusts get harder, deeper, and I'm screaming from the unbearable intensity. The pain and the pleasure mix until they become one- until I exist in the world of pure overwhelming sensation. And then I explode, as I feel the

feeling I felt earlier exploding through my entire body as my nails dig digger in his skin. Suddenly, I can hear him groaning against my ear and feel him getting even thicker, and longer inside me. His cock is pulsing & jerking deep within me, it is no rocket science that he has find his release as well. In the aftermath, he rolls off me, and gathers me to him. Holding me close, I bury my head is his chest.

“That was good, next time I won't be this gentle. I will fuck you, not making love to you”. I giggle, and he kisses my forehead. “I love you phakade lami”.

“I love you too baby love”.

Him: “Another one”? I laugh.

Me: “Why not”? Guys, I was missing out on sex nina yoh... I check the sheet, and there is no blood. Wawu;

52

NKANYISO

My alarm rings waking me up, that was fast because I only slept for an hour, sighs. I switch it off, and roll over to look at Nobuntu who is sleeping on her stomach peacefully next to me, she looks worn out, but I don't blame her after the mind blowing sex we had last night. Manini, I think it's the 03:00am round that worn her out I still can't believe that she made me to make love to her, she gave herself to me, it was a great surprise maarn I am not complaining, but the pain that my back received because of her digging her nails in my flesh, yoh, let me not talk about it. I kiss her cheek, and slowly get off bed removing her leg on top of mine, and walk to the bathroom to take a bath, also I will have to buy her soothing salt, and all that stuff. Oh, and get her a morning after pill Mnqobi's warnings about knocking up his sister are still ringing in my head, hehehe, pregnancy is the last thing she needs honestly. Her education is more important... I am done with everything, and she is still sleeping. I pick up my brief case, and kiss her lips as I walk out of the room, I really wish that I can take another day off, but knowing my boss he will chop my head off, as I drive out of the yard Amanda's park parks right near the gate restricting me from driving out. I get out my car, and walk

towards hers I knock at her window and she rolls it down she looks like a mess, her hair is out of place, and she is wearing sunglasses. She smells like a brewery.

“Move out of the way I need to get to work”. She sniffs, and remains seated in her seat, and take a swig of whatever she is drinking ignoring me. “Amanda, move out of the way I need to get to work dammit”! She turns to look at me then take off her sunglasses her eyes are puffy.

“What is it that she has that I don't? What do you see in her”? Both her questions comes out as a whisper.

Me: “She has all the qualities I need in a woman, and in her I saw a woman who I would want to build a family with, and possibly have a business together. Be a power couple like Zubenathi & Bayanda, do you know them? No, you don't because they love each other genuinely they've been through a lot. And you not half of a woman that she is. Are you answered”? She giggles.

Her: “You never saw a future with me? A woman that you would want to start a family with, and build an empire with”?

Me: “Yes. I never did. Now that I've answered your questions, can you move out of the way”?

Her: “So, you were using me”? I laugh.

Me: “Using you? Tell me here; what did you think was going to happen when you slept with my brother not once, but many times behind my back before I caught you red handed? Weren't you using me back then, huh”?

Her: “I told you countless times that it was a mistake Nkanyiso! I've begged you to forgive me, but you didn't. You just left me, and you were disgusted by me. I waited thinking that you will come back as you always did every time we fought, but you never did I suffered depression all because of you Nkanyiso”!

Me: “You want a pity party from me? Well then baby girl I am not going to give it to you, actually I should be thanking you. If

you didn't sleep with my brother, and me taking a break, freezing my heart for love for 5 good years I wouldn't have met

Nobuntu. Thank you for making me to cross paths with my soulmate”. She breaks down in tears if only she knew that I am not going to flinch upon seeing her tears.

Her: “Wow! Just wow Nkanyiso. Anyway, I think you will have to choose”.

Me: “Choose? Choose between what”? She sighs.

Her: “Between your son and Nobuntu”.

Me: “I choose both of them, and you have no fucken right to ask me to choose between my girlfriend, and my son”.

Her: “I just did”/ I laugh.

Me: “Well Amanda. Let's do imbeleko, and maybe just maybe I can choose between my girlfriend and my son”.

Her: “A no will do. And oh, your family will not be doing any imbeleko for my son, do you hear me”?

Me: “It's tradition. His imbeleko must be done if you don't want the imbeleko to be done then there's a possibility that he is not my son. Who is his real father”? She gasps, and chuckles.

Her: “You are fucken unbelievable Nkanyiso! My family are christians they don't entertain traditional ceremonies, you just want to practice witchcraft with my son, I honestly don't know what more you want from me. You've asked me for a DNA test, and I gave it to you without fighting you. The results came back 99.9% that Sambulo is indeed your son, what more do you want from me kahle kahle”?

Me: “Just let me do imbeleko for him if he is really mine that's all I ask, and your family don't have to be present, and practising culture is not witchcraft stop insulting our tradition”. She giggles.

Her: “You are fucken unbelievable wena. I hope your girlfriend is worth it because you have just lost a son. You even made my son get to attached to this girlfriend of yours a day never goes by without him mentioning her name, congratulations Nkanyiso you've just lost your son because of some village pussy”!

Me: “I was doing fine before you introduced him to me, I will do just fine without him again. And stop using my son to fight for your battles, it's sickening. Now, move I want to go to work. Tell him that I love him, and hopefully once he's grown he will look for me. Oh, and that village pussy is much nicer compared to yours, and stop insulting my girlfriend she is a more of a woman than you will ever be. Your time has expired Amanda”. I click my tongue, and walk back to my car leaving her with her mouth hanging not believing that I just said that. How dare she tries to blackmail me? Worst of it she is using my son to blackmail me. But then something is amiss here, why is she refusing the imbeleko ceremony to take place? I think I will have to redo the parternity tests again, but secretly this time around, and use a different doctor I am starting to have doubts about Sambulo's real paternity tests. What if she payed Dr Pastel to jynx the results to their favour? I mean, this will explain as to why Dr Pastel was happy tye day she told us the results. I will have to move fast, and find out the truth before it's too late. If would

really be heartbroken if he is not mine I mean, I've built a strong bond with him. Then imagine how all of this will make him feel? He is still young Imagine getting attached to something then someone decides to take it away from you- I don't even want to think about how will Nobuntu feel. She drives off leaving trail smoking after her. I shake my head, and drive to work I am going to be 30 minutes late... What a complete waste of time bickering with a useless person, nxa.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

I am woken up by my phone ringing, my body is in pains. Nkanyiso really sexed me last time I was missing out on amanyobinyobi, it is nice y'all, but the pain was too much my vagina is even painful I am not regretting anything it was worth it, and he was so gentle bathong hmm. Hopefully next time I will explore more with him, and give him in all corners, aeroplane style, chicken style, Lol... I'm kidding. My phone rings again, and it's Snikelelo she is video calling me I'm sure I look like a hot mess, and I am not going to answer her video call she better call me directly I let it ring until she hangs up, I will call her back after I am done cleaning myself up. I attempt to get off bed, but the pain in between my thighs is just, yazini... I fill up the bathtub with water once I am satisfied with the amount of water, I drop down the gown, and get inside the bathtub. The soothing sensation is just what I needed I lean my head back, and enjoy the water.

30 minutes later I am out of the bathtub I walk to my room, and dress up before I change the bedding I need to wash it. Oh, and that exploding I was feeling it was getting an organism, ey residents my people it felt good. No lies. My phone rings, and Snikelelo is now calling me

exactly what I wanted her to do before I cleaned myself up.

“Mam'mfundisi”.

“Why weren't you answering my video calls wena”? I laugh.

Me: “I was sleeping”.

Her: “So, you did it”? I nod as if she can see me.

Me: “Yes, I did”/ she screams in my ear I retract the phone from my ears until she stops screaming.

Her: “Welcome to womanhood baby girl, I hope you've used protection though”. I freeze. Oh shit! We did not use it, oh oh...

And I am not ready to have a baby I still have a lot to achieve nina. What am going to do? Plus, Mnqobi warned me yazi I am dragged out of my thoughts by Snikelelo who is busy calling my name.

Me: "Urh...m. Well, we... We didn't".

Her: "Holy mother of Jesus. Did Nkanyiso at least buy you morning after pills"?

Me: "No, he didn't".

Her: "Wehhh. Send me your address I will send someone to bring them for you".

Me: "Why don't you bring them yourself"?

Her: "I am going Mpumalanga to visit my brother".

Me: "For how long will you be visiting him"?

Her: "2 weeks if not 3, it's been long since I last him".

Me: "Oh, okay babe I understand".

Her: "Are you able to walk properly though"? I chuckle.

Me: "No"/ she laughs.

Her: "Well, unfortunately for you- you've missed out on getting a free massage".

Me: "Put it on hold until you are back. I don't want to go alone".

Her: "If you say so. Have you opened the gifts yet"?

Me: "No. I will check them out later, thank you to your prayer warriors for all that they've done for me. I mean, they went all their way out whereas they've never saw me, or met me. Thank you shame, may God grant them what their heart desires, and thank you to you too".

Her: “Oh my, you are making me emotional ruining my mascara”. I laugh. “I'm kidding. You are most welcome babe, let's just say this is the beginning of good things. Look, I've got

to go I will call you once I get to Mpumalanga, hopefully the network will favour me this time around. I love you”.

Me: “Okay sweets, and I love you”. She hangs up, leaving me with a smile on my face. I send him my location via whatsApp. My stomach growls, and I am really hungry shame I last ate yesterday afternoon. I switch on the kettle, and walk to the fridge to look for something to eat, well I am craving pap, chicken livers, and mashed potatoes. I take out all the ingredients that I will need, then make myself a sandwich. The doorbell rings as I am about to walk to the lounge to satisfy my hunger I yank it open, and it's a courier guy.

“Are you miss phakadelakhe”? I look at him dumbfounded, he got a wrong address.

“No. My name is Nobuntu I don't know any miss phakadelakhe”. He laughs, and shakes his head.

Him: “You are the person I am looking for can you please sign here for me”? He hands me a pen & clipboard to sign then give it to him. “Thank you”. He hands me a bunch of roses, and a

basket full of goodies. “Some woman are lucky maarn, enjoy phakadelakhe”. I chuckle as he walks away whistling, I close the door then laugh. How can I miss this? This has Nkanyiso written over it, weehhh this man nina he is every woman's dream, including you. I take them to the lounge with a big smile plastered on my face. If this is what he does after samanyobinyobi samabhebabhana, he can nyoba me every day I will have to call him, and thank him, after I am done eating of course. Oh, I will also have to thank Mnqobi, but then God's timing is always the best. The joy you will have after you've passed those trials & tribulations will be forever just never stop praying, he is alive. And don't forget to thank your ancestors too...

Who would've thought that one day I would be where I am today? I mean, I couldn't even pray to God. The abuse I've

endured at the hands of my grandmother, the slurs people have been hurling my way, the mockery. All the hope was gone, but that one faithful day at the forest going to fetch firewoods changed my life completely, I knew right there & then that God, and my ancestors will pave a way for me. I had my doubts at first, doubts are what derail us from getting what we pray for to God. What I've gone through was God moulding me to be a better version of me, and be strong. I now know how to pray,

one day your time will come just trust in his word. Yhey, look at preaching. But do you blame me? I am testifying here. One day I will go to that church, and give out a testimony of what he has done for me. If you feel like all hope is gone, kneel down and have a conversation with him yell at him if it needs to... My phone beeps indicating a message I view it, it's from Nkanyiso. A smile breaks out on my lips while reading it...

★I hope you are getting all the rest you need, and I hope you got the things I've sent you, I love you phakedelami★

It's official, my pet name is phakadelami residents. Dark skinned girls don't blush, they blusssshhhh! Yes, that's me right now. I put the phone over my chest, thinking about him. Ncahh, such a darling.

★»★«

MNQOBI

I know that my mother said that she doesn't want to meet with me, but since she said it's important I had no choice, but to drive here. I am parked outside her yard, and I call her I don't want her to chase me again she answers after few moments.

“Ufunani”? She ask rather annoyed her voice is saying it all.

“You said you wanted to talk, I am here to talk”.

Her: “I thought I told you that we are cancelling the meeting, or was I dreaming”?

Me: “No, you weren't dreaming you did say it”.

Her: “Then why are you stubborn? Why did you bring your big head here”? I chuckle.

Me: “I was taking my chances, but I will leave”.

Her: "That's the best thing you said since this call, bye. Next time learn to take orders, and don't be hot headed since you now see yourself as a God" / she hangs up before I can answer her. I look at my screen taken aback by what just happened, wawu this woman called my mother is really losing it she is getting worse day by day. Sighs, this is not my mother, this is not the woman who gave birth to me she is something I don't even recognize. I am about to drive off when I see Crecentia rushing towards my car she doesn't look good, at all. Something is really bothering her I can tell she is my sister after all. I roll down the window...

"Hi. What brings you here".

"Hello. I've come to see your mother, but she had to be otherwise. What's going on with you? You don't look healthy" /

Her: "Me? Oh no. I am fine". She gives me a faint smile, and avoids looking at me in the eyes as I search through them.

Me: “Crecentia. What's going on with you? I know that I'm not your favorite person currently, but you are still my sister. Talk to me”. She breaks down, I step out of my car, and pulls her to my embrace allowing her to cry on my chest she is hiccuping.

“I'm pregnant, and Thabo is denying that the baby is his”/ I loosen my grips, and get hold of shoulders, and make her to look at me. Why would Thabo deny the pregnancy? I mean, these people loved each other very much. Thabo sacrificed a lot for Crecentia this doesn't make any sense, something just doesn't add up.

Me: “How far are you? And why would Thabo deny the pregnancy”?

Her: “Because he is not the father”. Okay, now this is confusing.

Me: “You've completely lost me now. Thabo is not the father, but he denies the pregnancy. What's really going on”?

Her: “It was a mistake Mngqobi, a mistake that caused me my relationship with Thabo to end. You should've seen him he

was furious. It's all a mess, I've messed up Mngqobi. Big time". She continues to cry.

Me: "If Thabo is not the father, then who is the father"? Her head drops. "Talk to me dammit"!

Her: "Ben. Ben is the father"/ I swear my mind blanks out for a couple of seconds, and I lose all the abilities to can. Haibo.

Me: "What"! She shakes her head, and jogs away. I rake my right hand over my hair, and kick my car tyres. Damn it! How did this happen? It's all so complicated, I will have to call Thabo maybe he might explain to me better. Yerrr... The clique has sure perished, nc nc nc. But the question still stands; how did Crecentia & Ben ended up sleeping together? And where?

53

ZWELI

Thabo has locked himself in his room ever since he came back few hours ago breathing fire, anger very much evident in his face, and smelling like brewery. When he left in the morning he was fine I don't know what happened as the day proceeded I just decided to let him be he will tell me what happened once he has calmed down. Forcing things is just not a good thing. The snake incident almost left me paralyzed. My legs are

swollen making it hard for me to move around the house freely I am forced to walk step by step like elderly people, mxm. I've even moved here to the lounge since the passage leading to my borrowed bedroom it's quite long suddenly, and it will take me 20 minutes to get there whereas it always took me a minute before. It's only been a day, and couple of hours but I am already drained this is witchcraft I tell you. People just don't want to see me working they are intimidated by my success they know very well that I level up when it comes to working. I am just not sure about who did me this bad though people are just jealous of me honestly. Just as I've settled down on the couch covering my legs with a blanket a knock comes through at the door I wonder who is it...

“Come on in it's open”! Yelling. I hear the door open then footsteps, and before me stands Mnqobi. I don't know when was the last time I saw him I wonder what is he doing here. We had a tight brotherhood before everything took left he has even gained some weight, and looks really dapping, no homo.

“Sure”.

Me: “Sure”.

Him: "Is Thabo around"?

Me: "He is in his room. Why are you looking for him? Tired of playing brother in-law with Nkanyiso already"? He looks at me, and shakes his head.

Him: "I need to talk to him regarding a serious matter please get him for me". I look at my legs, and scratch my head.

Me: "Why don't you go and check him in his room? You know it right"? I don't want him to see me in this state. Who knows?

Maybe is him who did this, now he is here to see if his witchcraft really worked, I will not give him that satisfaction he wants to see.

Him: "I will go, and check him out".

“There's no need for that I'm here. What are you doing her Mngobi”? He says to Mngobi with hands in his pocket.

Him: “Crecentia tells me that you guys are having a fallout. Why is that”? He chuckles.

Thabo: “That sister of yours is a whore Mngobi. Why am even surprised because she, together with Nobuntu are whores jumping from one dick to another. Wait, jumping from one dick in our none existence clique to another in the very same clique, talk about being loose”.

Him: “The name calling, and bashing is not necessary though. I just want to hear the side of your story, what happened”?

Thabo: “Your sister tripped in Ben's dick, and said it was an accident. An accident that gained her a piece of rubbish that she is carrying inside her tummy”! I gasp. Could it be that Crecentia is pregnant with Ben's child? The very same Ben who took my position at work? I don't believe this. Ben is married for goodness sake, this is just too much Ben is out to get us mus, he is basically fucking us over without fear or favour.

Him: “When was this and where did it take place? Ben, was always loyal to his wife. What happened”?

Thabo: “Your sister will tell you better she is the one who opened her legs for my best friend after all. Worst of it all, she decided to pin the pregnancy on me after Ben, told her to terminate the pregnancy! You know I was really excited when she told me the news because at least one of us in the clique is or was going to be a father, it was the happiest moment of my life. I even told my parents to get ready to pay for damages, kanty umsunu ka nina is pregnant with Ben's child”. Yoh! Mnqobi lost it... He throws in a punch, and Thabo laughs while holding his cheek.

Him: “Don't you dare drag my mother in to this. Awuwazi u msoon wakhe, but you outchea calling it like you know it? Ungazongijwayela wena smawuwu, it seems like you've forgotten who am I”. He throws in another punch, and Thabo falls down tasting blood in his lips. Mnqobi clicks his tongue, and storms out of the house leaving Thabo on the floor wiping the blood that is coming out of his mouth, Mnqobi sure knows how to punch. I stare at him I am just not believing that Ben

slept with Crecentia, and made a baby in the process. I wonder how will Mika take such news considering the fact that she always miscarry within 3 months. But what if Ben was giving her abortion pills or something that causes abortion without her knowing? After what I heard, no man he wouldn't be that heartless, well, it's no secret that Ben hate children it might be possible. This is another form of witchcraft. But I must agree with Thabo regarding Mnqobi's sisters being whores, I guess it runs in the family I'm sure their mother did the same thing too. Once a bitch always a bitch. Thabo is up in his feet he staggers as he steadies himself.

Him: "What are you looking at? I want you out of my house before this night ends. Friends are trash, and so are you"! He walks away leaving me defeated, but then again if he thinks that I will leave his house, then he better think again because I

am not going anywhere he better get used to that. Even if I were to leave, where would I go? Plus, I am half disabled I can't do most things myself. Hhayi this is a disaster.

NOBUNTU

I wake up from my power nap I need to start cooking before Nkanyiso arrives. Yhey, Snikelelo did lived up to her promise, and sent someone with the morning after pill I thank God that I took it within 72 hours. I think I should start taking contraceptives, hhe. Look at me worrying about pregnancy instead of HIV & other sexually transmitted diseases, haike I will pass the bridge once I get there, plus yena he has been doing samanyobinyobi almost his whole life I'm sure he wasn't even using condoms with his casuals. Thinking about it makes me cringe, yoh having unprotected sex is a risk yazi, a real risk that is, sighs. But then, if he had HIV he would've insisted us in using condoms right? I might be wrong though. My phone rings, and it's a number I don't recognize.

“Nobuntu here, how can I be of assistance”.

“Nobuntu u gogo ufuna imali”. (Grandmother wants money)
Sanele says on the other hand without even greeting, wawu.

Me: “Unjani Sanele? Uyifuna kubani leyo Mali”? (How are you?
And who does she want the money from)

Him: “Kuwe. Uyasikolota Nobuntu”/ (you, you owe us) I laugh.

Me: “Kolota? Nginikolota ini”? (Owe you what)

Him: “Imali yayo yonke leminyaka bewuhlala ekhaya. Siyahlupheka Nobuntu. Ikati lilele eziko sibi kakhulu isimo la esogodini akulungi lutho”. (Money for all the years you've been staying here at home. We are poor, and things are very bad here in the village nothing is going right)

Me: “Nifuna imali kimi? After lobuhlangu eningi ndlulise kubo? After ningiphosa ngamatshe ningibiza ngomthakathi. Nina laba benifuna ngishiswe wumphakathi nifuna usizo kimi? Nangijikela njengo tshwala esuswini. Ngiyababona bonke, kodwa wena?

Bengingazi ukuthy ngizolibona ilanga leli usengiphendukela Sanele baqinisile mabathi Umuntu awumazi”. (You want money from me? After all the pain you've put me through? After throwing me with me stones, and calling me a witch? The very

same people who wanted the villagers to burn me alive, you now want help from me? You've turned on me like alcohol in the

stomach. I see them all, but you? Never in my life have I thought that I will see the day you turned on me. It's true when they say you never know a person) I hear some shuffling...

“Letha la locingo ngikhulume naye mina”. (Give me the phone so that I talk to her) mxm... “Yewena Nobuntu njengoba sewuhlala lapho egoli udla elikapondo sewakhohlwa ngathi. Uyakholwa ukuthi besikuwondla, bewugcokiswa ugogo akwenzela yonke into manjer usukhohlwe konke loko njengoba sowuganile? Awucabangani ngani ukusithumela imali usibonge? Kakhulukazi ubonge ugogo”? (Now that you are staying in Jo'burg, and living a good life you've forgotten about us. You've even forgotten that we've been feeding you, and grandmother clothing you, doing everything for you- you've already forgotten all of that now that you are married? Why don't you ever think of sending money to thank us? Especially thanking grandmother) she is yelling.

Me: “Ngoba asihlanganiswa lutho. Kimi nifana nabantu engingabazi, futhy angazi ukuthi ukhuluma ngani ngoba beniwondlwa yimi no Sanele. Bengizigcokisa mina, ungalinge njer ukhulume amanga umdala. Enhlek, nicabanga ukuthi

ngizonisiza after what you've put me through? Udakwa kabi wena, angeke shame, in fact angifuni nisile nina. Kube ngashiswa benofuna kubani imali if ngashiswa”? (Because nothing binds us together. To me you are like strangers, and I don't even know what you are talking about because you were supported by me & Sanele. I was clothing myself don't dare lie you are to old for that. Do you honestly think that I will help you after what you've put me through? You must be darn crazy, and I won't help you in fact I don't want to. If I was burnt, who were you going to request the money from?)

Her: “Hehehe, haike! Wena Nobuntu, sowukwazi ukuphendula? Hhayi likutshintshile Igoli. Lalela ke sisi; bengikutshela bengingakuceli. Manje siyilindile nini malini? Phela isimo sibucwayi la endlini silala singadlile futhi ke no gogo uyagula”. (You now know how to answer back? No. Jo'burg has really changed you. Listen here sister; I was telling you not asking you. Now, how soon can we expect the money? I mean, things are bad here at home we go to bed without eating, and grandmother is sick) Wabona, the attitude she is giving me right now makes me not want to help them honestly, clearly she thinks that I'm the old Nobuntu that they ordered around back then, the gear have shifted now.

Me: “Ucabanga ukuthi ngizokusiza njengoba ukhuluma nami so? Kunzima yini ukuzi thoba”? (You think that I will help you whereas you talking to me like this? Is it hard to humble yourself) she laughs.

Her: “Ngizithobe kuwe? Ungubani wena? Laleka sisi asoze ngakwenzwa loko”! (Humble myself to you? Who the hell do you think you are? Listen here; I will not do that) I chuckle”.

Me: “Until you learn how to talk to me don't ever call me again. (Phambi kokuthi ufunde ukukhuluma nami angingasheyeli ucingo) uyezwa? Good”. Hanging up. Yoh, who does she think she is bathong. No sane person can ask for help with an attitude, one must humble themselves even though you don't like the person, but being humble when asking for help goes a long way, or saying a simple “please”. It won't take anything away from you truly speaking.

After this phone call my mood drops. What if they really need help, and I am denying helping them? Should anything happen to them I will have no one to blame, but me. Yes

they did me bad, and broke me, treating me like I'm a nobody. But the bible says don't fight evil with evil, and me not helping

them will show that I, too, am evil just like them. Then again, what if they are lying they just want money from me? Sighs, if only there was a 3rd person to confirm that they really need help. Maybe just maybe I might help them... Thick smoke fills the entire kitchen I don't even know where it is coming from, I look around, and I don't see anything.

“Wena wasebukhosini. Nkosazana. Sengisendleleni, kufikile ukukhanya kwakho, sekolunga konke”. (You who is from royalty. Princess. I am on my way, your light have arrived, everything will be well) I look at the direction where the voice is coming, and I see a woman in a sangoma's attire with a huge snake around her neck looking at me. My legs are shaking from fear, even if I want to run where will I go because there smoke is too much, it's blocking the view.

“Wh... Who are you”? My voice is breaking.

Her: “Nginguye enginguye, sekuseduze sifeze isifiso sakho”. (I am who I am, we are approaching toward your wishes) she disappears after saying those words, and so is the smoke. Who the hell was that?! Who ever it was, leaves me shaking.

KHETHIWE

I look at my husband who is sleeping peacefully, and breathing like he is alive. I don't know, but I think he is in serious pains, but can't tell us since he doesn't do anything. Why don't I just put his life out of mystery, and end it once and for all. He can't continue living like this. I, too, can't bear seeing him like this it hurts me, and for the fact that I have something to do with it hurts me more. I take the pillow that is in his left side, and fix it-it looks soft, sighs. Dear God, forgive me for what I am about to do I can't bear seeing my husband like this, besides I am all alone now, I am all I have left. My kids are gone, they don't even call to check up on me. I guess, they don't really care about me anymore. I bring the pillow to his face when I hear thunder roaring outside startling me causing the pillow to drop on the floor with a thud.

“You are now playing God with Nqobani's life Khethiwe”? Upon hearing her voice, fear creeps in I still remember what she told

me, but I didn't listen. She is back now, but to do what? Can't she see that I am stressed? Right now I have to act tough.

“He is my husband I can do whatever I want to him”. I don't dare look back.

Her: “That doesn't give you the right to kill him. And besides even if you wanted to kill him you wouldn't because his ancestors are protecting him. Why don't you ask yourself, how is he still alive after all these months? Why? Anyway, you will not kill him. You will never succeed”. I laugh, and stand up to face her my eyes can't believe what they are seeing. Impossible! She has the Arizona aura with her, let it be not what I think it is. It can't be. But...

Me: “Boniwe”. My voice comes out as a whisper as I call her name.

Her: “Hello Khethiwe. Seeing a ghost”?

Me: “Wh...” I can't even utter any word that's how shocked I am.

Her: “Why haven't you confessed yet? What are you waiting for”?

Me: “Confess? I am not stupid. What do you think is going to happen to me if I confess? I will be killed, I still say I will not confess I'd rather die”!

Her: “You want to die without confessing, and people knowing how evil you are? Who you really are? You are crazy. I am going to rain terror in this village, and show you that I mean business. What I am about to do to this village you are not ready for it, Buhlebezulu village will be no more. It will turn into rubbles”. I laugh.

Me: “You think your threats scare me? Oh, please you better think again because I am not shaken, not even a bit”. Who am I kidding? My heart is on my knees, that's how scared I am.

Her: "You better be scared Khethiwe! You, and the people of this village will feel my wrath, and the blame will be on you"! The windows shutter after her saying that, and out she is through the window in her dust form. Thunder roars, I quickly run to the window, and the clouds have gathered they are too black, and a heavy storms appears from out of nowhere swifiting everything in its path, the villagers starts screaming as the rain starts pouring hard. I hear the sound of a roaring

thunder this time around it sounds 3x more dangerous than the first one causing the ground to shake, as it keeps on raining... I swear I heard the other side of the house collapsing, I walk towards the door but something pushes me back with force, and my body comes into contact with the wall as I drop to the floor I feel my bones crack, the pain is excruciating. I look on the bed, and Nqobani is no longer there. God of our ancestors! My heart races at the sight, where is he? I feel myself being lifted up, and being thrown out the window. I watch as the house is crumbling down, all I can do is too wail...

"Now you know I don't make empty threats! Confess or you will be hated wherever you go"! She roars, and the clouds parts going back to how they were.

The aftermath of Boniwe's rain of terror really turned the village into something else. All the huts are gone, and all the livestock's are gone, there's a big fire in the villagers main garden because I can see the villagers wailing, we have nothing, Buhlebezulu village is no more, all our pride & joy are no more. Now we will have to go, and seek refuge in other villagers, this is sad. Really sad...

“Who are you”? I turn to look at him as he asks me this, and he looks like he has never been sick. This is a miracle, but how? Wait, why is he asking who am I? Doesn't he remember me? I stand up, and walk towards him. He looks at me as if like I am a stranger, like he has never seen me before. I am his wife. Why doesn't he see me?

Me: “Nqobani. It's me, Khethiwe. Your wife, you remember me right”? I try taking his hands, and he retracts them.

Him: “Who are you? Where am I? Where is my wife? My kids”?

Me: “I am here, and your kids are also here”.

Him: "No! You are not my wife, and I don't know who you are. Move woman"! He pushes me, and walks away. My lips quiver, and tears make their presence felt I try running after him, but I trip and fall. I watch him as he walks not looking back at me until he disappears on sight, everyone is in tears. This is bad, evil never wins, ever.

54

NKANYISO

Today I am going to meet up with my father, he called me last night requesting an urgent meeting I wonder what it is about. Once he requests a meeting one of us did something out of line, I wonder who is it and what did he do. Before going to work I will have to pass by his place since he didn't tell me what time, but I know that he meant this morning before 08:00. Moreover, I am worried about Nobuntu, when I came back from work yesterday I found her sleeping on top of the kitchen counter pots burning I had to wake her up, and take her to bed then came back, and attended the pots. And when she woke up few hours later I was already sleeping by then, because her food was not in the microwave when I checked few minutes

ago. Hopefully today she will tell me what happened yesterday, I hope it's not something extreme, or maybe she slept while cooking who knows. I finish making breakfast, and I put hers in the microwave while I take mine, and settle down.

“Eating without me? So much for being your phakade, mxm”. She says hugging me from behind, and resting her head on my

big head. I laugh, and turn around to look at her, and kissing her. “Ewww”.

“Why the ewww? Angazi ophaphiswa yini because you are still my phakade, and I was eating alone because I figured that you needed to rest after yesterday”.

Her: “You should've woken me up either way”. She sits down next to me, and takes a strip of bacon from my plate. “How I fell asleep yesterday while cooking? I also don't know what exactly happened. The last thing I remember was seeing a sangoma with a black & red Python around her neck after talking to Thakasile”.

Me: "A sangoma? Maybe it's one of your ancestors, she came to visit you". She shakes her head.

Her: "That was not one of my ancestors. That was a real sangoma, not a dead person".

Me: "Did she say anything to you, or she just looked at you then vanished? And how sure are you that she is a real sangoma"?

Her: "Because she spoke to me".

Me: "What did she say exactly"?

Her: "She actually said 'she is coming, and my light has finally come, everything will be well'".

Me: "Whoa, I guess she was a messenger at least there's some light at the end of the tunnel".

Her: “Yeah, I guess, when I asked her who she is. She said; ‘I am who I am’, then she vanished after then I don't know what happened. When I wake up it was already midnight, and I was hungry, and you were snoring like a tractor”. We both laugh.

Me: “I never snore, you are too forward. I wonder who that woman was hopefully she will come again, and reveal herself to you. Any plans for the day”?

Her: “I don't know yet. Babe, I need your advice regarding something that has been eating me up since yesterday. That's if you have time seeing that you are all dressed up, and ready to go to work”.

Me: “For you? I can make time any time, so talk to me I am all ears”.

Her: “I received a call from Sanele back in the village asking me for help”.

Me: “Sanele? Your brother”? She nods. “Help with what”?

Her: “Apparently they don't have anything to eat they are struggling. Wait, they don't need my help they are actually demanding money from me, and blackmailing me that they've been feeding & clothing me back then, I am where I am now because of them. I must pay my grandmother for everything he has done for me. Can you imagine? And you should've heard how Thakasile was talking to me babe, after everything they've done to me they want my help, after blowing the whistle for

the villagers to burn me alive, they now demand my help? Those people abused me, and treated me like a slave. Tell me, how do you help such people? People who treated me like dirt”?

Me: “How sure are you that they need your help? What if they just want to milk money from you”?

Her: "That's the thing. I don't know whether they are telling me the truth or what, and what they possible milk from me whereas I don't have money"? Sighs.

Me: "Then don't help them. Simple. You don't owe them anything they are full of it. They expect you to jump at their demands after how they treated you? They must be out of their minds, let them die of hunger if it needs too". She shakes her. "What? Are you feeling sorry for them all of a sudden"?

Her: "I don't really care about them really. I only care about Sanele, he was the only person who was ever genuine with me. He supported me, and helped me with cooking every chance he

got, he was the only person I was close too, he started changing after the curse they've placed on me".

Me: "Hmm. Help them then. Do it for Sanele, if that's how you strongly feel about this, then go ahead. In fact, I will take you to the village this weekend".

Her: "Oh my. Are you for real babe"?

Me: "Yes. Remember we are doing this for Sanele, not for anyone else"/ she jumps at me, and kisses me all over my face.

Her: "Thank you baby. Thank you so much. This means a lot to me, thank you. This is why you are my happiness, I love you Thembalami". I laugh.

Me: "I love you too phakedelami". We share a long passionate kiss, I pick her up, and place her on top of the kitchen counter. Her hands around my neck, and legs around my waist... My hand finds itself lifting her T-shirt, and caressing her left boob, my phone rings disturbing the moment, shit. Some people have

bad timing, she pulls out from the kiss. I take out my phone in my pocket, and it's my father, eish...

"Baba".

“I want you here in my house within 30 minutes Smiso I will not take being stood up for here, 30 minutes Smiso I don't want to call you again”. He hangs up.

Nobuntu: “You better get going now babe before your father comes here, and drag you out himself”.

Me: “That old man have no timing, look now, he has cost me a quickie”. She laughs, and gets off the kitchen counter.

Her: “He did good, because I am still in pains”/

Me: “Mxm, you are just being dramatic. But tonight is the night, me & you, and our bed”. She laughs.

Her: “27 minutes left njalo”/

Me: “Ai, party popper. I love you phakadelami”.

Her: "I love you too, Thembalami, and have a productive day".

Me: "I finally have a pet name, hallelujah. Just don't overthink about me, and find yourself burning pots again". She rolls her eyes, and laughs.

Her: "I never think about you, shame. Keep on dreaming". We both laugh, and off I go.

I'm 5 minutes late, and my father looks pissed. He needs to know that I am dating now, I have a girlfriend. I greet, only Ziyanda & Nkosikhona greet back I sit down next to Ziyanda.

"Oh, so you are the head of the Dube's now Smiso"? I shake my head. "Then what do you call what you just did? You just disrespected me in front of your brothers Smiso. Do you think that these two will respect me after what you just did"?

Me: “What bad did I do? I am just 5 minutes late, and remember I am not driving alone on the road, and there are traffic lights too I can't drive past them as if they are invincible”.

Nkosikhona: “Now that everyone is here. Why did you call us here”?

Him: “I just wanted to see you boys it's been long since I last saw you- you hardly visit, especially you Nkosikhona”.

Nkosi: “You called us here because you miss us? Couldn't you video call us? It would've saved us a lot of time”.

Him: “What is exactly keeping away from visiting me? You are not working or studying, you just spend my money on alcohol & girls”.

Ziyanda: “He has a girlfriend dad

Advertisement

and I'm sure she is pregnant, and giving Nkosikhona a hard time. Pregnant women, and hormones are best of friends”.

Nkosi: “Ha ha ha, funny. I just like spending my time alone, and I am working on my beats”.

Dad: “You working on your beats? Don't you have any real job? Do you have a drivers license mara wena”? Me & Ziyanda laugh. “And nina? What's funny”?

Us: “Nothing”.

Him: “Good. Oh, I almost forgot to inform you. Dabulizizwe is coming back this week, Nkanyiso, this means that Sambulo's imbeleko ceremony will be taking place this weekend, no longer next week”.

Me: “What? Dad, I already have plans for this weekend”.

Nkosi: "And so do I".

Him: "Cancel them. And Dabulizizwe said you must bring your girlfriends along, she said something about royalty, and visiting rivers, rescuing one. Ey, she said a lot. You boys better avail yourself this weekend, in fact you must all arrive here Thursday along with your girlfriends". What? This is a short notice for Christ's sake.

Me: "Dad, I can only be able to come Friday afternoon".

Him: "Friday morning. You can make yourselves breakfast so long I'm sure you guys are hungry I'll be outside if you need me". He stands up, and walk out whistling.

Nkosi: "Your father better come back here, and tell us that he is joking! I can't cancel my plans".

Ziyanda: "You don't want to anger the ancestors. Or do you"?
He shakes his head. "Then it's all settled, and he said that if you want to talk you will find him outside. I will go, and make us breakfast so long".

Me: "Fuck my life"/

Nkosi: "Not forgetting mine"! Now, I don't know how I am going to tell Nobuntu that we won't be able to go to the village this weekend, but I hope she will understand.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

I've been knocking for quite a while now, and Mngqobi is not opening I guess he is not around. I should've called first before coming here, sighs. Oh, well I guess I will come back later I am about to leave when I hear people laughing in the passage, he is with a woman. I wonder who is he with, I giggle when I see him with Modiegi they are not even noticing my presence, whatever they are conversing about that makes them laugh this hard is sure funny. They even have shopping bags with them. Didn't Snikelelo say that Modiegi is going to get married to a deacon in their church? Then what is she doing playing lovey-dovey with Mngqobi? Or maybe I am just seeing things? Well, they do make a cute couple though. They stop on their tracks when they see me, and their laughter cease.

“Hii Guys”.

“Hello Nobuntu”. Mngqobi comes and hugs me, and so does Modiegi.

Me: “I'm sorry for coming announced. I know that I should've called before coming here, but don't worry I will just leave. Sorry for intruding” / Mngqobi laughs.

Him: “You think that I will let you leave, now that you are here? You must be high from Nkanyiso's hickies. I hope you've used condoms”. He laughs, and unlocks the door leaving me embarrassed. Gosh, how did he even see them? He has sharp eyes. Modiegi laughs, and we all get inside the house.

Mngqobi: “There's nothing to eat here, not unless you are a fan of Noddles because I eat them every day”.

Me: “I don't eat Noddles, I don't like them at all. And I'm not hungry, but wine will do” /

Him: "Check in that cupboard I'm sure there are 2 bottles there if not 3".

Me: "Thank you brother. Let me help myself".

Modiegi: "Let me get started with the pots, I am so hungry. Don't you want to help me Nobuntu"?

Me: "I would like that, but I hope you don't mind that I'm drinking I really love me some wine".

Her: "Oh no, it's okay really".

Mnqobi: "I will go, and freshen up so long. You two get to know each other better". He leaves us.

Me: "So, Modiegi not in a bad way neh. Like please don't get me wrong I just want to know..." she cuts me short.

Her: "You want to know what I am doing here while I am supposed to be at home with my husband to be right"?

Me: "Are you also a mind reader, because wow you are spot on". She sighs.

Her: "The truth is I don't love him. We have no connection at all Nobuntu, it gets worse when it's time to make love he is so cold, and I don't enjoy it at all".

Me: "Then why are you with him? Why don't just end things with him rather than torturing yourself"?

Her: "It's not that easy when you are a youth leader. You are expected to make right decisions, and live according to the bible, and besides I was told when I was 15 years old that I will get married to John the church oldest deacon. He is way older than me Nobuntu, older than my older brother".

Me: “Live your life according the bible? How can you live your life according to the bible whereas you practice sex, knowing very well that sex before marriage is a sin? And why is your pastor allowing this? Why did your parents sell you to an old man when you were just 15 years old? You were just a kid man, this is just being cruel. He is abusing you”!

Her: “Pastor Benjamin just joined the church 9 months ago, he doesn't know anything, and I am scared to tell him. Yes, everyone knows that I am going to marry John, and they are convinced that I'm happy, but they don't know what's happening behind closed doors ngiyahlukunyezwa. I am always crying, he doesn't want my input in many things my voice is just

useless to him. It's breaking me seriously, I may try to look strong outside, but deep down I am dying. But no one realizes that, they see me as this powerful prayer warrior, but they don't know that I'm too broken that I only pray because I'm supposed too. I am at a point where I want to give up, and just let everything be. What's the use of praying for someone while you yourself is wounded how, and always complaining? I am tired Nobuntu, really tired”. She is in a crying mode now, tears also fill up my eyes. This is heartbreaking, I know exactly what she is talking about I've been there too, I understand her pain.

Me: "I know exactly what you are talking about I've been there too. But remember that God gives toughest battles to his strong soldiers, this is all God's work he is testing you. He wants to see how much faith you have in him, whatever you are going through it will pass just never cease praying. Continue calling his name, and crying out to him the road is not easy, but God didn't bring you this far just to leave you. He knows the plans he has for you. I am a living testimony I have seen him at work, when I look back from where I'm coming from till now I don't think I would've survived if it wasn't for him, God is really alive. He picked me up, dirty as I am, and he cleaned me up. Look at me now? You can never tell that I was once broken, and people hating me for no apparent reason. But God? Just when I was on

a verge of giving up he came through for me. Believe in his word, and if you believe in your ancestors phahla to them. Ask them to give you strength, wisdom & to guide you at all times, never stop praying, allow God to take the wheel. Open up your heart. Tell you what; how about one weekend me, you & Snikelelo meet up in one's place, and pray, mediate in God's word, praise him, and talk about everything and anything troubling us. Just 3 girls crying into each other's shoulders, and assuring each other that it is well with our souls". She attacks me with a hug, and let it all out. I hush her, and I can see

Mnqobi leaning against the wall from the corner of my eyes, I wonder for how long has he been standing there, and how much did he hear because he is expressionless. I don't know whether he is angry or what.

55

MNQOBI

My mind is racing with thoughts after over hearing Nobuntu & Modiegi's conversation earlier on. How could deacon John be heartless? Why did her parents sell her to John the eldest deacon in church? This doesn't make any sense, why did John even agree to marry a mere child like Modiegi? Doesn't he have a heart? And where is the old pastor if pastor Benjamin joined the church 9 months ago? The elders of the church, why are they quiet about all of this? Or maybe they don't know that Modiegi is actually being sexually abused by John? Why on earth would they even allow this to happen? I thought that she was happy with John, because she was always a happy soul at church as if she is not going through a lot. Ebile, why doesn't John get married to someone his age? There's more to this than what meets the eye I will have to get to the bottom of this it seems like there's a lot to unravel in that church, let's hope there are no scandals buried there. Any who, Modiegi left

immediately after she finished cooking she didn't want to stay any longer, she said that she has to be somewhere urgently. But I knew that she was lying, she wanted to get home before John comes back from work. She thinks that I didn't hear the conversation between her & Nobuntu. She needs some saving

before she loses herself, but I must commend her on the fact that she is a strong individual, she knows how to hide pain. I am also proud of Nobuntu, she has grown, and now she knows how to advise accordingly her spiritual growth is also amazing. Who would've thought that one day she can heal people with words, I don't want to lie I, too, was touched by what she said to Modiegi. One thing I've noticed about us people is that we want God to answer us now instead of waiting for his timing, we are quick to say that "God doesn't love me. Does God even exist? Why is not God answering my prayers? Nothing is going well in my life. No job, my relationships are always failing. What wrong am I doing? Does God even love me"? When things are not going our way. We don't like waiting for him, we are always complaining forgetting that there are billions of people also praying to him, let's learn to wait on his word. Instead of complaining let's thank him for the Gift life, I'm sure there are 2 or 3 things he has done for you. He has done in your life. He has saved you in a lot of situations more than you can even count, we need to learn to be thankful for the little that we have, and

be content with everything. There are others out there suffering, but they are thankful for the gift of life & good health. You are not sick or in hospital, or in a mortuary, you woke up this morning functioning very well this is prove that God isn't done with you yet. He is still in the process of bettering your life for a better, for the fact that you are still

breathing it's evident enough that you still have a chance to better your life, all you have to do it's too believe that one of these good days he will come through for you. It's not easy, yes, but a little faith in him goes a long way. One day you will be testifying about how good he is, and how he saved you from situations that you yourself didn't have any idea how you were going to get out of. Fear not for he is God of possibilities. Argh, look at me sounding like Nobuntu now... I am jogged out of my thoughts by Nobuntu singing, no wait she is literally screaming in my ear the after effects of her "second lover". And that lover being wine.

"Finally, he snaps out of it. Are you okay"? She sits down I've even forgotten about her being here, she was on a phone call and that was 30 minutes ago on a phone call.

“Yeah, I'm fine just thinking”.

Her: “Thinking about the conversation I had with Modiegi or you thinking about her in general”?

Me: “I'm thinking about the conversation you guys had. Yazi, it raises some questions about the practices that church practice”.

Her: “Questions like what”?

Me: “Like, what exactly is that church all about. Their protocol, in fact the church as a whole phecelezi the history of that church”.

Her: “The church doesn't have a problem, but the leaders of the church must be the ones being in question. The church is just a building that Christians fill every Sunday to praise God. How are you going to find out about the history of that church”?

Me: "I will ask some of oldest church members who have been there since the church started, hopefully I might get something useful".

Her: "That's only a beginning, I will also pray for you".

Me: "I am proud of how much strong of a believer you are now. Your spiritual growth is growing daily I am proud of you, and it's more of a blessing because some of the things you said to Modiegi touched me too, you are good at healing the wounded with words". She laughs.

Her: "It's the best I can do brother. So, when last did you talk to Ncumisa"?

Me: "Its been long hey, but I will call and check up on how is she doing, and I must remind her about the ceremony".

Her: "You mother still doesn't want anything to do with them"? I sigh.

Me: “Yes. She also doesn't want anything to do with me she is treating me like I'm not his son. You should hear how she insults me, the person she is currently it's definitely not my mother. She is no longer that woman who raised with care & love, yes she wasn't there while growing up, but she still loved us old as we were I don't know what changed”.

Her: “I take it that she changed as soon as I came in to the picture right”? I nod.

Me: “Yeah, of which was too sudden”.

Her: “You need to pray for her Mnqobi, I'm sure they've put on curse on her no person can change from out of nowhere. Someone, somewhere out there did something to her, she is not herself. Pray for her like you've prayed for me, and I will also pray for her. We need to ask God to intervene in her situation, and restore what was taken from her”. I shake my head.

Me: “No. She is doing it just to be spiteful to me, and Crecentia also joined her”. She shakes her head.

Her: “Trust me. They've put a curse on her, pray as for Crecentia she is supporting her mother since she is distancing yourself from you. Pray for her, she may not come around any time soon, but she will heal eventually just don't give up on her”.

Me: “I guess you are right. Anyway, Crecentia is pregnant”. She gasps.

Her: “What? Oh my God. Congratulations are in order I'm sure Thabo is very excited about these news”. I scratch my head.

Me: “He is not the father”.

Her: “I don't follow”.

Me: "She is pregnant with Ben's child". She chokes on her wine, and cough's.

Her: "You are such a bad joker big bear".

Me: "I wish I was joking little one, but unfortunately it's true".

Her: "But how"?

Me: "I am yet to find out. If only she can let me in, and tell me what exactly happened".

Her: "Confront Ben. Take the bull by it's horn kunyiwe once".

Hmmm, she just gave me a solution to my questions, why didn't I think of asking Ben? Hopefully he will tell me the truth.

Me: "You are one brightest human being ever". She laughs.

Her: "I try. Well, it was being here but now it's time to go".

Me: “Thank you for the talk. I really appreciate it”.

Her: “Only a pleasure. Please take me home”.

Me: “Let me go and fetch my car keys”. She really opened my eyes about some things I didn't really understand.

★»★«

NKANYISO

I ended up spending the whole day with my father & brothers Mbuso was the only one missing I hope he is fine wherever he is, but I enjoyed myself no lies there. Nobuntu also sent me a text telling me that she is at Mngobi's God knows how much I

miss her, and my dad approves her I've shown him her pictures, even Nkosikhona approves of her he couldn't stop complementing her. My dad's approval means a lot to me, I also wonder where my mother is and will we ever find out why he acted the way she did months ago? Maybe it's a good thing that she disappeared. I've been trying to call Amanda all day and she ain't taking my calls I also went to the house that I've bought for them, and they weren't around I guess she really left. I will have to let my father know that Amanda is nowhere

to be found this means that we have to cancel the ceremony. Oh, well. I take my phone, and punch in my father's numbers, he answers on the 3rd ring.

“Smiso, missing me already”? I laugh.

“No dad, I don't miss you”.

Him: “Then, why are you calling me”?

Me: “We have a situation dad. Amanda packed up, and left with Sambulo they are nowhere to be found”.

Him: “You are calling me to tell me that? That girl will will be at the ceremony whether she likes it or not. She may run

Advertisement

but the ancestors will find her, and bring her straight to the ceremony. Relax, and focus on making your woman happy, and give her all the love she needs. Don't worry about small

things, you should be making babies there I am not getting any younger I need grandchildren". I laugh.

Me: "Not any time soon dad we still need to enjoy our relationship".

Him: "I hope you've already started budgeting for Lobola. That girl deserves all the cows in our kraal, treat her right, or you will have me to deal with. Must I repeat myself"?

Me: "I heard you the first time dad, and I will treat her right".

Him: "Good. Start making her happy. I've got to go I was on a process of feeling like a younger me". I laugh.

Me: "I don't want any more brothers". He laughs.

Him: "You don't tell me what to do. Bye son". He hangs up leaving me laughing alone, my dad though.

“Who is she”? I lift my head, and I find Nobuntu looking at me with questioning eyes”.

“Jealous much”? Furrowing my brow. She rolls her eyes.

Her: “Oh please. Dream on. I don't get jealous of King Kongs, mxm”. She places the Tupperware she had in her hands on top of the kitchen counter then walks up to me, and gives me a kiss she smells like wine, this woman and wine.

Me: “Shame on you”.

Her: “Back to you. How was your day”?

Me: “My day was okay, well I spent it with my dad & brothers. How was yours”?

Her: “It was good even though I shed some tears here & there. I take it you did not go to work”.

Me: "Not at all".

Her: "What was the meeting about"? I laugh. "What's funny"?

Me: "There was no meeting phakadelami, my father was only missing us babe, he called us to come over only for him to tell us that he misses us, can you imagine".

Her: "He should've hit you boys with a sjambok. Why don't you guys visit him vele? It's not as if like you guys work everyday. You've been hosting every month with your old clique without any complaints, you should normalize visiting your father Thembalami, spending a weekend with him won't take away your handsomeness. Imagine your father bribing you to come into a meeting only because he misses you? It took a lot in him

to actually call you guys. He feels neglected by you boys, you need to change your ways". She is right, wow. She is a complete different human being now, I am one lucky bastard to have a woman like her in my life I better not mess this up because if I

do- I don't think I will survive without her, after the ceremony I will have to take him to a golf tournament just for him to enjoy himself, and forget about business for a while.

Me: “I didn't see it that way, but I promise to change my ways and do better. Thank you for opening my eyes, I am one lucky bastard to have a woman like you. You are one in a million, I love you phakadelami”.

Her: “I just want a happy relationship with you if you go astray I will have to reel you back in to a right path, and I love you too”.

Me: “And I'm grateful. Urh...m phakade”.

Her: “Yes”?

Me: “Well, there's a situation that will hinder us from going to the village this weekend”/ she stops dishing up, and looks at me.

Her: "Talk to me".

Me: "Sambulo's imbeleko ceremony have been moved to this weekend, and my father said that we must be there by Thursday".

Her: "Oh, why did they move it to this weekend"?

Me: "Dabulizizwe is the one who asked for it to be done this weekend, apparently there's a lot to be unravel she told my father. I wonder what is she going to unravel".

Her: "You can only wonder Thembalami. Well, we can always go the next weekend it's fine by me".

Me: "Hopefully Amanda will change her mind, and bring Sambulo".

Her: "Where is she kanty"?

Me: "She left because I didn't want to choose between you & Sambulo. She actually took Sambulo thinking that she is punishing me, but my dad assured me that Amanda will bring Sambulo to the ceremony whether she likes it or not I guess I mustn't worry that much about it".

Her: "She is so unbelievable. Some women though, let's hope she will come around she must think of Sambulo's health, and not be selfish something's doesn't require one to be selfish.

Why use Sambulo to fight her battles? She is a coward, rha".

Me: "Indeed. So, did you hear the part where I said that 'we must go down there on Thursday'?"

Her: "Huh? We? We, as in me & you"?

Me: "Yes, you & me"/

Her: "Hha! It's such a notice Thembalami".

Me: "I know, but Dabulizizwe told my father that our girlfriends must be present whether you like it or not".

Her: "Is that how I will be meeting your family? Through Sambulo's imbeleko"?

Me: "Yes, I will introduce you to them, and you have no choice but to come with it's nonnegotiable"/

Her: "Wawini. I will need a lot of wine to pull through the entire weekend because wow". I laugh, and shake my head.

Me: "My family doesn't bite, and they are good people and full of jokes. You will love them, and they will love you even my dad approved of you". She bats her eyelashes. "You will blend in just fine".

Her: "Fine indeed. I need some wine just to down the news in style, I so can't wait to meet your entire family". She gives a

fake smile, and disappears to the bedroom, she is so not ready for my family...



KHETHIWE

Life can really humble you. It had humbled me in a way I never thought it would, from grace to grass. I now breath the same dirty air as the Bavumile village villagers this is one of the most dirtiest, and has limited resources village, but villagers here are very educated shame no lies, this is the only village that took me in, and some of the people from Buhlebezulu village since the other villagers didn't want to take me in, imagine. People have quickly forgotten that I was, wait, still am a Queen. I just need to recuperate, and plan on how to turn this village into something else, even the royal house is not as vast as mine was this it's really below my level of living. Yes, I am down & out, but this is one degrading thing ever I even loath myself to be amongst such dirty village, people no longer respect me. Bavumile villagers are the worst of them all as if they don't know that I was a Queen they are busy rejoicing in my downfall. Nqobani? Thinking about him makes my heart ache

after how he treated me, everything happened so fast that I didn't have enough time to regroup. The curse has been lifted off unexpectedly so, I am still trying to wrap my head around every thing. When she remembered her first wife, and kids was evident enough for me that he was the old Nqobani that I found in a very forbidden village, and made him a king. His wife

- both his kids died in a fire, a fire that was started by Nobuntu's grandmother revenging her other daughter Mabusi

(Thakasile & Sanele's mother). You see, Nqobani was supposed to get married to Mabusi the prettiest woman in the village, all man wanted her, she was praised everywhere she went and...

“Khethiwe”. One of the servants call me.

“Queen Khethiwe to you”.

Her: “You were a Queen back in your village. Here you are just like all the commoners of this village, you are not a significant Lana, learn to stay in your lane & humble yourself. Anyway, dinner is ready”. She looks at me from head to toe, and walks out banging the door behind her. So much disrespect! I will to

do something I can't live like this, this is not healthy, it's sickening I will have to do something, and fast...

56

ZWELI

Life? Life hasn't been good to me lately, things have become worse I am now officially paralyzed. I am wheelchair bound, and my hearing is no longer the same, my eyesight is also not that well I barely see a thing, I use spectacles to see now even though they give me painful headaches, especially at night. Sleep is like a distant relative to me I no longer know it. Things really took a drastic unexpected turn for me, now I believe the saying that says "life is unpredictable. You may be up the ladder today, but find yourself on the ground tomorrow". Life doesn't guarantee you anything, what evil you do to someone will come back to you 3x more in a later stage, if not, it will be passed to your following generation, you will even think that you are bewitched, but nope Karma is dealing with you accordingly. You are paying for all the bad you've done to people whether deliberately, or not, you will still pay, phela when some people pray the gates of heaven opens, and God fights on their behalf kube H for Hektik in your life. Take a look at me for example; I used to look down on Ben he was below

my level even though we were working in the same company. I was earning more than him, had a company car, and had my own office while him on the other hand he was sharing an

office with 8 more people suffocating each other I was always laughing at him every chance I got, and he would say “nothing stays the same forever, a wheel turns”. Hahaha, he was mos def prophesying the wheels have really turned. Look at me now, I have nothing. No job, no girlfriend, no house, I have nothing, and not forgetting that I'm paralyzed. Life is really sad I must say... You know for the past 2 days I've been dreaming, wait it's like someone was playing a movie of my life from when I was young to now. It showed me all the bad deeds I've done to people, and to those I've hurt. It showed me how I was treating Langelihle, and all those people who I've been looking down upon, and shamed, it was not a pleasant dream I've hurt a lot of people, and I was unapologetic about it. To me it was more like a norm to treat people the way I've treated them honestly, it was something I was used to doing. And I know for a fact that I take after my mother. I regret every single thing bad I did. Sighs, any way I've decided to go back to the village to right my wrongs, I need to do right by the people I've done wrong. Maybe this is also the way my ancestors are punishing me for neglecting, and refusing the throne as the rightful heir, I really need to humble myself, and ask for forgiveness, fix things

with Langelihle, and take the throne as a rightful King of Buhlebezulu village, and serve my people the best way I know how. I'm sure my mother will be very pleased once she sees me, after all I'm her favourite son even though I did her bad by

running away from her without informing her, but I hope that she has forgiven me. Thabo will be the one driving me, he is still not in a good state, he drinks almost everyday and hardly takes a bath that's how bad these news broke him. Ben came this other time to apologize, and possibly explain what actually transpired between him & Crecentia, but he left Thabo's house badly bruised he lost some teeth along the way. Thabo almost killed him, and I was just watching the whole thing unable to help out, he eventually got back to his senses when he noticed that Ben is not moving he was even kind enough to drive him to the clinic, he is also lucky that Ben didn't open a case for him.

“Ready to go”?

“Yes. Yes, I'm ready to go”.

Him: "Let's hit the road then". He picks up my bags, and I wheel myself out... He helps me get inside the car, sighs, this is very stressful. I hope the elders will accept my apology, and give me the chance to redeem myself, and I hope that my father is also still alive, and not six feet under. I also hope that the village is half way to how it used to look like before that rain... Hopefully with me going to the village I will be back to be my old self.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

I'm at the canteen buying myself something to eat after the stressful exam I've been writing, truly speaking I was not in a good state of mind I've been thinking about this weekend, there's just something about it that I can't really put my fingers on of which is weird considering the fact that today is Wednesday. It just feels, argh, I don't even know what to say... Tomorrow afternoon we will be leaving for Nkanyiso's home

where the ceremony is going to take place. This was also not how I've imagined myself meeting Nkanyiso's family, I mean, all of his family members will be there it was going to be better if I was going to meet with his father only, oh well. Sighs, I guess I have to brace myself and just go there, and I think I need to be sober minded I can't meet the family tipsy, but then I can't really go a day without drinking wine... Sanele's numbers haven't been going through for the past couple of days, I guess they are really angry at me, I pray & hope that they've at least gotten something to eat, and why is the Queen not helping them? You know what, let me just stop cracking my head about them I have bigger issues to deal with. It's now my turn to buy, I buy sandwich & coke, while waiting for my order since it takes

10-15 minutes to make the sandwich I don't even know why they take this long whereas it takes me 2 minutes to make it this just doesn't make sense. But funny enough, the Dagwood & burgers takes just 5 minutes, like hello. I decide to keep busy with my phone so long I log into Facebook, and the first thing I see is Crecentia's disturbing status update.

★Even if I were to die now, no one will miss me, and that's a fact.

But it's all good because I will also not miss myself, I've just lost the love of my life to a one night stand. I lost my soulmate

only because of great stolen sex, I regret it yes, but I

don't regret the sex it was the best★

What the actually heck residents? What has gotten into Crecentia I hope she is not planning on committing suicide, she is going through her demons, yes, but suicide is not an option. You might think that you saving yourself from pain or suffering, little did you know that the people who loved you will be there

ones hurt the most, and there ones suffering, they will feel like they've failed you, and then they start blaming themselves. Imagine the trauma you will be putting your family through, learn to talk about your feelings. Write them down, talk to a stranger, keep yourself busy and stop being selfish you put your loved ones through unexplainable pains, let's learn to ask for help pride won't help you. We are all fighting our different demons in our own way, and dealing with our pains the best way we know how, but killing yourself? That's just too much. I hope Mnqobi have seen the post, and is already acting on it. The comments, Hmmm they are not so pleasant to the eyes, yoh... I ignore them, and browse through. Facebook is just boring I am only using it because of the stories that I read, even though the Admins disappear. I log out as they call my order number I take my food, and go to where I usually seat- I still don't have friends, and I'm cool with that. Earphones on, and

Mdumi Mkokstad ft Thinah Zungu x ebeke walunga comes to play this is one my favourite song, yhey he has been good to me even in terrible situations. Someone taps me on my shoulder I turn to look, and I see a woman standing behind me she looks really familiar

Advertisement

but I don't know where I remember her from, she also looks skinny, her hair is so untidy, no man this is a ghost in a human

form. The students are gossiping about her, and pointing fingers at her.

“Hello Nobuntu”.

“Hey, and you are”?

Her: “Don't you recognize me”?

Me: “I wouldn't be asking if I did right”? She nods. “So, who are you”?

Her: “Londiwe. Mnqobi's ex fiancé”. What? No, she is lying this one Mnqobi's ex fiancé had curves in all the right places, and she was slaying.

Me: “Askies”? She sits down, and face me she is playing with her boney fingers. I scan her, and she does have the traits of Londiwe.

Her: "I know, and I understand your reaction I get that all the time".

Me: "What happened to you? You've gotten so thin in such a short period of time, yhey Londiwe. This is you vele vele? Hha, life will shock you serious".

Her: "Well, I've got punished not in a very good way it was torture".

Me: "Punished by who? By what? And why"?

Her: "About what I am about to tell you. But firstly I would like to apologize for all the pain I've put you through. For all that I have done to you, I did everything out of jealousy, and I regret it now I was desperate to get Mngqobi back, I had to do something because I was losing him to you. He was no longer giving me attention like he did before you got into the picture we were very happy, and you came along and ruined all of that. I couldn't just sit and not do anything, I had to do something". She takes a deep breath, and looks at me straight

in the eyes tears streaming down her cheeks. She wants to tell me something, but she is holding back, and looks like she is about to choke on whatever she wants to tell me, Whatever she wants to tell me it's either it will shock me, or send me straight to ICU if not meeting my maker. "I'm sorry I can't do it". She stands up, and takes off leaving me speechless, and talking alone. Hau here she is running back to me looking as if like she has just seen a ghost, she sits down, and hugs her shoulders rocking herself back & forth she is behaving like a lunatic right now.

Me: "What is it? What did you see"? She wanders her eyes around, and she is back to her normal self as if like she wasn't crying few seconds ago, I no longer freak out when weird things like these happen. I just sip on some wine, and mind my own.

Her: "At least I will die with a clear conscious, and God will grant me permission into heaven".

Me: "Can you just get straight to the point Londiwe".

Her: "It's not easy to tell you this".

Me: "Then you are wasting my time, you can go". I take a bite from my sandwich, and put on back my earphones. She pats me in my hand, and I look at her. Sighs, I remove the earphones, and look at her- I hope she will talk now...

Me: "What? I thought I told you to leave".

Her: "Not before I confess I don't want to die just yet. Urh...m, I'm the one who caused your bleeding, and wor..." she doesn't even go any further, and I am chocking on this dry sandwich.

What? Never in my mind did it cross that Londiwe was the one behind all that I've gone through, worms coming out my body? Wow. That's really evil, how could she?

Me: "You did what"? I ask her tears clouding my vision. "You did what Londiwe? How could you be so evil". My voice is high now earning us few stares from the students.

Her: "I'm truly sorry Nobuntu. I was just jealous I didn't mean to do it, but I was desperate please try understand. Please Nobuntu". I laugh, and shake my head.

Me: "Do you have any idea how much I suffered all because of your obsession with my brother? I had people, some who I loved & treated turned their back on me I was a disgrace, they would even close their nose once seeing me. You bewitched me all because of Mngqobi not giving you attention? I did nothing to you Londiwe, was me bonding with my brother made you so jealous that you ended up resorting to bewitch me"? She shakes her head as tears continue to gush down her cheeks.

Her: "I'm sorry I truly am sorry. I've paid dearly for doing what I did to you, I've been vomiting worms, I lost my hearing, and I was paralyzed. It was not nice Nobuntu, watching your family looking at you with nothing but disgust in their house, I've seen it all. Please forgive me, I would not even mind going public, and confess my deeds. I will do anything to earn your forgiveness, anything". I just stare at her for a few seconds, and stand up, I don't even know what to say I am so speechless...

What the...? I pick up my back from the ground, and walk away leaving her calling my name. She is so evil, but I've forgiven her she will need to tell Mngqobi too. I walk back to her...

“Londiwe” she lifts her head, and looks at me. “I forgive you- you must also tell Mngqobi the truth”. Her eyes widens not believing that I've forgiven her, isn't what she wanted kanty? I walk away leaving her speechless, I need to process this. Wawu. It's just too much, Londiwe? I never saw it coming...



MNQOBI

I walk toward the church office I know that Bab'Dlami is there Lord knows doing what. Bab'Dlamini is one of the few people who started with this church since it was built, I'm sure he will give me the answers I need about this church's history. I knock once, and he summons me in I find him writing something.

“Good day Bab'Dlamini”. He stops writing, and looks at me with a forced smile as if I enjoy seeing his yellow stained teeth.

“Mnqobi. Please take a seat. What brings you here? Oh no, where are my manners? Would you like anything to drink”?

Me: “No, thank you. What brings me here is that, I want to find out more about this church's history the first pastor, everything about it”. He tenses up, and his facial expression changes.

Him: “Why do you want to know the history of our church? Who do you think you are wanting to know the Church history”? Why is he being defensive?

Me: “Not in a bad way Bab'Dlamani, as a member of the church I wanted to know more about it that's it”.

Him: “More? Are you here to strengthen your faith in God, and fellowship with the fellow Christians, or you are here for your own evil reasons”? I chuckle.

Me: “Why are you being so defensive about the history of the church? I just want to know that's it”.

Him: “Stay out of things that doesn't concern you if you no longer enjoy fellowshiping in this church I will suggest that you go, and look for a better church”! He bangs the table.

Me: "What are you hiding? You know what, you don't have to tell me I will find out the history of this church myself. I give you my word".

Him: "Don't start something you will not finish son I am warning you".

Me: "Fine, I will stay away, but on one condition".

Him: "Good. And what is the condition"?

Me: "You ask deacon John to no longer marry Modiegi he must find someone his age". He laughs his laugh booming across the small entire office.

Him: "You must be crazier than I thought boy. Deacon John & Modiegi's reunion have been recognized by God".

Me: "Don't use God's name in vain. You don't know half of the things Modiegi goes through in the hands of that man, or do you"?

Him: "Whatever happens between them outside church is no longer our business". I laugh.

Me: "It should be. Now, I am sure that this church have hidden scandals, you are practising something that is not of God. You are hiding behind the name of God, but whatever it is I will find it. Nothing stays his forever one way or the other the truth will come out".

Him: "Don't start something you wouldn't finish young man, it will not end well you don't want to experience God's wrath upon you. You won't stand the fire".

Me: "Hohoho. Try me Bab'Dlamini. Very soon the congregation will know exactly what's going on in this church".

Him: “You've just signed your death wish son. Your days are numbered”/

Me: “You are not God Bab'Dlamini, you won't do anything to me I am heavenly protected. I am not alone, I have my soldiers with me”. He stands up abruptly, and walks towards me looking angry.

Him: “Stop poking your nose where it doesn't belong son! You don't want to go down that route with me, don't tempt me”.

Me: “I will go down this route with you whether you like it or not, and I will expose you, and your fellow men for what you actually are. You are doing evil things, and hide behind the Bible, and God”! He takes his hand behind his back, and comes out with a knife I don't even flinch when seeing it.

Him: “You don't know me young man. I once had young man just like you wanting information about the church as I am talking to you know we are walking on top of them in this very church. Today, you are going to join them”. He curves a smile, and lifts up his shining sharp knife, and bring it down to me

when the windows shutter, and strong wind filling up the small room papers flying around. He drops down, and shiver while on the floor, and I am just watching him rolling & shivering on the

floor, after a couple of minutes the wind dies down, and the office is full of papers. He looks at me eyes wide in shock...

“I told you that I am heavenly protected, you've just became Thomas to it. Have a lovely day”. I walk out of the office, now more than ever I am convinced that they practice something else all in the name of God, but what? We will soon find out, I guess God led me to this Church for a reason. Fear not for he is with you everywhere you go...

57

KHETHIWE

I was surprised to receive a call from Zweli after months of disappearing without a trace, receiving his call yesterday really made me feel somehow I thought that maybe he was still in hiding, but to my surprise he called and told me that he is at Buhlebezulu village, and there is nothing left on sight, it's only soil. I told him to come here at Bavumile village I almost fainted

when I saw him in a wheelchair, and in that state his friend left immediately after he dropped him off. King Vusumuzi was kind enough to agree for him to stay here, he is sharing the room with one of his younger son's Mveli. I am just waiting for him to tell me exactly what happened to him, yesterday we did not get time to catch up because he said he was exhausted, he needs to rest, and was complaining about headache. We get served with breakfast, it's mabele soft porridge something of which I last ate years ago. If it's not mabele porridge, we eat oats if not oats bread & butter, I've tried telling them to make an exception for me, and make me something decent for breakfast, but the second wife was rude enough to tell me where to get off, she reminded me that I am a nobody around here I will live the way they live, if it's too much for me I can leave because no one is forcing me to stay they did me a

favourable. Rude ugly woman. I'm seated next to Zweli who looks like he is carrying the world in his shoulders. Could it be possible that Boniwe did this to him? I wouldn't be surprised if she's the one after the way he has been treating Langelihle, sighs.

“Why aren't you eating Khethiwe”? Nandipha (The Queen) ask me, I am busy playing with the spoon I just don't feel like eating, I'm tired of eating the same thing everyday.

“I am not really hungry”. I drop the spoon on the table, and everyone stop eating then look at me.

Her: “Oh, still not getting used to soft porridge”?

Me: “It will make me fat”.

Zandile (2nd wife): “Oh please. You really need the soft porridge Khethiwe, your body can do with some meat. Stop acting like you are second fresh thing after a fresh slice of bread, you need to normalize living like this white bread

because this will be your everyday life until I don't know when. In fact today is your day to go to the village hall and hear the complaints of the villagers then give them solutions, I mean you still want to be treated like a Queen not like some commoner in this village right? Then this is your chance to redeem yourself,

and you better eat because you will definitely need the strength. Oh, hail to Queen Khethiwe”. She smiles at me, and goes back to eating if she thinks that I will do what she just told me in order for me to be considered as a Queen again, then she has another thing coming I will not do it. I will be a Queen again without being given orders, but I still need to plan things through.

Me: “I will do no such thing this ain't my village, and besides I have a lot of catching up to do with my son, and you can see that he is not in a good state. So, no I will not go to the villagers hall, and I will not eat this tasteless soft porridge”. She laughs

Her: “Suit yourself then Khethiwe”.

Vusumuzi: “Zweli, you also haven't touched your food, are you also not hungry”?

Zweli: “I don't hear you”! Shouting. We all looked at each other then him, but we were communicating just fine yesterday. What changed now? This doesn't make any sense.

Him: "I asked, if are you also not hungry seeing that you haven't touched your food"? He shouts back.

Zweli: "I don't eat brown soft porridge, I eat white soft porridge". Shouting.

Him: "Zandile, please ask one of the servants to prepare something else for Zweli, and come and take his dish away". Zandile nods then stand up, and go the kitchen. "Zweli, they are going to prepare you something else to eat, and we are very sorry your mother here didn't tell us that you don't eat mabele porridge next time we will prepare white soft porridge especially for you, okay"? He shouts so much to my annoyance, Zweli better snap out of his deliberately suddenly not hearing mode he better fucken snap out it, because wow he is just being too much for no apparent reason.

Zweli: "I would really appreciate that, thank you". Wait, did he just say thank you? A whole Zweli saying thank you? What on earth has entered this boy? I seriously seriously need to have a talk with him. Zandile comes back with one of the servants, I wonder what did they prepare for him I'm sure it's bread &

butter with jam as usual, and strong black cup of coffee. They place the tray before him, and to my surprise it's full English breakfast! A whole English breakfast something of which I was never prepared for ever since I've arrived here, what game are these people playing? Zweli thanks them again, and he starts eating. So, they do have proper food? Then why weren't they serving me like they do with Zweli? These people are cruel maarn, yasis. My stomach growls so loud that everyone avert their eyes to me, this is embarrassing and to think that I said I am not really hungry now my stomach had to embarrass me like this, wow. I stand up, and excuse myself I can hear them laughing I've never been this embarrassed. Tears threatens my eyes, but I am not about to cry. Not now anyway, but I don't want to lie it hurts being treated like this it really hurts, and I can't stand Zandile she has been making my stay unpleasant around here, she must die. I will have to go to a strong traditional healer to make her disappear, and try to seduce Vusi until he makes me a second wife, I don't if you've noticed that I'm not one to give up easily.

Oh, I almost forgot that a day ago if not 2 I was telling you a story, and I got disturbed by that rude servant, so here's how it goes. Mabusi? Oh yes, what a beautiful woman she was and may her soul rest in peace. So, Mabusi was supposed to get married to Nqobani after dating for 3 years. But Thabile

(Nqobani's first wife) did not want Nqobani to marry Mabusi, and I was Mabusi's best friend we shared everything together, anyway that's a story for another day. Shame Nqobani did love Mabusi, and so did Mabusi loved Nqobani, plus they already had Thakasile then she was born out of wedlock, and Nompilo (Langa's gogo) told Nqobani to do right by her daughter & granddaughter, sickening. Thabile eventually agreed for Nqobani to take Mabusi as a second wife after too much of persuasion, and Nqobani threatening to leave her, yoh kanty Thabile had something else in mind when she agreed... She treated Mabusi in the most horrible way she was practically abusing her in all the ways you can think of, even her kids disrespected Mabusi every chance they got treating her like a slave. It got worse when she was pregnant with Sanele that was the last straw. She gave her a slow poison, Mabusi always complained about being sick, and her legs were always swollen. Doctors didn't see anything, and so did traditional healers she didn't even enjoy her marriage. Anyway, she died while giving birth to Sanele, and that was when Doctors traced some poison in her blood, mxm it was too late. Nqobani got devastated

while Thabile rejoiced to the death of Mabusi, months went by Nqobani started losing weight, but with Thabile by his side he gained weight again, and they fell inlove all over again, forgetting about Mabusi, and Nqobani even forgot about his

children. Life went normal for the both of them, and their kids without a care in the world. Nompilo found out that they are living happy again while she was struggling raising Thakasile & Sanele, plus Nobuntu whose mother also dropped her there & left without a trace. I went to her, and came out with a plan of eliminating them without us being suspects, I had no plan honestly, but Nompilo had another thing in mind. Nqobani left for the city for a couple of days due to work he was working as a carpenter, since they were living miles apart with Nompilo she left the village that night, and went to ZamaZulu village that's where Nqobani is from while I remained behind, and baby sitting her grandchildren... She came back the following day in the afternoon, and told me that things have been taken care of we don't have to worry about Thabile anymore.

Nqobani came back few days prior to his actual day of coming back. He was devastated when hearing the news, he was no longer himself, and was drinking too much since he was Mabusu's husband I decided to take him in, my husband (the fake seer) was working in the city as a truck driver. I did not tell Nompilo though that I've taken Nqobani in because I knew that

she would've killed him since she was living close by.

My husband came back

and I told him everything he understood then he came with the most stupidest, well I thought that it was stupid but fortunately

it wasn't. He took me to this other powerful sorcerer who was known to be the only one to do black magic to royal families. We told him what we were there for, and he helped us, but he charged us a lot of money, in fact he was the one who made my husband a seer. Sdumo (my husband) went to the royal house smeared in some muti that the sorcerer gave him. He did not say anything he just looked at them, and walked out. Lindiwe, Nobuntu's mom was not around that time. Haike, days went by and Khaphela (the real King) along with his seer started going crazy, and they disappeared and never to be heard of again. The elders also lost their memories of not remembering the real King. We took Nqobani to the sorcerer, and he did his things erasing all the old memories of her, then we went back to the village, we went straight to the royal house as instructed by the sorcerer it's like they knew that we were coming because the elders were already waiting for us. Coronation day took place, and Nqobani was crowned as the new King of Buhlebezulu village, and I, as the Queen next to him. The villagers were shocked when I was made a Queen, I understood though because I was a commoner just like them. When Nompilo heard about this she went frenzy, but I put her in line, and told her that I will give her money every month. She agreed since she loved money, and the issue died down but I never gave her the money... Lindiwe? I went to Madlamuka for

her, and told Madlamuka to make her go crazy, and hate her kids especially Nobuntu. I'm not evil, I was just helping out, and revenging Mabusi. If I did it once, what can stop me now? Nothing, nothing at all.

★»★«

NKANYISO

Nobuntu hugs me from behind, and rests her head on my back while I'm busy whipping us something to eat before we leave for my home this afternoon.

“And why are you making us food while naked”? I laugh.

“Don't pretend as if you don't love the view”. She snorts. I am only wearing an apron, butt out there in the open.

Her: “Oh please. Don't flatter yourself. What are you whipping”?

Me: “I was going to say your favourite, but since you don't really like pancakes I am making my favourite”.

Her: “Then what about me? And why are you making pancakes so late”?

Me: “That's because I'm craving them, as for you? I've made you bacon & eggs”. She sighs.

Her: "I want pap & meat babe, not this shrinking bacon, but thank you for your effort". I laugh.

Me: "I'm joking I did cook pap & beef liver for you just the way you like them".

Her: "Wuhhh, you are the best wena Thembalami. Where is my food"? I turn to look at her, and she is wearing my T-shirt.

Me: "Hmmm, first things first. What are you wearing underneath"? She furrow her brows, and chuckles.

Her: "Nothing. Why do you ask? I mean, we just had sex few minutes ago"/

Me: "I want us to eat while naked". She laughs until tears come out of her eyes.

Her: "You are joking right"? She is holding in laughter.

Me: "No phakadelami. I am dead serious, I just want to experience how it feels like eating naked besides it's just the 2 of us here".

Her: "So, you've never done it before"? I shrug.

Me: "Nope, never I always saw it on tv, so I want to experience it with you". she laughs.

Her: "Oh, okay then. Let's do it, after all there's always a first time for everything".

Me: "Thank you". I lift her up, and spin her around she laughs.

Her: "Let me go Elami I am about to pee right here in this kitchen". I throw her over my shoulder.

Me: "You can always pee in my mouth I won't mind".

Her: "Ewww, sies that's nasty Elami. Put me down".

Me: "Say please". Spanking her buttocks.

Her: "Okay, please put me down".

Me: "Put me down who"?

Her: "Nkanyiso".

Me: "A no will do".

Her: "Okay, please put me down Thembalami". I place her on top of the kitchen counter, and get in between her legs with

her hands draped around my neck, and kiss her the bridge of her nose.

Me: "That's more like it. But then babe, why don't we cut these Phakade/Thembalami names, and just call each other Elami once".

Her: "Hmmm, I will think about it first and I will get back to you shortly".

Me: "Mxm, such a party popper wena, let me dish up, and you can take your food in the warmer". She laughs.

Her: "Yini? Ukwatile manjer"?

Me: "Mxm".

Her: "Haibo wena Nkanyiso I was joking njena".

Me: "Let's just eat, so that we will leave before my father calls".

Her: I'm sorry Nkanyiso, it's fine we can call each other Elami". I dish up, and ignore her then seat down. "Nka... Nkanyiso" her voice is breaking, Lol, she wants to cry. I turn to look at her, and she is still in the same position tears filled in her eyes, once she blinks they are going to fall. I get up from the chair, and walk up to her.

Me: "Phakadelami. Look, I was just pulling your leg I didn't want to make you cry. I'm sorry Phakadelami, I really am sorry".

Her: "It's not funny Nkanyiso honestly, you almost broke my heart in fact this was going to be my first real heartbreak, don't ever play like that again".

Me: "I promise not to next time, I really am sorry. Please forgive me or else my father will kill me, askies Phakadelami

I will do anything for you to forgive me”. She bursts out with laughter, and wipes her tears.

Her: “Gotcha”! I release a breath of relief.

Me: “Fuck Nobuntu! You almost gave me a heart attack”. She gets off the counter laughing.

Her: “Now we are even, let's eat”. I just look at her defeated she is unbelievable!

Me: “Uyaphapha”. I sit back on my chair, and we start eating, yes we are naked. Yazi, it's good to try out something new in a relationship just to give that experience, that when you look back when you are old, you will just laugh about it. My phone rings while we are busy eating, and it's Amanda. I wonder what does she want. “It's Amanda”. I look at her.

Her: “Answer it, and hear what she wants to say maybe she had changed her mind”.

Me: "Amanda". I put it on loud speaker.

"There's a fucken huge black & red snake in my house
Nkanyiso! It is right outside Sambulo's door, please come over

and kill it- it is making me hard to go to Sambulo's room". She is
talking so fast.

Me: "In your house where"?

Her: "The house that you've bought for us Nkanyiso! Stop
asking me questions, and get here to save your one &
only son"! I laugh.

Me: "You? You are asking me to come & help you with the son
you've decided to run away with? The very same son you
promised that I will never see again just because you were
mad that I chose Nobuntu over him"?

Her: "Please Nkanyiso I need your help I wouldn't be calling you if I wasn't desperate! Do it for your son then, not me".

Me: "Call snake handlers then, they wouldn't mind removing the snake for you".

Her: "How? When there are also this fucken huge thing babies right outside the gate. Tell me how"? I laugh.

Me: "Just agree to bring Sambulo to his imbeleko ceremony, and the snakes won't bother you anymore. They are not there for you they are there for Sambulo".

Her: "Oh, so your family is behind this? Fuck them, and fuck you too. I am not bringing my son to that stupid eremony! This witchcraft that you & your family is practising won't work on me, do you hear me"!

Me: "Suit yourself, and try to pretend as if you enjoy their company, bye".

"Ahhhh, it is coming towards me Nkanyiso please hurry". I hang up, and laugh.

Nobuntu: "That will teach her to never ever disrespect ancestors again". We both laugh, and continue eating.

Me: "They will keep her company until she decides to do what's right, I don't even understand why is she being stubborn about this".

Her: "Maybe she is scared that the ancestors might show that Sambulo is not really your son, but your brother's son. That can be the only explanation".

Me: "You might be right about that, hey". She nods, and continue eating. My ancestors better teach her some manners, and to never ever defy them. "So, how about a quickie before we leave"?

Her: "Remind me after we are done eating, and I think I will pass out while having sex because pap makes me sleep". I chuckle.

Me: “I promise you Elami. You won't pass out”. She laughs, and bat her lashes. My phone beeps Indicating a message, and it's from my father.

★Be here before 16:00 Makoti will have to cook for us, and don't be late njalo Smiso★

I laugh, and look at Nobuntu. My father is not being real now, I will to buy more wine because wow...

59

MNQOBI

After the encounter I had with Bab'Dlamini yesterday I haven't slept a wink been cracking my head trying to find solutions, or at least find someone who knows about the history of the church I've also been praying for God to show me something, but nothing. Now, I don't know where to start looking.

Bab'Dlamini's behaviour was alarming there's something going on in that church, and not knowing what it is really kills me. But then, if there is something going on in that church why didn't the prayer warriors detect the spirits of those buried within that church, or whatever ungodly things they do behind closed doors? The prophets and the prophetess don't they see

anything regarding the church? Or could it be that they are blinded by their respected leaders uniform, or only the one chosen by God is the only one who can see or suspect such things? This is frustrating I will have to call Snikelelo maybe she might give me something tangible I can only hope though. My phone rings, and it's my mother yazi every time when I talk to her we end up fighting, and of which bores, but I hope that today we will have a decent conversation as much as she treats me like I'm not his son, I can't ignore the fact that she's my mother, and I will never get angry at her.

“Ma”.

“Hello son, how are you”? Okay, she is polite today.

Me: “I'm fine Ma & how are you”?

Her: “I am not good son I really need to talk to you before I lose it, I am not coping at all. My past is catching up with me too fast, it's time you know the truth, all of it before it's too late, if you get time please stop by we really need to talk”.

Me: "I can even come now Mama I don't mind. What past are you talking about"?

Her: "No. Don't come today please come tomorrow it will also be better if you can come along with Nobuntu. I know that I treated her in a not so good way, and she probably hates me and will never forgive me, but please plead with her on my behalf". I sigh.

Me: "Unfortunately Nobuntu is going to Nkanyiso's home she is leaving today, and will probably be there all weekend".

Her: "Oh. Wasn't she married to Zweli"?

Me: "She was, but they were never in love. Zweli married her just to get his father off his back, and to continue giving him monthly allowance. He treated her like a maid, and always made fun of her together with her girlfriend, so Nkanyiso decided to step in, and showed her what real love is or what it feels like".

Her: "Oh, I understand now, as long as she is happy with Nkanyiso her happiness matters most. Well, immediately as she gets back please come with her to my house we have a lot to talk about. And Nkanyiso's family better treat her right, or else I will personally deal with them". I laugh.

Me: "Oh wow. They better be warned then if that's the case. Are you maybe having a change of mind about her"?

Her: "Stop being forward wena. I hope to see the two of you here on Monday".

Me: "We will be there I promise you".

Her: "Do you think she will forgive me after how I treated her"?

Me: "She will Mama, she has a good heart. If you don't mind me asking; What made you change your mind about her"?

Her: "Let's just say Arizona paid me a visit, and rattled my feathers a bit".

Me: "Who is that now"?

Her: "Someone you do not want to mess with, or do bad to Nobuntu & live happy after, yhey she is one tortures human being. All I can tell you, is that at the mention of her name the bad ones will feel her wrath. You will have to come with Nobuntu Monday, I am ready to answer all your questions".

Me: "HmMMM. We will definitely come. How is Crecentia"? She sighs.

Her: "She is losing it honestly, and Ben's wife beat her up with the help of her sisters. She lost the baby since they've been kicking her stomach, they also bashed her head with a brick because of a post she posted on Facebook if the police, and the

paramedics didn't arrive in time she would probably be dead by now”.

Me: “What? Why would Mika do such a thing? Why didn't her

- her sisters beat Ben up, huh? I hope the police have arrested them. Yasis! How dare they take the law into their own hands? I will have to visit Ben, and those women who did this to my sister better not make bail, or else I will kill them with my bare hands”!

Her: “Calm down Mnqobi. You have more important things to deal with currently, allow me to deal with this myself I am her mother after all wena just keep on praying for all of us. I love you, and take care son”.

Me: “I love you too Mama, and I will keep on praying for all of us”. She hangs up. Wow, well we didn't fight today that's a first. But then who is Arizona & what did she do to my mother to get back on her senses? I guess I have her to thank, and I wish to meet her and thank her. Mika? I know that my mom said I must let this go, but how when my sister is in hospital, and she has lost her unborn baby. She was wrong yes, but for Mika to

gather all her sisters and attacked her that's too extreme I hope they've also dealt with Ben because if not, I will deal with him myself. But fellow women instead of beating the other woman, why don't you unite & attack the man? Wuuhhh, yerrrr...

“Channel your anger to prayer. You have important task in your hands that needs your undivided attention, and it needs you to be anger free. Don't lose sight, focus in what's in front of you, pray Mngqobi you have a mission to fulfil. They saw you worthy to fulfil this mission, and you will. Pray Mngqobi”. I look around for who ever is talking to me, and I find no one. Who on earth was that? Or was I hearing my own things? But one must never ignore that tiny voice in their heads, do whatever it tells you to do. Oh, kana I must also go to Nkanyiso's home tomorrow I wonder how is Nobuntu going to survive shame, phela Nkanyiso's father is a straightforward person. Modiegi? I, last

spoke to her in the morning, and she assured me that she is fine. I hope she was telling me the truth... Sighs, I must also go, and check up on Crecentia at the hospital. But then her writing that post, she showed no remorse none whatsoever. I mean, how do you boast about such? I'm sure she was drunk when she posted that post and didn't think of the consequences that will follow after, she should've just let

things be, and focused on her life. We were going to help her with raising the baby, but she decides otherwise. This is bad...

★«★»

NOBUNTU

We are at Woolworths buying all the stuff that I will need mostly junk foods, and Nkanyiso is also buying some few essentials he doesn't want to arrive at his home empty-handed, while me on the other hand my nerves are shooting up skyrocket. I don't know how will Nkanyiso's family welcome me,

I hope there will not be many people there since it was said that I will have to cook, imagine cooking on your first time meeting your boyfriend's family? Wuuhhh D for Dizasta if you ask me. That's why I need more wine to get me through the entire weekend, and face everyone present there. I know that Gina will be there, and she will make it a point that she tries to outshine me I also wouldn't be surprised if she will be letting everyone know that I was once married to Nkanyiso's best friend, and ended up dating Nkanyiso, nxa.

“Got everything you will need”?

“Yes. You”?

Him: “I'm almost done, but we must also pass by fruits & veg, and buy some vegetables my father just sent me a message few hours ago”.

Me: “Oh, if you say so. Elami, am I really- really going to cook for your family”? He laughs.

Him: "Of course you are really going to cook for my family, and I trust your cooking skills. You will not disappoint, and my father is a lover of meat".

Me: "Who else will be there"?

Him: "I'm not really sure, but my brother's girlfriends, and some grannies & aunt's of mine will definitely be there. It's going to be a full house".

Me: "But babe, why does your father want me to cook for them? Phela

Advertisement

I am not your wife yet". He laughs.

Him: "You are asking the wrong person Elami, I wish I knew why, but I have no absolute idea. Or maybe he just wants to taste your cooking".

Me: "Will the other girls be helping me with the cooking too"?

Him: "Only Nkosikhona's girlfriend, since she, too, will be introduced to the family today. She, too, just like you will be meeting my family for the first time".

Me: "Well, at least I will not be alone".

Him: "Let's go, and pay we also have few more stops before we head home".

Me: "Sleeping arrangements"?

Him: "Yoh, sisi we interview. We will find out everything once we get home, but what I know is that we will not be sleeping together".

Me: "Askies"?

Him: "Exactly what I said". We get to the till, and Nkanyiso takes out the things we bought and put them on top of the cashier's counter. The cashier whose name is Lerato I see it in her tag is looking at Nkanyiso, and not even trying to blink.

Me: "Wehhh sisi". Clapping hands, she jogs out of her few second crush on Nkanyiso. "We want to pay, and please stop looking at my boyfriend like he is something edible"! I tell her clearly annoyed.

Her: "I... I am so sorry let me help you".

Me: "Don't you have a boyfriend"?

Her: "I do".

Me: "Do you look at him the way you were looking at my boyfriend few minutes"? She shakes her head. "Then you

better start looking at him that way I'm sure he will appreciate it".

Nkanyiso: "Oh, and she is my girlfriend today she is going to meet my family. Have you been introduced to your boyfriend's family, yet"?

Her: "No".

Him: "Take my girlfriend's advice, and he will introduce you to his family, and stop drooling at other people's boyfriends, okay"? She nods.

Me: "Not in a bad way, okay"? She nods, and smiles at us. We get done paying, and we walk out of the store.

Him: "You see that if you don't treat me right, some girls will take me away"? I laugh.

Me: “And you think I don't get men who look at me the same way”?

Him: “Nah”.

Me: “Look at that guy wearing a red T-shirt for example”. I low wave at him with a smile plastered on my lips. He also waves back shyly though, and purse his lips. Lol, Nkanyiso's pulls me by arm, and I laugh.

Him: “Hhe, you want to see me behind bars neh in an orange uniform”?

Me: “If you don't treat me righ...”.

Him: “I know Elami”. We both laugh then walk to fruit & veg hand in hand... We get there, and he buys all that his father asked him to buy, I also take some fruits with, and raisins we pay, and we leave the shop. I am tired! We load everything in his car, and he hurridly goes to spar liquor to buy some booze

for himself and his brothers. While waiting for him I see Natasha busy in some trash bin, she looks like a street kid. Haibo Jova ngcwele, and then? What happened to her? Since when is she a hobo? I guess a lot have happened in these past months. The slay Queen is now a hobo looking for food in the trash bin, where is Zweli in all of this? Hhey, that manyala still haven't brought back the divorce papers he better not give me a hard time. I look at Natasha again, and she comes out with a takeaway she opens it, and about to take a bite when another hobo appears from out of nowhere, and snatches the takeaway from her then takes off. This is not funny, but as for me, I even laugh in serious situations. She attempts to run after him, and he is gone. Wuhhh mara... She goes to the trash bin again hoping to find something to eat, but she finds nothing she sits next to the trash bin, and balances her head in it this is sad to watch maarn. Nkanyiso steps inside the car...

“Ready to go? I've also added another 3 bottles of wine for the ladies”.

Me: “That's good”. I am still looking at Natasha, by the looks of it I think she also does rugs.

Him: "What are you looking at? What the hell! Is that Natasha? Zweli's Natasha? What happened to her"?

Me: "I don't know Elami. I was also shocked when I saw her looking for food in the trash bin. She did find something, but another hobo snatched her food and took off".

Him: "This is sad Elami. Those fries we were eating earlier on are you still going to eat them"?

Me: "No".

Him: "Let's go, and give it to her, and there's a loaf of bread somewhere in these plastics, but no cold drink".

Me: "We can always give her wine". We both laugh. "I'm kidding Elami, we can always give her water let me also throw in some sanitary pads just for in case".

Him: "Let's go to her then. You have a good heart Elami". We both step out of the car, and walk up to her she is wiping tears.

"Natasha". She quickly looks up, shame written all over her face she attempts to stand up, but I stop her. "We are not here to mock or laugh at you, we are here to give you these I hope they will make a difference". I give her the plastic, and walk away.

"Nobuntu wait". She calls me, and I turn to look at her as she walks towards me. "Thank you, and I'm very sorry for everything I did to you, and for calling you names".

Me: "It's fine Natasha". I walk back to the car, and I see Nkanyiso giving her some money I bet she is going to use it to buy drugs. Nkanyiso comes back to the car, and we drive off.

Him: "You handled that well Elami I'm proud of you".

Me: "Being angry at her will not do me good, let's go". He brings the engine to life, and his phone rings its Aunt Zeni.

"Ncane".

"Where are you Smiso? You are the only one who is not here yet".

Me: "We are on our way Ncane".

Her: "I'm sure you bringing Amanda with I don't want any new girl". He laughs.

Him: "I am not coming with that witch I am coming with my real girlfriend/ I will see you when I get there"/

Her: "That girl will not enter this yard".

Him: "We shall see". He hangs up.

Me: "I guess she is still fond of Amanda, and doesn't like me already".

Him: "Amanda was her gossip buddy she was once beaten by the community because of gossip, and don't worry yourself about her you don't really need her approval". I nod.

Hours later we are parked outside his yard there are few cars parked already. My nerves start shooting skyrocket again, and my knees start shaking.

Nkanyiso: "Relax Elami. Take a deep breath".

Me: "Wine. I need wine Nkanyiso".

Him: "You must be really nervous you are even calling me by my name". He laughs, and throws his head back. "Drink this it will calm your nerves down". I look at the bottle that he is handing me, and it's Russian bear I then remembered seeing a

post on Facebook saying “tell us your Russian bear story”. And the comments? Wuhhh jova ngcwele this vodka is not good for a human being.

Me: “I will pass, thank you. I've heard stories about it, and trust me they were not so pleasing. Yi D for Dizasta mus le”. He laughs.

Him: “Just a tot Elami”.

Me: “No. Give me daiquiri at least”.

Him: “If you say so then”. He fiddles with the plastic, and he comes with it then gives it to me since it's 1lt I twist the cap open, and gulp it down one time. “Yoh, wadakwa Elami”! I laugh, and wipe my lips.

Me: “I'm ready, asibangene”. We both laugh, and step out of the car. He opens the booth, and unload the other things while I unload the ones that we at the back seats, while busy unloading the shopping bags girls & boys in traditional attires

appear from out of nowhere, and drops on their knees and touch my feet. I am so confused, I look at Nkanyiso who, just like me is also confused, and so is everyone in the yard.

“Bayede”! They clap their hands while one of them lines different cloth with the same emblem making me to walk on them. Hhayi ke, there goes the after effects of daiquiri showing me flames. I grab Nkanyiso's hand...

Me: “What's going on”? Whispering in his ear.

Him: “I have no idea”. He shrugs. We continue walking on top of the cloths until we enter the yard all the way to the kitchen, old women wearing the same cloths that were laid down for me with the emblem starts ululating, and drops to their knees and it seems like I'm the only one who sees them. Awww, daiquiri madoda.

“Nobuntu”. Nkanyiso shakes me, and I snap out of my thoughts only to find the old women in the kitchen looking at me they are wearing normal clothes. One stands up, and pulls me into a tight hug.

“Welcome home Makoti we've been waiting for you”.

60

NOBUNTU

I look at the time on my phone and it's just after 00:45 I am waiting for Nkanyiso to come and fetch me so we can go to wherever he said we were going too, and have a quickie I miss my man. The Makotis are all sleeping, the big 5 as they call themselves are sleeping in the bedroom while me & Senamile settled for the floor in the lounge/kitchen. Gina, had hopes that we will fight them, but we just let them be I had no time for them. Senamile passed out while telling me about how her, and Nkosikhona met. Alcohol is older than us shame, hhayi angeke. My phone's screen lights up it's no rocket science that's it is Nkanyiso notifying me that he is outside. I wear a jersey over my short silky see-through night dress, no it's not a lingerie I open the door after making sure that they are really sleeping, and walk out locking the door behind me. The lights from the house are all out, good. But I pray they don't catch me sneaking out, I find Nkanyiso already waiting for me leaning in his car.

“Elami. I've missed you”. He picks up, and spins me around then put down... We step inside the car, and he drives to one of his niggas house I hope his brothers are not in that house.

“Whose house are we going too, and where are your brothers”?

Him: “It's Sabelo's one of my childhood friends, and my brothers are crashing at Jabulani's house”. I nod, and take off my Jersey exposing my thighs, he steals a glance and focus on the road. His free hand lands on my lap as he moves it up & down causing my nipples to be hard my right hand lands on his dick, and I also move it up & down. I hear him taking a deep breath in, I laugh softly and continue caressing his erect dick, playing with it while inside his sweater is not doing it for me I need to feel it in my arms. I take it out of his sweater, and jerk it up & down earning myself a low groan from him.

“Nobuntu”. My name comes out as a whisper in his mouth.

Me: “Shhh, just drive”. I bring my mouth to his dick blowing some air first in it's slit then lick the tip of his dick, he curses. I take it inside my mouth covering it, and starts going up & down as he brings the car to a stop on the side of the road.

“Fuck Elami”! I blow him faster I can feel saliva filling up my mouth, he pushes my head down as I continue giving him a blow job, and gagging in his dick as he fucks my mouth I am now kneeling on the car seat. His left hand lifts my night dress from behind I am not wearing a panty as usual, he rubs the entrance of my pussy with his finger making me more wet. Tears fill my eyes as his dick tries to reach my throat, wuhhh jova ngcwele yini na, I guess this is deep throating don't look at me like that, I do watch porn every now & then hau. “Fuck! I am about to release my shoot Elami, he groans I quickly retract his dick from my mouth, and sandwich it in between my boobs brushing it with them in no time he shoots his shot, and his sperms spew on my boobs as he catches his breath. “Wow”.

Me: “We ain't done yet, adjust your seat”. Yhey, all of you look at me taking things into my own hands, like hello hi. I climb on top of him, and position my pussy straight to his slimy dick, legs on top of his thighs he inserts his dick, and I whimper. I go up & down slowly on his dick as his hands rest on my buttocks

brushing them- my right boob in his mouth sucking it like there's no tomorrow earning himself a soft moan from me. Left-right-up-down-backwards-forward. My moans & his groans filling his car, windows covered in steam our sweat coming together as one, I go faster brushing his head as he spanks my

buttocks and cursing I'm squirming in pleasure as his dick makes me feel good. My legs are throbbing, and I feel my body tensing as a new feeling introduces itself making my whole body to shiver, and my toes to curl. I guess he picks up the sudden change in my body, and he takes over going in & out fast slapping in all the areas of my pussy.

“Nka... Nkanyiso”! I call out his name as my body releases some satisfying feeling I bury my head in his shoulder as we catch our breathe.

Him: “Damn Elami. That was the most amazing car sex I've ever had it was mind blowing. Thank you Elami”.

Me: “Then there's no use for us to go to your friends now. You might as well take me back home”.

Him: "I will after this final round"!

Me: "Here we go again"! We both laugh. "Just one Elami, and please go slow on my boobs my nipples are painful". He licks

the left one as he pinches the right one. This guy is making me a sex addict yuuhhh nina, but I still love him.

Him: "I will make them better". He whispers in my ear, and nibbles in it.

My legs are dangling in both his hand my upper part resting on the seat him going in & out of my pussy hitting all the right places. He is standing outside stuck naked, ai baloi badi bona dilo ka mo. I'm screaming out his name as pleasure overcomes me, okay I think I like missionary more. I squirm as I release my juices, and few seconds I feel him grow inside me he, too, will be releasing his juices soon... He stays inside me after realising his shot.

Me: "Get inside the car. Why are you showing your body to the witches"?

Him: "I am distracting them". I laugh, this man is crazy!

Me: "Can I get my pussy back now". He smirks.

Him: "No. It's mine not yours".

Me: "I guess the dick is mine then, can I get it back ke"?
He laughs, and pulls out.

Him: "You are one crazy woman".

Me: "I take after you". He laughs.

Him: "I will get you plus today you are going to meet my father your father-in-law I hope you are excited".

Me: "Not forgetting nervousness".

Him: "Don't be he is a cool old man. I love you Elami".

Me: "And I love you too"/

Him: "Let me take you home. We should do a quickie again when everyone is asleep it's enjoyable".

Me: "Wawu"! Laughing...

★»★«

Nkanyiso drops me off 3 houses away from his home because of the light that's on, we ended up sleeping in the car, and we were woken up by his alarm at 04:30am now it's 05:00am. The plan was for me to wake up at 04:00am and start sweeping the yard, but yhey Nkanyiso had to do me otherwise. Sighs. I sneak inside the yard hoping that no one sees me, I unlock the door and quickly step inside the room locking it the ladies are still sleeping nc nc nc lazy bunch, I fill up the kettle with water then switch it on I need to take a quick bath before one of the ladies wakes up then go, and sweep the yard. They left it like that

yesterday, papers and beer bottles thrown all over I think they did this deliberately... I take a quick bath, and wear my long dress and tie my doek, I go and dispose the water outside then go back to my room I pour wine for myself, and drink just one glass then walk outside and start picking up the bottles and the papers then go and fetch the broom behind the dust bin, and start sweeping the yard. Few minutes later I am done since the yard is not that vast.

“Good morning Nobuntu it seems like you beat me from sweeping the yard”. I turn to look who is talking, and it's one of the ladies who I was chilling with yesterday I forgot her name”. I laugh.

“Some of us can't sleep until the sun gets into our butt cracks”.

Her: “You are a true makoti. Where are the other girls”?

Me: “Sleeping”.

Her: “Those ones are lazy I don't even know why they paid Lobola for them, and it's been like that ever since they can't even cook with a 3 feet pot, can you imagine”?

Me: “Maybe they grew up in suburbs or homes that don't require them to cook using outside fire”.

Her: "I know, but they should've been taught these things as soon as they became abo Makoti. They are naturally lazy it's in their genes".

Me: "They might be, but their husbands love them like that".

Her: "I guess, but I don't like them, and I never pretend when around them they know it. Anyway, don't you have a bottle of wine floating around I need to deal with this headache". I laugh.

Me: "Yeah, I do have wines floating around I will go, and fetch one for you".

Her: "I would really appreciate it I will wrap here so long". I nod, and give her the broom then go to the room. Senamile is already awake, and drinking wine straight from the bottle still inside the blankets she looks funny without a weave.

“Before you say anything I am thirsty, and the wine was the nearest drink for me to reach. You look fresh, and where do you come from”?

Me: “Been cleaning the yard”.

Her: “Yoh. Who were you cleaning it with”?

Me: “Alone, but one of the aunts is wrapping up now”. I take one bottle of wine from the cupboard.

Her: “I'm sure they think that we are lazy, but to tell you the truth I will not do makoti duties while I'm just a girlfriend that shit can miss me”.

Me: “And you are not forced to do them babe we all have a choice after all”.

Her: "But you are slaving around for them while the real Makotis who were paid Lobola for, in fact married are still sleeping".

Me: "Good for them, and I am not slaving around for anyone I do it willingly I'm not one girl to sit down and wait to be served while I have hands, nope. Let me take this wine to this woman and don't finish the wine". I walk out leaving her looking at me. The aunt is done picking up the dirt now she is sitting down, and she has brought an extra chair with I guess it's for me.

Her: "You are such a lifesaver. Will you be joining me"?

Me: "No, thank you though. Today I am not planning on drinking I just need to be sober".

Her: "That's good love and I'm sure you don't want to meet Mveli drunk".

Me: "That's pretty much true. How is he like"?

Her: “He is very strict but also humble too, and he doesn't take any nonsense he is also a straight forward person. I have no doubts that he will like you, and to tell you the truth none of these makotis were welcomed like you. Your presence here brought so much joy to everyone because some were not in good talking terms, especially the women we were with. But your arrival? Changed all that. We are now happy as we ever can be of which makes me wonder what's so special about you”. I laugh.

Me: “There's nothing special about me honestly, but I'm happy that I've contributed to the joy that's taking place in this house. Are the others still sleeping”?

Her: “No. They are busy drinking tea

and conversating. Mveli, is sitting in the kitchen together with the uncles he is reading his morning paper, and the uncles are planning how the rest of the day will go since my brother Zondani is coming back from initiation school”. And here I was

thinking that this weekend was dedicated for Sambulo. Why didn't Nkanyiso tell me though, or did it maybe slipped his mind? It might be...

Me: "Oh. I see. So, what time is he coming"?

Her: "Around 19:00pm if not 20:00pm he is coming with Dabulizizwe that woman always carries a Python on her shoulders, a live one for that matter. We were scared of her at first, but she initiated Slindile we stopped being scared and accepted her, ever since then she became the healer of the Dube family". Could this Dabulizizwe be this very same woman I saw few days ago? Or maybe it's just a coincidence who knows.

Me: "Hmmm, I guess there's too much work to be done today".

Her: "Yes, including baking, and today we will be using 3 feet pots to cook".

“Oh, no Nomthi. Abo Makoti will be the one handling the pots, and doing all the baking today while we sit down and drink

wine”. Nqobile (Slindile's eldest daughter) says joining us with her own chair. “The yard is clean, and to think that I was complaining about cleaning it to my mother, wuhhh. Whoever cleaned it did a good job, even me I wouldn't have been able to clean it this way”.

Nomthi: “Makoti here did all the cleaning I was surprised to find her almost done with sweeping when I stepped outside”.

Her: “She is the one who deserves more cows than all the other makotis. But today they have no choice because Nombuso is coming, and you know how she makes things happen”.

Me: “Sorry to interfere, but who is Nombuso”?

Her: “The biggest Nkanyamba after Slindile. That one doesn't even smile at all, You will need to be on another level of being drunk today because you are not ready for her. Pass me the

wine lapho Nomthi, but I think I will need something stronger to face her. I, too, am scared of her". We all laugh and continue talking.

★»★«

KHETHIWE

Zweli's sudden sickness is driving me crazy now he is worse because he has stopped talking completely. The seers all can't see a thing it's frustrating, now I have to bathe, feed, and cloth

him. He poops on himself, but what choice do I have? I have to take care of him he is my son after all. We've been moved to another hut far away from the royal house because they couldn't handle Zweli's smell he smells like a dead dog left in the sun, it's making me sick. He sometimes vomits the food I feed him, he shakes in his sleep, and he sometimes pass out, sometimes I find him on the floor not knowing how he ended there it's stressing me to a point that I am even thinking of sending him to a hospice because I can't take it any more! It's too much for me. I sometimes wish that I can trade places with him, and be the one who is sick not him. What did he do to go through so much? Why is all of this happening to my son? Can't God just spare him, and forgive him he doesn't deserve this that is happening to him. It's just unfair. I wipe the tears, and look at him as his saliva drops to the floor he also suddenly developed a drooling sickness that sometimes makes me want

to vomit. The room starts becoming cold as the window & door closes themselves of which is quite strange considering the fact that it's summer. I know that Boniwe comes in a dust form, so I don't know what's going on.

“I decided to bring you winter today, and not August I'm sure your stomach it's filled with dust. How do you feel seeing your son like this mara”?

“How do you think I feel? Why are you punishing him? Punish me instead, and let my son be I beg you”.

Her: “How many times did I tell you to confess your devil deeds? How many times did I tell you Khethiwe? And you decided to ignore me, you told yourself that you will never confess your evil deeds, look what your stubbornness did, it got your son sick. Zweli is suffering because of you not wanting to confess”.

Me: “I... I am ready to confess my evil doings just heal my son, and I promise to confess”.

Her: "It's too late for you Khethiwe. But what I will tell you is that you will bow down to someone you saw as nothing, someone you ridiculed, and never see amounting to anything. You, Khethiwe. The once a Queen you will bow down to someone who you have been looking down upon, this time you will be the one being looked down upon. You will ask for forgiveness while confessing your sins in front of everyone. Imagine the embarrassment you would be put through, after all is done you will die, and Zweli will get his happily forever with his one".

Me: "Wh... What are you talking about"?

Her: "You will find out soon. Buhlebezulu will rise again, and you will be there to witness it all while washing feet of your royals/ take care". Off she leaves, leaving me confused about what she was talking about. How will Buhlebezulu rise? Who will I be bowing down to? What nonsense is this? Hhe, I just wonder who will I be bowing too, that I will not see coming, I

have too much to take in. Sighs, and who will Zweli live happily with? It better be not Langelihle.

★»★«

NKANYISO

The day is progressing slowly but surely, everyone is going up & down preparing for my uncle's arrival and I know that very soon the yard will be filled with our relatives, you know those rich relatives mus who don't want to do anything. They want to sit down, and waiting to be served as if they are important, sighs, I really don't like them. Nobuntu, have been going up & down being requested here & there, some wanted to meet her, and some wanted to slave her around, especially these rich cousins

who think that the world revolves around them, but my woman is not one to be bullied because I would see the cousins standing up to do things for themselves. They finally have someone who puts them in their place.

“Your girlfriend is on demand Nkanyiso. Her name is flying out of people's mouth more than gossip. You should see how Gina, and the others are they are fuming of which is a good thing if you ask me. I left them debating about who is going to cook pap”. He laughs. Just to be safe I will buy myself ikota I have never seen the big 5 cooking on the outside fire this is so going to be cool thing to witness”. I laugh as Sphamandla tells me this.

Me: “It's going to be a real movie I tell you. Nombuso will chop people's head off today”.

Him: “Anyway, the old man is requesting your presence along with Nobuntu”/

Me: “Here we go. Let me go and hear what he has to say”.

Him: "At least Nobuntu will catch a break, and breathe. I must applaud you though, your woman is a gem don't fuck things up, or else I will panel beat you". I laugh, and walk away I look for Nobuntu, but I don't see anywhere I wonder where could she be. My father will throw a fit if I don't come with her, fuck!

"They are having the time of their lives in the lounge getting to know each other better". Slindile tells me. I walk to the lounge, and I find them talking as if they've known each other for long making me jealous a bit.

"Sanibonani". Only Nobuntu responds.

Dad: "Your presence is no longer required Smiso, go and play with your age mates we are bonding here. Oh, before you leave. What are your plans regarding Nobuntu"?

Me: "Well, marrying her & building a legacy for us, and secure our children's future".

Him: “Hmmm. You can leave now, we no longer find your face cute, hamba”/ Nobuntu chuckles. My dad is not being serious right now.

Me: “Bab...”.

Him: “I am not interested Smiso, leave nou”.

Me: “Yebo baba”. I bow my head as a sign of respect, and walk out not believing that my dad chased me away, like he practically told me that he doesn't require my presence. I laugh, as I pass abo Makoti arguing, and Nombuso steps inside the house earning herself silence from abo Makoti. Yah neh, she is one scary woman I get outside, and walk straight to the gents.

“And”? Ziyanda.

Me: “Your father said he no longer requires my presence, and I'm ugly. He is having a serious fun bond with his daughter-in-law this old man is not loyal maarn”. They all laugh. Gina

walks towards us its like she has been crying because she keeps on wiping her tears. "Nombuso". We all say in unison.

Her: "Can we please leave Ziyanda I can't take it any more, I really can't".

"You are not going anywhere Gina! You better get your flat ass in the kitchen right now, and stop being a cry baby. We've been spoiling you for far too long now it's time you take your roles seriously as the Dube wives. Nobuntu, a girl who has just been introduced a day ago has earned herself a big yes from me. She is fit to be A Dube, all 5 of you including Nkosi's girlfriend better learn from her asambe". Nombuso pulls her by her ear, and she cries out.

Me: "Ku H for Hektik mfana".

Him: "Kushubile"/ Nobuntu have just gained herself more haters, and they will accuse her of witchcraft, hhe...

61

MNQOBI

I'm here at the hospital to see Crecentia before I drive to Nkanyiso's home. I get inside her ward, and I find her looking out the window drips attached to her body, her other hand is on her stomach. Her left leg has a cast on it, and a bandage is wrapped around her head.

“Hey sis”. I walk to her side. I've brought along a big teddy bear with for her. She gives me a faint smile I think even smiling it's painful to her seeing that her lips have cuts on them. Just by looking at her you can tell that her face was swollen, they really did a number on her.

“Hey”. Her voice comes out as raspy whisper she can't open her mouth fully.

Me: “How are you”?

Her: “How do you think I am”?

Me: “Not good obviously. How are you holding up”.

Her: “I don't know really. I feel so empty, like a part of me is missing or something”.

Me: “You will heal sisi, just take things easy, and get enough rest as you can”.

Her: “It's not easy Mnqobi I wish that I can just die, and be pain free it's just too much”.

Me: “Why did you post that status update mara nawe Crecentia? What were you thinking”? She wipes her tears.

Her: “I don't know why I posted it honestly I don't know what was going through my mind, but I deleted it few minutes later after the harsh comments I've received little did I know that it was too late, someone took a screenshot, and sent it to Mika”.

Me: “Where did Mika find you”?

Her: “I'm one stupid woman to tell you the truth”. She sighs. “Mika asked if she can come over to my place because she heard that I was not okay. Me being stupid I agreed for her to come I don't even know who told her that I'm pregnant with Ben's child”. It's Thabo obviously. Who else could it be mara if not him? Ben, would never tell Mika such heartbreaking news.

“She called, and asked me to come outside she can't get in since she's in a hurry I went out, and I found her standing at the gate soon as I opened it, she grabbed me by T-shirt and pulled me outside then her sisters stepped out of the car with weapons, and they started beating me senselessly. I pleaded with them to stop, but my plea fell into deaf ears. The way they've been beating me I told my self that this is my last day, I was going to die without seeing you, mother & ask for forgiveness to Thabo one last time. One of the neighbour's came to my rescue she blew a whistle alerting the neighbourhood, and those who were home came out of their houses to my rescue and started beating them too. Paramedics and the police were called, and someone alerted mother about what happened to me. I was just lucky

that no one took a video of what was happening. My face was badly bruised, my eyes

were closed I couldn't even open them, but then I'm just glad that I am still alive you know". I'm speechless, I don't even know what to say to her honestly. But, she is really stupid. Who agrees for one to come over knowing very well that you did them bad? The worst part is that she slept with her husband, and fell pregnant for him while she can't carry a child for even 2 months. Imagine how did that made her feel when she heard the Crecentia is pregnant with Ben's child? Yohhh... I still want to know how she & Ben ended up sleeping together, but I will wait for her to get better, then ask her.

Me: "All will be well sis. I hope that Mika and her sisters will be dealt with accordingly. Did you let Thabo know that you are hospitalized"?

Her: "He knows. But he still hasn't come to see me you know".

Me: "He is still hurt give him time he will come around. Bear in mind that you've hurt him by falling pregnant for his friend, he

feels like a failer, he feels like he failed you because his friend gave you something he couldn't give you. It's a long way to go, but he will surely come around be patient". I look at the time on my watch, and it's almost time for me to leave.

Her: "I can only hope. Going somewhere"?

Me: "Yes. I'm going to Nkanyiso's home they are going to do a ceremony for Sambulo".

Her: "Oh, let me not keep you then. Thank you for stopping by it means a lot to me". I nod.

Me: "Take care, and please get some rest as much as you can. I love you".

Her: "I love you too. And I'm sorry for everything I did to you".

Me: "All is well. May God be with you". I stand up, and kiss her forehead then walkout. I hope I will make it on time at Nkanyiso's home, and may Crecentia heal quickly...

★»«★

DUBE'S HOUSEHOLD

{NARRATED}

The sun has already set, and now everyone is preparing for the arrival of Zondani. Tension is very thick amongst abo Makoti bakwa Dube, and they were doing their makoti duties all day while Nobuntu was sleeping, Slindile's orders, and everyone was told not disturb her whatsoever she must wake up on her own.

Emma & Gina are washing pile of dishes with Nombuso who is keeping a close watch on them. Senamile left immediately as she finished dishing up for everyone she couldn't take slaving (serving) as she calls it any more, and besides she is not a domesticated person she is used to things being done for her not the other way around. Belinda, Zelda & Nelisiwe are busy cooking in outside fire with Slindile watching them, in the

afternoon Nobuntu was the one who cooked the pap before she was ordered by Slindile to go, and sleep she needs all the rest she can get.

Gina: "I really don't understand as to why must we slave around while miss nobody is sleeping peacefully without any disturbance. I mean we've been here before her, and not once we were ever told to go, and sleep never. What's so special about her mara? This is not fair". She tells Emma this more like whispering so that Nombuso won't hear them.

Emma: "I'm sure she has used something to be loved like these, phela girl is loved by people who hardly laughs no matter how funny the joke may be, they just won't laugh. What shook me the most was the fact she was in the same room with Mveli, wait, they were conversing together and laughing over a cup of coffee, and muffins baked by me the nerve of that witch to even think that I wanted to befriend her, mxm. And I don't recall Mveli bonding with you like he did with Nobuntu, let alone be in the same room with him for 5 minutes".

Gina: "What"! She looks around only to find Nombuso starring at her without any emotion displayed on her face, she quickly looks away. "So, you wanted to ditch us for a girl you've only known for what like? 2 minutes? Isn't it enough that she stole Nkanyiso from Amanda? She is bad news Emma".

Emma: "Well, she was going to plug me in with some wine. Did you see how many bottles she came with? I don't think you saw them because if you did then you would understand as to why I

wanted to befriend her. And just to correct you, she did not steal Nkanyiso from Amanda. Me, you and the other girls know how loose Amanda was, and we also knew that she was cheating on Nkanyiso with Mbuso, Nkanyiso bursted them, and the relationship finished. It took Nkanyiso 5 years to fall in love again while it took Amanda just a year to move on. Don't you start defending her please, I would've done the same thing and ended things with her. She's the one who did Nkanyiso wrong not the other way around I don't even remember Nkanyiso cheating on her, ever".

Gina: "Either way I still want Nkanyiso with Amanda. They belong together, not Nkanyiso & Nobuntu they make me sick".

Emma: "It seems as if like you've forgotten that Nkanyiso was the one who fought for you to be accepted in this family again after your drugs saga. Ziyanda was ready to throw away the towel, and the family were standing with him. Nkanyiso was the only one by your side, don't do him like that you could be living in Alexandra with your drunkard parents in a shack full of holes, so please". Gina swallows the lump that's forming in her throat. Why would Emma remind her of her past? She was at her lowest point in life because she has lost her job, and miscarried along the way not forgetting the hurtful words her parents

used to throw at her every chance they got. Her life was not doing any justice for her, but she pulled through even though it was a long road.

Gina: "Did you really have to bring that up Emma? How low can you be"?

Emma: "I was only reminding you seeing that you've forgotten all about that Nkanyiso did for you when you were at your lowest. I am so tired". Gina doesn't respond to her after, she

just continues washing dishes because she knows that once she exchanges words with Emma it won't end well. Siphokazi

Advertisement

Nkanyiso's cousin gets inside the house...

“Aunty, Slindile asked me to ask you if there's any fried chicken left”?

Nombuso: “There are few pieces left, why”?

Siphokazi: “She asked me to dish up for Nobuntu, and take the food to her because she will wake up hungry”. Emma & Gina look at each other not believing what they hear.

Nombuso: “I will dish up for her don't worry. How far are those 3 ladies with cooking pap”? Siphokazi laughs.

Siphokazi: “They haven't even started they are busy arguing about who will cook it”.

Nombuso: "I will go, and sort it out, or else they will be met with divorce papers by Monday Morning, and I am not joking. I am tired of these girls they will cook the pap whether they like it or not, I don't care if their nails will get broken or what, but that pap must be ready by the time the initiates arrives because, hhe I don't even want to tell you what I will do to them. Let's go". She gets up from the chair taking a dough roller with. Gina is asking herself as to why is Nombuso suddenly strict towards them because before she didn't have a problem with them not doing anything. Then it clicks that it's all because of Nobuntu, now they are forced to do everything they never did. She chuckles, and throws the cup she was washing in the sink causing it to break.

"Dammit"! She curses, and puts her hands at the edge of the sink shaking her head. Emma stops drying the dishes, and looks at her confused.

Emma: "And then"?

Gina: "That girl Inyanga is powerful shame. Hhayi I give it to her, the whole family is licking her ass without even trying hard to please them. Now she is sleeping without a care in the world, and when she wakes up she will find food ready, this is not fair shame. But worry not because Dabulizizwe will deal with her on our behalf, and expose her witchcraft and it will be our turn to laugh at when she falls down from the ladder. In fact, we will need wine to celebrate".

Emma: "You know after what Nombuso said I think I hate this Nobuntu more, we do really need that wine before I lose it".

Gina: "How about we poison her food then send someone to take it to her that way no one will suspect us".

Emma: "Since when do we resort to such evil acts Gina? Much as I don't like her, please don't involve me in your evil acts because you know very well that Dabulizizwe will pick that up with just a glance, and it will be game over for us".

Gina: “Eish. We are stuck”! Belinda gets inside the house fuming.

“I am tired! I am bloody fucken tired I don't even know why are we the only ones slaving around while others are sleeping, I really don't understand. We never got such treatment before, ever. I'm the first Makoti, and not once was I ever told to go and sleep on my first day here after being introduced to the family I've slaved for them like no ones business trying to impress the family, like heck I even cooked for Mveli, and the uncles and the only thing I got after my hard work they only thanked me by saying ‘thank you’. But a mere girl younger than us is treated like a Queen, she is being told not to do 123 while we are busy inhaling that smoke outside, smelling that smoke. I really need to have a talk with Sphamandla because I can't take it any more. We must all play our part as the Dube wives including the so-called girlfriend too.

Emma: “Tell that to your mother-in-law. The sooner we accept that this weekend we are slaves for everyone the sooner Sunday comes, and I will leave this house as early as 06:00am. Senamile did good by leaving”.

Gina: “Hehehe, I hope that one was told that once you leave this yard after being introduced to the family, and denied doing a task given to you, you are no longer welcome here”.

Emma: “I don't think she was told. Anyway, are you done cooking pap”?

Belinda: “We tried our best. I only hope that it doesn't have lumps. Where's the wine”?

Emma: “We don't have any babe”.

Belinda: “And shops are close now. We are going to have a long night, let me go back outside maybe I might come back with a plan of how we can get wine”. She walks out, and Nombuso

steps in luckily for them they are almost done with dishes that means resting for them until Lord knows when.

★»★«

Nobuntu wakes up when he hears people making noise outside, she lifts her head and slightly opens the curtain she notices that it's dark outside but the big blue lights are giving the yard light, and she can see people going up & down which means she has been sleeping for too long. She gets up from the bed as her stomach growls notifying her that she must eat. She goes straight to the microwave, and takes out food she doesn't even know whose food is it.

“I don't know whose food is but I am damn hungry, and I will not be hungry while there's a plate full of meat. I will explain to whoever this food belongs too once full”. She says to herself

then she goes and sit down and starts eating. The door creeks open, and Belinda steps inside the room tip toeing and walks straight to where Nobuntu's bag is, she doesn't realize that Nobuntu is watching every move she's making. She unzips her bag, and takes out two bottles of wine and zips the bag again as soon as she turns around she finds Nobuntu starring at her with a grin on her face. She startles, and drops the bottles, and they break causing the wine to stain the carpets.

“Wenzani”? Nobuntu asks Belinda folding her arms before her. Belinda tries to respond, but her voice is failing her she did not think that she would find Nobuntu awake she should've checked the coast first. “I've asked you a question sisi”. Belinda continues to stare at her, and not say anything. The others are getting impatient since Belinda said she will do in & out, and now that she's not coming out they wonder what's keeping her.

Gina: “What's taking her so long? She was supposed to be here by now”.

Zelda: “What if Nobuntu caught her”?

Thembeke: "Belinda never gets caught I'm sure she's still searching for the finest wine".

Emma: "We don't want the finest we want wine".

Zelda: "Let me go and check up on her because I don't like this at all". She gets up from her chair since they were seating around the fire with other female cousins there are separate fires for both genders. She hears Nobuntu lashing out on Belinda, she places her ear at the door.

"So, you and your sister wives were planning to steal my wine? Is that what you are telling me"? Nobuntu. She quickly rushes to the ladies.

Emma: "And"?

Zelda: "Ijampile. They caught her red-handed, and what's worse is that she snitched on us".

Gina: “Hhaike hhaike this is bad, and I am not ready for confrontation”. Drums starts beating all the way from the gate as they are busy talking, and the ladies stop talking.

Dabulizizwe has arrived... Everyone gets up from their chairs, and run towards the gate to welcome her together with her disciples & initiates. She burps as the drums continue playing, Zondani is behind her, a chicken is slaughtered blood sprays to the nearby people, and the chicken moves few times then stops. Ululations erupt as everyone walks to the tent. The initiates start dancing to the drums, their beautiful different sangoma outfits makes the scene more beautiful...

“Abaphelele abafazi bala kushoda owasebukhosini”. She tells this to everyone present, they all look at each other.

Ziyanda: “Akekho Makhosi”. They clap hands.

Dabulizizwe: “Kushoda basebukhosini”! Now, everyone is more confused because they don't know of anyone who is royalty amongst them, and none of them even know who those people are. “Inkosana isendleleni kodwa Inkosazana ikhona kuleli

gqeke lakwa Dube”. (The Prince it's on his way, but the Princess is in this yard)

Mveli: “Awuze naye Dabulizizwe we don't know her”. She burps, “makhosi”. And the Python slid down Dabulizizwe's shoulders, and crawls straight to the room where Nobuntu & Belinda are in. They both scream as they see the snake slithers through the door. Nobuntu gets on top of the cupboard while Belinda gets on top of the one-seater couch, the lights flicker, and they scream loud enough for the ones outside to hear them.

Dabulizizwe: “Mlandeni”/ she orders one of her initiates, he gets up and run to the room where the snake is along with the girls. He opens the door as the light continues to flick he grabs Nobuntu, and put her over his shoulders. She screams, and kicks in the air soon as the man place her down, the initiates along with the disciples bows their head except for the Dube family who look really taken aback by this.

“Bayede Nkosazana”! Dabulizizwe says, and everyone follows after her. Ululation erupts amongst the women, Nobuntu looks around confused then passes out.

Nkanyiso: “What”!

Mveli: “Njani manje”?

62

{NARRATED}

Almost everyone is still shocked about the revelation that Nobuntu is a princess. A whole princess, Royal descendant it's just unbelievable and it's going to take a while for some to process these newses. Nkanyiso is too shocked to even utter any words, Gina's jaw is on the floor like she can't believe what Dabulizizwe just said. There is no way that Nobuntu can be royalty, no way. Nobuntu is still passed out, if one didn't know that she fainted that person was probably going to think that she's just sleeping the snake is surrounding her.

“Whoa whoa, animeni. Dabulizizwe, what exactly are you telling us? Are you sure about the Iraq bomb you just dropped on us? Even the goat stopped bleating immediately as you said that”. Mveli asks standing up as he asks Dabulizizwe. “Don't get me wrong. I know that you are a very powerful healer, but are you sure about Nobuntu, makoti who is passed out next to you is a princess”?

Dabulizizwe: “Injalo Mveli. Uyinkosazana yase sgodini sase Buhlebezulu”. (It's like that. She is a princess of Buhlebezulu village)

Mveli: “Kodwa njani? Does she know that she's from royalty? Mana kancane ke. Smiso, did you know that Nobuntu is a princess”? Nkanyiso doesn't respond he is too shocked about the revelation, and he wants to know how is Nobuntu royalty, well, that's what almost everyone who is present here wants to know.

Ziyanda: “I don't think he knows baba. He, too, just like us found out now, and I'm also sure that even Nobuntu doesn't

know that she is a princess. This revelation come as a shock to most of us present here”.

Mveli: “Oh, ngiyezwa. Awuvuse u Smiso ngenkulu impama lapho eceleni kwakho”. (Wake Smiso up with a powerful slap) everyone laughs. “Some humour, finally”.

Dabulizizwe: “Myekele akekho nathi ngalesisikhathi base nhlanganweni eyodwa bano Nobuntu ningamu phazamisi”. (Leave him for now he is in a same meeting with Nobuntu don't disturb him)

Mveli: “I hope he is not dying that side Dabulizizwe, not that you will deliberately kill him though”.

Ziyanda: “But how come is Nobuntu a princess of Buhlebezulu village, because the last time I checked Buhlebezulu's village princess is Nobuhle, Zweli's sister”?

Dabulizizwe: “Kuzochazwa konke nakufika iNkosana isendleleni, ningakhululeka nonke”. (Everything will be revealed once the Prince gets here he is on his way. You may all leave) the big 5 are the first ones to stand up, and they hurry to their room. Gina paces up & down not believing what was just revealed outside few seconds ago. There is no way that Nobuntu is a princess no way!

Emma: “I don't know if I was dreaming or what, but I had a dream about Nobuntu being a princess”.

Thembeke: “You were not dreaming, dummy. It was real you heard it all, and you've seen it all”.

Gina: “It's all lies. Dabulizizwe is lying. There is no way that Nobuntu is a princess of Zweli's village, never shame”.

Zelda: “Since when does Dabulizizwe lie? She never lies she tells it like it is”.

Thembeke: "So, all along we've been hating on a Princess? A whole entire Royal your Majesty girl? Hhe, hhayi this is mhlol' strue"! Clapping hands.

Nelisiwe: "We are all not sure though about her being the Princess Dabulizizwe said that she will reveal everything once the prince gets here".

Thembeke: "We are sure that Nobuntu is a princess. Do you even know who the Prince is"?

Gina: "It's Zweli obviously".

Thembeke: "No maarn Gina. Have you completed school mara wena? I doubt you even reached grade 9 because awukwazi ukicinga tu tu tu, your mind is just... Wuhhh, haikhona you defeat me"!

Emma: "If Zweli is not the Prince then who is"?

Gina: "It is mos def not Mnqobi too, I refuse to believe it"! Thembeke laughs, and the others look at her because Gina didn't crack a joke.

Emma: "What's funny"?

Thembeke: "If Gina is this worked up by what Dabulizizwe said, Imagine how much more is she going to get worked up if everything is revealed? I'm sure she is going to die while alive"!

Laughing, and clapping hands. "I don't know how I will comfort you once everything is revealed, but a black strong cup of coffee will do".

Gina: "I will not need any comforting because Dabulizizwe will say otherwise, and for your information I doubt you've even completed grade 12 because wawu you are S for Stupit, mind the 't' at the end". Thembeke laughs, and walks out.

Emma: "Thembeke really enjoy seeing you getting all worked up. Enhlek, why are you worked up vele about this revelation?"

If she's royalty then she's royalty, or maybe you know something but not telling us. What do you know”?

Gina: “It's just that Nobuntu doesn't strike me as a Princess it's just absurd”.

Zelda: “I get what you mean, but we have bigger things to focus on”.

Nelisiwe: “Like what Zelda”?

Zelda: “Like Nobuntu confronting us because of attempting to steal her wine since sis we fainting lying next to you decided to snitch on us, I don't even know why she mentioned us she is plain stupid”! She groans, and throws herself on the couch and blows some air.

Emma: "I don't think she will confront us with everything that's going on. Now, the family is going to love her more, and treat her with more respect, and possibly offer to wash her feet".

Gina: "That would be stupid of them to tell you the truth, anyway enough about this royalty talk I'm hungry I need some food, phela we are not Nobuntu people won't just bring us food randomly we have to do it ourselves".

Nelisiwe: "That will mean dishing up for everyone, no, thank you. I'd rather wash the carpets than dishing up for all of those people out there". Belinda wakes up feeling some type of way, her head is spinning she doesn't remember how she passed out.

"Damn. Headache. How much did we have to drink"? She looks around only to find the girls staring at her.

Nelisiwe: "Haibo wenja! Drink what because you've caused us two flipping wine bottle your attempt to steal the wine failed. Imagine if you were attempting to steal it at a store liquor?"

Wuhhh, you would probably be in jail by now, uyi dizasta wena. No. Uyi failed heist"! The others laugh, and Belinda clicks her tongue.

Emma: "You won't believe what I am about to tell you Belinda, but I'm not sure if you are ready to hear this because you will faint again, anyway let me jus..." / she is cut short when she hears drums beating outside, and someone shouting...

"Sekaseduze"! They all look at each other, that can only be the Prince they all run outside to confirm if their suspicions are true or not, and as suspected the initiates are already at the gate about to welcome the Prince.

Mqobi is surprised to see so many cars parked on the street as he drives slowly towards Nkanyiso home. He thought he was

going to find few cars since the actual ceremony is tomorrow, but to his surprise he finds too many cars, as he continues to drive further he sees many people standing outside, more like waiting for his arrival. His car comes into a halt he takes out

his phone, and decides to call Nkanyiso whose phone rings unanswered.

“Dammit Nkanyiso answer your phone”! He yells to absolutely no one. He tries again, and still Nkanyiso is unreachable.

“Maybe he is busy let me try Ziyanda”. He punches his numbers, and Ziyanda answers his phone.

“Mnqobi”.

Mnqobi: “What's going on man? Why are there so many cars parked outside your yard”?

Ziyanda: “You will find out for yourself we are still shocked about what was said few minutes ago. Man, you are not ready for this come inside”. He hangs up.

“What am I not ready for? Argh, let me just go, and see what's cooking”. He asks himself as he steps out of his car taking his weekend bag with, his car is parked 5 houses away from Nkanyiso's home. He walks towards Nkanyiso's house whistling

minding his own, as he approaches Nkanyiso's home 2 initiates run towards him, and drop to their knees as they get to him, and claps hands. What the hell? He looks at them confused as the initiates stands up, and pull him by his hand. He attempts to wiggle out of their grip, but they ain't budging.

“Bayede wena Wase bukhosini”! Everyone says to him bowing their heads, he looks at everyone hoping that Leon Schuster will come out from where his hiding, and shout “you have been shucked”, but nothing. Dabulizizwe stands before him. What I didn't tell you though is that Mngqobi has a phobia of snakes, and him seeing a Python looking at him makes him tremble with fear.

“Waze wafika dala sikulindile. Ngilandele. I have a story to narrate”. (We've been long waiting for you. Follow me) They walk to where the Dube family is seated. Dabulizizwe points him to sit next to Nobuntu who still looks out of it. The big 5 whispers amongst themselves when they see Mngqobi settling next to Nobuntu.

Emma: “Mnqobi is Nobuntu's brother? But how? This doesn't make any sense”.

Thembeke: “Why asking the obvious? They were both produced by the same egg, I hope it makes sense”.

Emma: “Mxm. You are such a bore wena Thembeke. In fact, you are irritating”.

Thembeke: “Tell me something I don't know wena facka shit”.

Belinda: “Shhhh”. They both look at Belinda, then give each other dirty looks.

Mveli: “Free us from the suspense Dabulizizwe. We've been holding our breaths for far too long I'm sure others here they have bad breath”. She nods, and the others laugh.

Nkanyiso: “Can you kindly please enlighten us how are these two royal descendants. And the last time I checked Mnqobi has

another sister her name is Crecentia. Why is she not present here”?

Dabulizizwe: “Once upon a time at Buhlebezulu village there was a man whose name was Khaphela Nxumalo. He was married to Nangomso Ndawowende. They loved each other so much, but there was only one obstacle that hindered them from living their life in peace. Nangomso was barren

Advertisement

she couldn't bear any children for Khaphela they tried almost every method of how to fall pregnant that's in the book, but nothing helped not even traditional medicine could help them. You know, back then if you couldn't give your husband a child you were considered not woman enough since she was the Queen she received more bashing than the other women of the village who couldn't bear children for their husbands. In fact they've taken them to the village of their own it was considered blasphemy to be a woman in the village, and not bear and children for your husband. The elders and some of the old women from the village suggested that if Nangomso fails to bear Khaphela an heir within 3 months she would be banished from the village because they will not have a Queen who can't

prove that she is woman enough. Or he must allow the King to take a second wife who will bear him an heir, but then it is known that a King must have 2 or more wives.

The pressure was too much for the both of them they just couldn't keep up, even the everyday sex never really helped them. Nangomso even went as far as asking one of the guards to sleep with her, and make her pregnant so that she can be able to save her marriage since it's on a thread. The guard saw how desperate Nangomso & Khaphela were he agreed to sleep with Nangomso. 2 months down the line Nangomso still couldn't fall pregnant, Khaphela was always besides her assuring her that everything will be well. He, too, needed a son desperately he needed an heir someone to be his successor. The final & 3rd month came, and emotions were all over the place. Anyway, it was ruled that Khaphela will have to take another wife, and in this case he took Nangomso's sister Ntombizodwa as his second wife. He didn't want to marry Ntombizodwa he knew how evil she was, and Khaphela even told them that he can even step down to be King if it needs to be, he was willing to sacrifice his Kingship for Nangomso. Nangomso told him not to give it up, but rather take Ntombizodwa as his second wife evil as she is. The same thing happened with Ntombizodwa she also failed to bear him an

heir, the elders even thought that maybe the Ndawonde women are all barren their womb were cursed at some point some villagers thought that maybe the King was the one who can't bear children. The elders ended up deciding that they will not be led by someone who doesn't have any children Khaphela must give the throne to his uncle he refused because he knew how evil his uncle was. But the seer said something which no one was expecting he told everyone that there's only one woman who can bear kids for the King, and that one woman was your mother, Lindiwe. Everyone was shocked by that revelation. Lindiwe used to sew beads for the villagers, and sometimes go to the city to sell them. Nangomso agreed, but Ntombizodwa didn't since your mother was said to be cursed, she was also abused by her family while growing up, especially by your aunt Nompilo exactly like how she was doing with you. Anyway you will know more from her, she will tell you”.

Everyone is listening attentively as Dabulizizwe is narrating the story to them her voice is too bold in a way that everyone who is present hears her too well. You know, how we used to sit, keep quiet and listen to our grandparents telling us stories, that's the setting here.

“The elders went to Nompilo to talk to her about Lindiwe being the 3rd wife for the King, haikhe she agreed without thinking twice. Everything was settled, and 2 months within marriage she fell pregnant with you Mnqobi, everyone was happy with the good news except for Ntombizodwa it became worse 7 months later when your mother gave birth to a boy, an heir of the Buhlebezulu village. She, Nompilo and some of the royal elders came up with a plan of kidnapping you, and throw you in the river so that the river will dump you in another village, but one of the servants heard that, and she went to alert the King and both Queens what Ntombizodwa, and some of the elders want to do. Lindiwe, said that she will take you to stay with her family, but your family refused taking you in. Out of desperation she decided to take you to some woman in the city, and asked her to guard you she will come back for you. Questions arose few days later at the royal house about the Prince's whereabouts since some knew about the evil plans of Ntombizodwa and some of the elders they accused them of stealing you, they were ready to kill them publicly but your mother decided against it, but Ntombizodwa along with the elders were banished from the village. Life went normal, and since the three knew that you are safe they didn't really worry much. 5 years later unfortunately your mother became a victim of rape, he was raped by the one of the elders, and she fell pregnant with your other sister that is not here with us. The

rape traumatized her in a way that she almost lost her mind, and went lunatic but the seer saved her before things became worse. The elder who raped her was found, and he said that he was paid huge money, but he did not say by who then he killed himself in the presence of the royal family. Your mother gave birth to Crecentia, she didn't want her she even refused to breastfeed her let alone hold her in her arms she asked one of the servants to go, and throw her in the river but Nangomso decided that they take her where they took you, and the seer assured them that she will grow to love her. 4 years later your mother fell pregnant again with this rare germ, Nobuntu. Her birth restored the village to what it used to be, even those barren women who had their own village were summoned to come back to the village the god's have given them a second chance. Few days later Nangomso started getting sick, Lindiwe was the one nursing her since Nangomso was also there for her. Nompilo heard the news that the Queen is sick, and came to ask to take Nobuntu just so Lindiwe can focus on nursing Nangomso back to health. The seer ruled against it, he didn't want Nobuntu to go, and stay with Nompilo because he has already seen how her life is going be like when she gets there. Nompilo asked Khethiwe to go there on her behalf”

“Whoa, whoa Khethiwe? Which Khethiwe”? Nobuntu asks as she tries to process the narration.

“Khethiwe. Khethiwe the Queen of Buhlebezulu village”.

Nobuntu: “What? But why”?

Mnqobi: “Allow her to finish talking”. Nobuntu nods. “You may continue”.

“Lindiwe denied giving Khethiwe Nobuntu, they were not best of friends after all. Why would Khethiwe all of a sudden offers to help with looking after Nobuntu? I will not dwell much regarding that issue Khethiwe will confess what she did before you, and how the King along with the seer disappeared. The Queen later died of Cancer. A certain Ncumisa came to fetch Nobuntu, and dumped her at Nompilo's house. That too, Nompilo & Ncumisa will confess before you. Everyone who have wronged you will be confessing their deed before you”. Wawu, she burps.

“Kwamele niyolanda iNkosi kanye no Seer ngentla yomfula wase Zithobele. Iyakhala iNkosi ilangazelele ukubona izingane

ne Nkosikazazi yakhe. Iyagodola ngale, idinga ukubuyiselwa ekhaya kanye nesithunzi sakhe. Nobuntu ayuwubona umfula wase Zithobele emthandazweni wakho, wena Mnqobi uyazibona izindlu zase Zithobele. Hambani nolanda u yise wenu nizokwazi ukuvusa I Buhelebezulu village hlanganisani amakhanda enu. Nkanyiso, uyawazi umzila okumele kuhambe ngawo uyawubona emaphupheni akho anikahlangananga nge phutha nino Nobuntu, amadlozi wenu adlale indima yawo kini nobabili. Hambani nolanda iNkosi kanye ne seer babuyiseni ekhaya". (You must go, and fetch the King and the seer at Zithobele village. The King is wailing he longs to see his children, and his wife. He is cold that side he needs to be brought back home, and to be given his dignity back. Nobuntu, you do see the river in your prayer's. Mnqobi, you do see the houses beyond the Zithobele river. Go, and fetch your father so that you can rebuild Buhlebezulu village to how it used be, find a way forward. Nkanyiso, you know the route that leads to Zithobele river you also see it in your dreams. You, meeting up with Nobuntu is not a mistake, both your ancestors played their role regarding the two of you. Go, and fetch the king and the seer bring them home) she is Dabulizizwe now not the storyteller.

"Bayede nina basebukhosini". (Hail to the royals) Slindile says bowing her head, and the others follows. Gina passes out.

Thembeke: “Haiké, and she has started with the drama.

Ziyanda, your wife just passed out”.

Ziyanda: “Uyalunga”. (It serves her right) while everyone is trying to process what Dabulizizwe said, Amanda gets inside the yard screaming, and pulling Sambulo's hand.

“Bewungafuni ngani ukuletha ingane la? Ubusabani”? (Why didn't you want to bring the child here? What are you afraid of?) Amanda just shakes her head as she kneels before Dabulizizwe.

Amanda: “He is here I've brought him. He is he here”.

Dabulizizwe: “Ubani uyise walengane”? (Who is the Father of this child)

Amanda: “Nkanyiso”.

Dabulizizwe: “Ubani ubaba wale ngane ntombazana ungangithukuthelisi”! The Python slides off her shoulders.

Amanda: “Mbuso! His Father is Mbuso”. They gasp

Nkanyiso: “What”?

“And why didn't you tell me? You were trying to win my brother's heart again using my son”? He drops his bag. They all turn to look only to find Mbuso standing behind them, he looks much better than how they last saw him, but he is most def angry...

What happens in the dark, always comes out in the light. Where to from here?

63

MNQOBI

We are now chilling in my car trying to process all that Dabulizizwe revealed to us. It's all just too much to take in. The sign's were there, yes. But I did not really pay attention to them that's just how me & Nobuntu are. We ignore those important signs, well at least there is some light at the end of the tunnel we now know where our father is. Also finding out that my mother was raped and Crecentia is the product of it makes me feel some type of way, I cannot even begin to imagine how my mother felt during the whole ordeal. I'm sure she was crying, and pleading with her rapist to stop, but he ignored her cries. How did the rapist feel when he heard my mother pleading with him to stop? And he decided to take the coward way, and killed himself without even saying he was sent by whom. I have no doubt that it was this Ntombizodwa woman that Dabulizizwe kept on mentioning her name, from what Dabulizizwe said about her she sounds like an evil person. I wonder where is she right now, and doesn't she ever regret doing what she did? Is she suffering wherever she is? If only I can find her I have so many questions to ask her, lots of questions that needs to be answered by her. But in all of what my mother went through I'm just glad that my father was with her through it all, supporting her, he is a real man indeed. Ncumisa? Hehehe, now I understand why my mother doesn't

want anything to do with her family. All along I thought that she was the one who rejected them, and ran away from home but no, instead her family is the one who drove her away. They are the ones who actually rejected her, they even rejected me when I was just a baby. I wonder why did they do that, yet Ncumisa told me that my mother ran away without any reason, but she knew the truth, she knew why my mother did not want anything to do with them, such an evil woman along with the rest of the family. It also explains as to why she was leaving us with people she never really knew, she was doing all of it because she loves us. But with Crecentia it was different, well at least she grew to love her at some point, and accepted her after all Crecentia didn't do anything.

“Mnqobi”.

“Yes”.

Her: “How do you feel about all of this”?

Me: “I don't know how I feel sis, I feel like I'm dreaming, and someone is going to pinch me, and wake me up telling me that is all just a dream. You? How do you feel”?

Her: “I feel like a princess wena Mngqobi. Kidding. I am still shocked, but relieved at the same time. We now know the truth, well half of it. But I am truly happy that we will finally have a sense of belonging, and finally know our father”.

Me: “Yeah, that. I can't believe that Zweli is not a Prince of Buhlebezulu village he is just a commoner, a whole commoner Nobuntu”. She laughs.

Her: “And to think that he used to brag about being a Prince, but no. Bradas is just a commoner married to me, a princess. It's funny how they've been mistreating me in my own home, in my Father's house knowing very well that they are commoners, especially Khethiwe like yazini ndi shooket. It also answers my question as to why my grandmother/aunt didn't want me to get married to the Prince. She knew the truth, she was scared that I will find out things that were meant to be kept secret,

but she forgot that God works in mysterious ways. Whatever happens in the dark will always come out in the light”.

Me: “I can't wait to see his face when he receives the news that you are a Princess. I'm sure he will die, and wake up 3 days later plus he was very arrogant, and boastful thinking that he was going to be King forever, Kanty, no he is just a commoner. Why did you even agree to marry a commoner like him? You have no taste marrn, sies”. We both laugh.

Her: “I was drugged in my sleep. But truly speaking my heart bleeds for your mother yazi, she doesn't deserve what she went through. No woman deserves to be raped, but I hope her rapist is being poked by Satan's flaming fork there in hell. And to think that he didn't even enjoy the money paid to him, mxm whoever paid him will be found shame, and dealt with. I have to give it to her though she is a strong woman”.

Me: “She is indeed. But there's something I don't understand, if you were the one who restored the village back to what it was before, and refused giving you to Nompilo. Why does she hate you? I mean, you did nothing”. She sighs.

Her: "I don't think she hates me deliberately according to what Dabulizizwe said it seems like she used to love me. I mean, if

she really did hate me she would've just given me to Nompilo without thinking twice, I honestly think that they did something for her to hate me. Maybe someone went to a traditional healer, and did some stuff for her to hate me. Also remember that Ncumisa is the one who actually took me, and dumped me at Nompilo's house there is no way that your mother wouldn't notice that I was not around, and not look for me. They definitely did something to her, trust me on this". She might be on to something. No sane mother wakes up the next morning hating her child for no apparent reason whereas she went to bed happy with her. There is no way, they definitely did something to her to hate Nobuntu. If that's the case why didn't they make her hate us too? This doesn't make any sense. Why did I not think of that though? Haike, my mother sure did hate her I don't know about now though since it seems like she has a change of heart towards her. Or maybe whatever they did to her has finally worn off? Hmmm. There is a possibility.

Me: “You might be right yazi we have a lot to do, but first step is finding our father and the seer then fix Buhlebezulu village”. She laughs. “What's funny”?

Her: “What are we going to fix there? Did you see how the place looked like the time we were there? It was soil all over

the place, and few trees without leaves. How are we going to fix that”?

Me: “Well, we can always build rondavels, and every yard will have a borehole for water, and maybe 2 JoJo tanks when they run out of water. We will do a lot maarn, it won't be easy, but we will do it”.

Her: “That's a good plan, and I was also thinking that we build a school once we have enough funds to better the life of youth villagers. Education is very important you know, who knows maybe in future we might have doctors, lawyers, and police from Buhlebezulu village? We need to make a change, we must give the community something to be proud of. I want the next generation to embrace the beauty of Buhlebezulu village, and

be equipped with education, I actually want to do a lot for Buhlebezulu village. I know that I will not do everything at once, that's a fact, but I will push hard”.

Me: “You have big dreams for that village that's a good thing. Now, the problem is where are we going to get people? Especially those who used to stay there”?

Her: “Don't worry about that I know just a way on how we are going to find them. All we need to do now is to focus on finding our Father. When are we going to fetch him”?

Me: “Tuesday. I was going to say Monday, but then I remembered that Lindiwe invited me over, she said she wants to talk to me about something important”.

Her: “We will go Tuesday afternoon because I'm writing in the morning”.

Me: "It's fine. Another thing, Lindiwe said I must come with you". She sighs, and looks at me.

Her: "I will think about it".

Me: "Don't you want to hear her side of the story? Maybe she wants to tell you why she hates you. Please, just come and hear what she has to say. Do it for me if not for her. You will find your answers".

Her: "Fine. I will only go because of you".

Me: "The royal title finally got to your head I see". She laughs.

Her: "I am practising how to behave as a Princess. Or I can always be like Gina

Advertisement

and pass out just to get some attention".

Me: “That one is too much of a drama Queen. Why did she faint vele”?

Her: “Because she heard that I'm a Princess, but then I liked Ziyanda's response. He said it like he doesn't care about her. I hope that she will now stay away from me, and stop fighting Amanda's battles”.

Him: “Speaking of Amanda. Did she really think that she can dribble the underground gang”? She laughs.

Her: “She was taking chances. I am just glad that I will no longer be dealing with her, and Mbuso's come back was really a surprise come back”.

Me: “A weekend of revelation. Our lives will never be the same after this”.

Her: “Clearly, but I will still have my Nkanyiso”.

Me: “And you had to ruin our talk by mentioning your boyfriend. What did this boy feed you”?

Her: “Do you really want know”?

Me: “No”. She chuckles.

Her: “Thought as much let's go, and join the others”.

Me: “Aren't you tired of the hailing”?

Her: “I am. But what choice do we have? We are here to support Nkanyiso”.

Me: “Mveli better start budgeting now for your Lobola in fact, he must start by selling his house in order for him to pay Lobola for you”. We both laugh as we get off my car walking to the yard.

★»★«

NKANYISO

I am chilling with my dad, and my brothers in the lounge just like everyone else we are also trying to process the bomb of Iraq that was dropped on us. None of us expected such revelation, especially on my side. And for the fact that

Dabulizizwe said that I know the route of where Nobuntu's father is really shocked me, because I always saw that route in my dreams, but I never told anyone about it since I thought it was only a dream, but no, there was something behind the dream. Learning that Nobuntu is a princess really shook me people, even my bones became stiff nina. I mean, hello I am dating a Princess a whole flippen Princess. I can't wait to see Zweli's face when they break the news to him. Hhe, he will not want to show his face as for Khethiwe yena she would be washing Nobuntu's feet, I can picture it all. And Mbuso's arrival was not expected, but what I can tell you though is that he is a new different person he is more humble now I wonder what happened in America that humbled him like this. I don't want to lie, it hurts a little knowing that I am not Sambulo's Father after so much Father & son bond we had it hurts, but I am still his uncle, and I love him the same. Amanda was really determined to get me back. Imagine if I chose her & Sambulo over Nobuntu, what would be becoming of me now? I would've been probably be a laughingstock, and not having the love of my life. Yoh.

“Thatha nawu mqhele nesihlalo sakho Nkanyiso”. (Take your crown, and your throne) I look at him, and look back at the TV. “I can't believe that I am going to be a father-in-law of a

Princess. Me Mvelinqangi Dube. Do you know what this means”?

Mbuso: “Tell us baba we don't know what it means”.

Him: “This means that I will be driven everywhere I want to go something of which you boys never do for me ever since you were born. I, too, will be treated like a King I'm sure it's nice to have people bowing before you, and calling you your Majesty, hhayi maarn it gives that thing you know. Boys, we are in-laws with royalty you must start being on your behaviour all the time, and don't I mean don't tarnish our image by embarrassing us in public. We have a high standard to maintain now”. Me, and the boys look at each other, and giggles. “People here better start calling me your Majesty, and roll out a white carpet

for me to walk on”. I can't hold it in any more, I burst out with laughter, and the guys followed.

Ziyanda: “Dad, you need to tone it down maarn”.

Him: "Tone down what? You want me to hide that I'm a Father-in-law of a Princess? I will not do it, people from this neighbourhood will know me very well dala basinyaza. We are levelling up now. Okay, jokes aside. Nkanyiso, please take care of this girl I liked her the very first time you showed me her picture there was something about her that I saw. She is nothing like any of the Dube wives she is a rare gem. Please protect her & support her at all times. I know you've messed up in the past, but this time around don't do that same mistake. I understand that we all learn from our mistakes, but some people tend to repeat the same mistake twice, and regret again. Don't repeat what you did in the past. That includes all of you boys. Make wise decision, but before you decided think 'STOP- Stop, think, observe, and proceed. You are adults now, and you know that actions comes with consequences start making wise decisions".

Ziyanda: "We hear you dad. Thank you for the words of encouragement we will always cherish them".

Him: "Another thing; don't bring your wife when we go to the village. We don't want her fainting seeking attention like she did earlier on, because we will ignore her, and continue greeting our people like the royals we are. Hhayi Mfana wami,

your wife has drama for days”. He stands up. “Mbuso. Welcome back home son again. You were missed, now let me leave you boys to catch up”. He walks out leaving us.

Mbuso: “Thanks God. Your dad can be too much maarn, I mean sure is acting like a royal elder. Did you see his walk”? We all burst out with laughter.

Nkosi: “Walk of royalty. We will never hear the end of this, like ever”.

Ziyanda: “At least we are not staying with him we won't get to hear him talking about royalty, it's boring now”.

Me: “Tell me about it”. We continue chatting about random things njee...



NOBUNTU

The door opens, and the ladies step in laughing, but their smile disappear as soon as their eyes lands on me, honestly I don't care about them. Amanda is with them too.

“Hi”. Thembeka is the one greeting.

“Hello”. I respond, and continue eating. They settle down, but Gina heads straight to the bedroom clicking her tongue loud enough for me to hear. Mxm, as if I care about her.

Emma: “What a hectic evening it was. Some people really go through a lot out there, it was eye-opening”.

Thembeka: “The weekend of revelation. And wena Amanda, how could you test the underground gang like that? Why did you lie about Nkanyiso being Sambulo's father? Or you had hopes that once you tell him that the child is his he will take you back, hhe you are really drunk moghel. Don't you know that a baby doesn't keep a man? Even if, Sambulo was his child he was still going to choose a Princess”.

Nelisiwe: “Stop it Thembeke. Can't we talk about anything else”?

Me: “How about we talk about why were you stealing my wine”? They all look at me, and not say a thing. I don't think they will tell me why they were stealing it. “Talkhani or you are currently deaf”?

Thembeke: “We were thirsty, and we had no wine So, Emma suggested that we take some wine from your bag since she saw them. Well, we were going to pay them back though”.

Me: “You better pay me now, and clean up the carpet. What was so hard in asking me nicely to borrow you wine”.

Nelisiwe: “We don't like you, so we did not see any reason to borrow wine from you”. I laugh.

Me: “And you think I care whether you like me, or not? I don't care sisi. In fact, you know what you can go, and take three

bottles of wine because I can see it in your lips that you are thirsty, and don't pay it back. Take it as a gift from me to you”.

Her: “We are not your charity case we will not take your wines”.

Me: “Suit yourselves then”. I don't have time to entertain them, I wonder if Crecentia knows that she is a product of rape? I do not even want to imagine how she will react to the news once they break them to her, and I also don't wish to present, but I don't think they must tell her yazi, not while she is still hospitalized phela anything can happen to her, eish this is bad. But may she be strong once they break the news to her... Khethiwe! Your day is near...

64

NKANYISO

The weekend is over, Sambulo's ceremony went well him & Mbuso have clicked already, they are indeed portraying a Father & son relationship. Amanda, is just not in aligned with all of this that's happening I guess a part of her really wanted Sambulo to be mine, I wished that too but life has a manual of its own. One day I will have a mini me. And I hope that Sambulo will not forget all that I did for him as his uncle, I've played my part as his uncle.

“Don't worry bro one day that will be you with your little royal rascals. I know how fond you were of him”. Ziyanda tells me this putting his hand on my shoulder. I laugh, and slightly punch him in his arm.

“I know man. One day indeed”.

Him: “What a weekend it was, yazi I did not expect it to turn out the way it did. A lot was revealed, but the Royal revelation was the one that shocked us all”.

Me: “That one I can see. But Gina being Ntombizodwa's daughter I never saw it coming. At all”.

Him: “That was indeed a real shocker”. Oh, yes Dabulizizwe revealed that Gina is Ntombizodwa's daughter, of which came as a shock to everyone since she said that Ntombizodwa couldn't bear kids for the King. Questions arose, we've been asking each other “but how”?. Anyway, Dabulizizwe clarified that for us she said their wombs together with Nangomso's were closed by their ancestors since they were not the chosen ones for the King, of which means they both come from a royal, but Ntombizodwa was adopted by Nangomso's family since they were friends, and she didn't really have a family after her parents passing. I hope I make sense, because if not then Wawu. When Ntombizodwa was banished from the village she went to stay in another village, and that's when she fell pregnant with Gina I guess that village was advanced in terms of education and stuff because Ziyanda & Gina met in university, and coming to think of it Gina never spoke about her family kahle kahle we don't know her roots of which makes me wonder who were those “uncle” who took the Lobola money when the elders went to pay Lobola for her.

Me: "Speaking of this Gina issue. Who exactly were those uncles who took the Lobola money if her mother stays in the village"?

Him: "I don't know man. I think she bribed them to be her uncles I will have to ask her, and she better tell me the truth".

Me: "She will tell you the truth if she really loves you, if not then she is not the right woman for you".

Him: "But I love her man I really do, but she must also tell me the truth about her real identity maybe her name is not even Gina, maybe ke Evelina". I laugh.

Me: "Tholukuthi yhey".

Him: "Then there's your father Smiso. Hhayi, that old man is too much especially with this royal thing. Your 'highness' your 'majesty'. He now demands respect".

Me: "That time there's a long way to go before we are officially royalty, sibe phakathi within the bows, and walking on the red carpet". We burst out with laughter.

Him: "Just like Father we are going to enter Buhlebezulu village in style with that signature walk of his". Laughing.

Me: "They are not ready for us. Here goes your Father with his royalty walk I'm sure he is going to brag to the uncles again". We laugh.

Him: "We will never hear the end of this"!

Me: "That's why we are leaving tonight because we will be eating Royal this royal that". He laughs.

Him: "Why not leave tomorrow"?

Me: "I have a lot of things to do before Monday".

Him: "Like having sex with your woman"?

Me: "Man what? No. There are other things that are important more than sex".

Him: "HmMMM, if you say so brother. Let's go, and confront Gina".

Me: "I don't think that's a good idea for you to confront her alone. Why don't you call a family meeting, and ask her with the elders present other than asking her on your own she might lie to you, and knowing you- you will believe her she is your wife after all"?

Him: "You have a point there, let me go, and talk to dad plus he is with the elders". He walks away, and Mngobi comes and join me.

"In-law".

Me: “Yes, in-law”.

Him: “Asjike la estolo I'm craving for a bunny chow”.

Me: “Let's go”. I get up from my chair, and we walk out of the yard going to the shop. I, too, I'm craving for a peri-peri bunny chow with some Heineken. We get to Mama Z fast food joint it's just 5 houses away from mine. We order our Bunny chows, and move aside making space available for the other customers. Someone taps me on my shoulder, I turn to look and it's Simphiwe my childhood ex-girlfriend she hasn't changed one bit.

“Hey Nkanyiso”. She greets me with a big smile plastered on her face, and attempts to hug me, but I stop her, and step aside.

“Hello, and no hugging please”. She gasps.

Her: “Urh...m. Wow. Okay. How have you been”? She folds her arms.

Me: “Good”. She nods.

Her: “You know when I heard that you were around I was hoping that you would come, and see me”.

Me: “Come and see you? Why would I do that? You & I are nothing Simphiwe”.

Her: “Yeah, I guess. But we shared a lot together, and you were my first and there's a saying that says ‘You never forget your first’ guess I didn't forget you”. I laugh.

Me: “That time I've long forgotten about your existence, and I've even forgotten that I was your first”.

Her: “Oh, wow. Th... You've changed... A lot, urh... Okay. So, how has life been treating you”?

Me: “Yoh, hhayi sisi. Life is treating me good, thank you”.

Her: “I...”. I cut her short.

Me: “I am not really in the mood to exchange words with you please do what you came here to do, and leave me alone”.

Mnqobi chuckles. She looks at Mnqobi, then at me.

Her: “Sorry for being a nuisance, bye”. She turns on her feet, and walk away with a tail in between her legs I don't know what tail though.

Mnqobi: “There was no need for you to be rude to her Nkanyiso”.

Me: “I had every right to be rude to her, trust me on this one, or else she wouldn't have left if I continued entertaining

her she would've continued bringing up the past, nxa sies".
He nods, and laughs.

Him: "I hope we won't be bumping in to more of your ex's because wawu".

Me: "I know how to deal with them. Tell me here; do you think a wedding band will make my left second finger cute"? He looks at me for few seconds then laughs.

Him: "If it means your ex's not approaching you then I'm game. So, are you going to engage yourself or what"? Hai, kanty how is this man. We both burst out with laughter. He is such a fool...

★»★«

NOBUNTU

There atmosphere in this room is very tense. Ku H Hektik. The big 5 are really going through the most shame after finding out that their 3rd sister wife is that evil woman's daughter that Dabulizizwe was talking about turned their backs on her. They are sitting in the bedroom while She, is sitting with me here in the lounge looking outside the window her legs are shaking, and

tears welling up her eyes. It seems like she was hiding this secret all along, she was actually living a life of lies because when Dabulizizwe pointed her and told her to tell everyone who was present the truth about whom she really is, she didn't, she denied she said she doesn't know what truth is Dabulizizwe is talking about, erh. And I quote what Dabulizizwe said;

“Young woman. Who is your mother”? Pointing Gina while the snake was busy hissing.

“My mother died”. Her voice was trembling.

Dabulizizwe: “Where is your mother”! She startled.

Her: “Graveyard. Tha... That's where she is at”.
Dabulizizwe shook her head.

Dabulizizwe: “Unamanga”! Roaring. “Your mother is still alive, and living in Kwashushu village her name is Ntombizodwa

Ndawonde sister to Nangomso Ndawonde, but her rightful surname by birth is Ntshangase. Nginamanga yini”? Haike

Advertisement

she started shaking, and did what she knows best “passing out” just because she didn't want to confirm if what Dabulizizwe said was true, or what. Hha, une drama lo sis.

Nangomso's family took her in when her parents died in a car accident, and her family did not want to take her in since she was a rebellious child. One of the elders advised Nangomso's father to take her in since she was best of friends with

Nangomso, and Nangomso's mother was very fond her. They grew up known as sisters by the community they even attended school & university together, so yeah that's how it all happened. But I still don't know why Gina hates me this much, it's bigger than her fighting Amanda's battles on her behalf, there's a heavy reason as to why she hates me this much, argh such a bore she is. There's a knock at the door I wonder who is it, I attend to it and its Ziyanda.

“Your highness”. He slightly bows his head, and I laugh.

“Ave uphapha. Here to see the wife”?

Him: “Yeah, actually the elders are requesting her presence”.
I look at Gina then him.

Me: “Come on in”. I step aside as he gets inside the room.

Him: “Babe, the elders are requesting for your presence in the lounge”. She just looks at him tears streaming down her cheeks. “Why are you crying now”?

Me: “Let me give you two some space”.

Him: “No. You are not going anywhere, Gina needs to pull herself together, and come and explain to the family who she really is and where does she come from exactly. She has a lot of explaining to do to the family, she lied to us about her identity”.
He releases a deep breath, then look at Gina. “Gina, if you still

want our marriage to work, then you will pull yourself together, and grace my family with your presence with immediate effect”. He looks at her shaking his head then walk out banging the door behind him. Gina stands up wiping her tears.

“It's now or never”. She says to herself more like whispering, but I heard her. She pulls down her dress, then she walks out. I hear some whispering behind me it can only be the big 5, argh. My phone rings, and it's Snikelelo.

“Ngwana”.

“Hey babe, how are you”?

Me: “I'm good love. You”?

Her: “I'm not good, but I will be. I'm back sweets want to grab a cup of coffee with muffins”?

Me: "I would love too, but unfortunately I'm not around I'm at the in-laws".

Her: "Such a bummer. I hope they are not slaving you there".
I laugh.

Me: "Not at all babe, don't worry".

Her: "Alright. Please do let me know when you are back I have a lot to share with you. Anyway, let me try Modiegi maybe she might squeeze me in- in her plans. Bye, I love you".

Me: "Pass my greetings to her, and I love you too". Hanging up.
Someone claps hands behind me, I mentally roll my eyes.

"I knew that you were too good to be true. Who was that you were talking too"? Emma asks me folding her arms before me.

Me: “How is that any of your business? Didn't your parents teach you some manners not to eavesdrop in other people's conversation? You lack some manners you little sanaMabish. Next time learn to mind your own business, and stop stealing things that don't belong to you. Wena uyi yonke lento. A stealer, a gossip, enhlek you are a mess yasis. Get out of my face you disgust me, nxa”. She gapes not believing that I just said that. “In your face babe”. Thembeke peeps through the door laughing.

“Uyaphapha. They served you your manners on a silver platter”. Emma is fuming with anger, she flares her nose then walk back to the bedroom in defeat. Thembeke is busy laughing at her. Sighs, I am so over this weekend I need my comfortable space. I wonder what's going on in the house, Hmmm...

★»★«

MNQOBI

5 minutes later Gina still hasn't said a thing she is busy playing with her fingers looking down, her legs shaking.

“Hhey sisi we don't have the whole day. Talk”! Uncle Ben.

“Hhayi ke angisazi mina. Ziyanda, talk to your woman before I bash her head with this knobkierie”. Uncle Sthembiso.

Ziyanda: “Gina. Please tell us the truth. Tell us who you really are”.

Mveli: “And don't forget to tell us who those men were that took the Lobola money on your behalf. Yerrr, you bribe old men to pretend to be your uncles? No wonder you faint so much it's because of your lies, they are choke slamming you. They finally caught up with you girly. Now, talk”. She still ain't saying anything, this is frustrating honestly.

Ben: “Haike. This needs Dabulizizwe's Python to squeeze the truth out of you. In fact, Nkosikhona go and get her for us I want the Python to crush the truth out of Gina. She has done

did making us fools, we gave strangers lot of money, and for what? I should've known that there was something wrong with

those old wrinkled faced men when they charged us that hefty amount, Yerrr. I feel robbed”. Mveli laughs, a not so usual laugh of his. We all look at him surprised.

Him: “This will be my Royal laughter going forward. And stop lying Ben. You were very kind enough to give them the money because you already had your eyes on that fake Aunt of hers, you wanted to shoot your shot, but she politely rejected you. Sisi, you are wasting our time start singing”. My phone rings.

“Please excuse me”. I get up from my seat, and walk outside to answer whoever is calling me I am about to answer when my phone stops ringing. Let me see who was calling, it was Snikelelo I wonder why was she calling if it's important she will call me again. I'm about to get inside the house when my phone rings.

“Snikelelo”. I walk back outside. She is sniffing. “Snikelelo. Are you okay? What's wrong”?

“I'm sorry”. She hangs up. I try calling her again, but she ain't answering my calls let me call Modiegi maybe she knows

something her phone too rings unanswered, maybe she is busy. Now what? I try calling Snikelelo again, and this time she answers.

Me: “Thanks God. I was so worried. What's going on? Why were you crying”? She breaks down over the phone, and she is hiccuping. “Talk to me Snikelelo, what's going on? Why are you crying”?

Her: “I'm sorry. She's gone”. She continues to cry.

Me: “Who is gone”?

Her: “Modiegi. Modiegi passed on. He k...”. I don't even wait for her to finish talking, I've already cut the call I run to the room where Nobuntu is, I push the door and I find her sipping on some wine. She puts the glass down as soon as she sees the state I'm in, my mind is going crazy my head feels like it's about to explode.

“Yini Mnqobi? Talk to me”. The big 5 comes out of the bedroom. I kick the couch groaning in defeat. “Yini Mnqobi! Talk to me”! She is on her feet now.

Me: “We need to go now Nobuntu. Pack your things”!

Her: “You can't just order me around Mnqobi. Talk to me what's going on”!

Me: “It's... It's Modiegi. She passed on”.

Her: “What? What happened”? She is already stuffing her things in her suitcase one of the Big 5 brought it for her.

Me: “We will find out once we get home”. I walk out of the room leaving her packing. I get inside the house, and they are still forcing Gina to talk. “Apologies my elders, but I need to get going something happened back at home. I really need to go, I'm taking Nobuntu with”. I tell them all this already walking out I can hear

footsteps behind me that could only be Nkanyiso. Nobuntu gets inside the house to bid her farewell to the elders.

They will follow me behind me, but then once I get there what am I going to do? Dammit! I've failed her, I've failed to protect her. I should've told her sooner how I felt about her, now it's too late. She is gone I will never get to see her pretty smile that always brightened out the room giving the room that warm feeling. I will never get to hear her blessed voice singing me a lullaby... Heaven has gained itself an angel, I allow my tears to fall freely. Heaven really couldn't wait for you...

65

NOBUNTU

Snikelelo sent us Modiegi's home address that's where she said we will find them (church members) I've also been keeping in touch with Mngqobi making sure that he is okay, especially after the way he has been driving. He was driving like a madman, but by the grace of God he arrived safely I can see his car already parked here, I wonder what happened to Modiegi. We step out of the car soon as Snikelelo sees me she gets up from her chair, and walk towards me, I pull her into a tight embrace as she gets to me she lets it all out. I hush her.

“Let it all out babe. Cry as much as you can”. Nkanyiso kisses my cheek, and excuse himself. People are going in & out of the yard offering their condolences, and a loud piercing cry breaks out from inside the house. It better be not her mother because she sold her to that old abusive deacon I wouldn't be surprised if he's the one who killed Modiegi in cold blood Modiegi portrayed him as a monster after all.

“She's gone Nobuntu. He killed her that bastard killed her. He stabbed her multiple times, then killed himself too. You

should've seen her wounds Nobuntu, they were so deep. He killed her after chopping off her tongue”. I widen my eyes.

Me: “What? How evil can he be, yet he was a very respected deacon in your church, talk about a wolf in a sheep clothing. Who found her body”?

Her: “I did, and that's not all. Let's go, and sit down so that I tell you everything I am still traumatized”. We walk to where

she was sitting, and we settle down, I greet the other fellow church members. “Water or juice”?

Me: “None. I'm fine, thank you”. She nods.

Her: “So, after calling you I called her, but her phone was ringing unanswered then I decided to drive there. I get there, and knock but no one is answering, yet the kitchen door was slightly open. The thing about where they stay is that the houses are far apart you basically can't hear what's happening next door no matter how much you scream, I don't even know why John the deacon decided to stay there whereas he has a big house in the location. Anyway, I pushed the door wide

open, and invited myself in I called her name still there was no response, since I knew where her room is I went to it, and when I saw her body lying there covered in a blanket I quickly rushed to her. I removed the blankets, when I saw how her body looks like everything came out I threw up everything that I ate. The scene was sickening, but I had to be brave. Her body had stabbed wounds, her heart was taken out, her breasts were cut off, her throat was slithered, and when I inspected her lower body the were needles on top of her vagina and some black

powder smeared around her vaginal walls. I think a ritual took place, but what shocked me more is the fact that there was no blood. Then I went to check on John deacon's study, and I found him dead a bottle containing red liquid inside it was found next to him, I called the police who then called the ambulance". Wawu, so fakha deacon John amputated her? Sies. But why? Wait, why didn't Snikelelo see this coming? She is a prophetess right? She should've seen it coming, or maybe her prophecy is selective? Hhayi, let me just ask her. Now, this brings me to the church as a whole; what exactly are they practising because to me this seems like they practice evil rituals, ke Satanism fela.

Me: "That's pure evil Snikelelo. May he burn in hell! Kanty wena, didn't you see her death since you are a prophetess"? She sighs.

Her: "Nope. God, didn't reveal anything to me. But one of the prayer warriors did foresee her death, and he did tell Modiegi, and told her to move out of that house and save herself because she is going to die a painful death, the sad thing about it is that he only told her this morning, not knowing that it was already too late. Modiegi's death have already been approved by the man above".

Me: “Wawu. Sometimes I really don't understand how God works yazi, I mean. Why would he allow one of the powerful prayer warriors to die like this”?

Her: “God knew us before we were born. So, he is the one who also know when we are going to die, the is no disputing that. All we got to do is accept, heal, and move on even though it will take time as they say ‘time heals all wounds”. Does it really? I think TF not...

Me: “Was John a ritualist, or what”?

Her: “I don't know, or maybe the devil used him phela they were in love”. I shake my head, I guess Modiegi didn't tell her what goes behind the scenes. She was convinced by the final product Modiegi displayed before them.

Me: “Haike, if you say so. But I still think that you must dig deep about your church maarn there's something offish by all of this. What did the elders of the church say? The pastor”?

Her: “They said nothing other than saying ‘RIP’. The pastor is too traumatized he is still trying to process it all. And there is nothing offish about that church, God wouldn't have led me there if there was something off about it. So, please Nobuntu. There's nothing offish about the church”/

Me: “Fine. But there is something offish about your church leaders ke, after all a church is just a building there's nothing offish about it, but the occupiers of it”.

Her: “Stop accusing the church leaders about things you have no proof of you might find yourself in hot water”. Mxm...

Me: “I still say dig deep about this church of yours, and stop being ignorant like me. I am one ignorant woman even if the signs are in my face I still ignore them don't be like me. Just try, you might be surprised about what you find, excuse me”. I get up from the chair, and go and look for Mngqobi I find him talking with some fellow church members Nkanyiso is right next to him, I greet them, and they greet back. Mngqobi's eyes are bloodshot red he must've cried too much shame.

“She is gone sis she is really gone. I should've saved her Nobuntu, I should've protected her, but I've failed”.

Me: “You did not fail. She, too, is partly to be blamed she should've spoken out sooner, but then God does his own thing the way he sees fit if he wanted you to save her he would've allowed you too, but nope. His will is done, what you need to do now is to accept that she is gone, she is dead and has gained a seat next to God in heaven. What if she was asking God to take her life, and spare her the pain she goes through every day whenever she was praying”? He sighs, and shrugs.

Him: “Maybe she was you will never know. But it hurts little one it's like someone smashed my heart with a hammer”. Hhayi ke, such exaggeration. “I wonder how did John feel when he was doing all that evil ritual to her. Didn't he have a conscience? Did he enjoy hearing her screaming, and begging him for her life? Begging him to stop? The worst part about it is, how do you rip someone's heart whilst alive? Where did he take her private parts? What was going on through his mind when he did all that”? I honestly don't know how to answer

him because no sane person would do what deacon John did, or maybe he was high on something

Advertisement

or possessed by the evil. Mxm, what am I saying? He was evil himself.

Me: "It's truly sad hey".

Him: "Seeing her mother broken like that it's saddening, she has been crying ever since they told her the news she is really devastated". I laugh so loud for everyone to hear me. Mnqobi, and his fellow church members stare at me wondering as to why am I laughing.

Me: "Which mother? The very same mother who sold her to deacon John when she was just 15 years old? The very same mother who rejected her, and told her to bekezela and obey her husband at all cost when she came crying to her? The very same woman who told her not to tell anyone about her marital affairs, but bottle them up? She is not a mother she is a monster! She better stop with the fake tears because she

killed her own daughter, she sent straight to a lion's den. I hope she chokes on her tears, RHA! Sies maarn". I turn to walk away when I see a woman standing at the door with her hand covering her mouth, its Modiegi's mother she is her mother's daughter indeed they look too identical, like they are twins. "Nkanyiso you will find me in the car". I walk away not looking at anyone. How dare she cry whereas she's the one who sent her daughter straight to the devil himself? May God rain thunder on her.

★»★«

MNQOBI

After the bomb Nobuntu threw at everyone shocked them all except me, since I know what she did. One of the church woman walk up to her I don't even know her name because she never frequent church, she comes once in a blue moon.

“Masello. Is it all true? What that young girl said was it all true? And please don't lie”. She asks her calmly. Masello just look at her, and not say a thing all she does is crying. “Masello, is it all true? If you don't want to tell me, in fact, all of us here I guess

you will tell the Judges at court”. She let's out a loud sob, and drops to the floor.

“Your acting skill won't help you Masello. Tell us the truth. Maybe I will finally find out why you always refused me talking to Modiegi all in the name of ‘she is a married woman’. You didn't want anyone at church to talk to her, yini? Were you scared that she was going to tell us everything? Were you protecting your own reputation at the expense of your daughter's emotional & physical pain? In fact, why didn't the

women committee detect that something was wrong with Modiegi”? Mam'Sibeko asks her. We are all waiting for her to answer, this feels like Déjà Vu to me. Exactly like Gina not saying anything I wonder if she finally told them the truth, or what.

“I'm so...rry”. That's all she says.

Woman 1: “You are sorry? Sorry for what exactly? Will your sorry bring Modiegi back? Will it”? She shakes her head. “You are one evil one Masello. Why did you sell your daughter to an old man like John”?

Mam'Sibeko: “She won't answer you. We will deal with her after her daughter's burial. You will know us well Masello after the funeral”!

“I... I was paying off a debt”. Everyone diverts their attention to her as she says these words, finally she is talking. “A debt that we took years back. We (her, and her husband) were financially stranded, our house was on a verge of being repossessed, we basically had nothing since my husband invested all our savings

to some containers company everything seemed legit about it. We waited, and waited for the company to contact us, but they never did, when we did some follow up we found that the company was a scam it no longer existed. There were a lot of us who were scammed, since it was a losing battle we decided to let the issue go. We did fine for the couple of days, but then things started to take an unexpected u-turn. My husband tried borrowing money from the bank, but they refused giving us. So, my husband's friend introduced us to John Mashiane (the deacon). We borrowed money from him, and we told him that we will pay him back with interest once our business that we wanted to start picked up, but that business crumbled before it can even pick up. Haike, we didn't know how we were going to pay him back since we didn't have any income". She takes a deep breath, and look up trying to push her tears back.

Woman: "Someone please bring her a glass of water". One of the young girls hurries to the kitchen to get water for her.

Her: "My husband went to plead with him to give us few more months, and we will pay him back. He understood and told us to come and fellowship with him at their church, we didn't see a problem with that I was convinced that he was a good man

since he invited us to church, and didn't demand his money". The girl comes back with the water, and gives it to her. "Thank you". She takes few sips. "3 years down the line he started demanding his money, and we told him that we still don't have it. Yoh, he started being aggressive Modiegi was already 15 by then, but she was not attending the church with us she was attending somewhere else. He demanded that Modiegi come and join us at the church she can't go to a separate church whilst we as her parents are churching at his church. Aike, we agreed kanty he had something else in my mind. Since we couldn't pay him, he said that we must pay him by giving him Modiegi to be his wife once she reaches 30..."

"Yhey! Kwenzakalani la? Why are you surrounding my wife as if they are slaughtering a cow? Move. Move away from my wife"!

Modiegi's dad roars all the way from the gate. Masello quickly stands up, and hurries to the house. It's like she's scared of her husband, or I might be wrong. "My wife is supposed to be mourning for our daughter, and you are busy surrounding her? How dare you accuse my wife of killing Modiegi? Her only daughter, how dare you? I want all of you out of my yard at this instant"! No one moves. "Oh, okay. Wait here I'm coming". He quickly dashes inside the house.

“This is not good let me leave”. Comments one. Hhayi ke, then Modiegi's father shows up at the door with a gun in his hand. He rings two shots in the air, and we all scatter in different directions. Yeerrr, this man just when we were about to reach the climax of the story he had to come, and ruin it. I wonder who called/told him that we are gathered in his yard, but we were not accusing his wife of killing Modiegi we just wanted answers, and to pay our condolences. There's a fire here, sighs...

★»★«

NKANYISO

When we got home Nobuntu went straight to take a bath, and I am here catching up on soccer. Ziyanda also keeps on updating me about Gina's confession, according to him she still hasn't said anything that makes sense she is beating around the bush, and knowing my uncle's they will stick around even crossnight if it needs too until she confesses they are patient like that. I just don't understand why is she being hard-headed, it's not as if like Dabulizizwe told us anything.

“I am so angry. Can we order in”? She settles next to me.

“What do you feel like eating? Because as for me I'm craving for something light”.

Her: “Something light”?

Me: “Yes. Pizza or burger”.

Her: "And here I was thinking that we are going to order at Z & B hangout joint I'm craving for pap & meat if I wasn't lazy I was going to cook".

Me: "I'll order a pizza for myself, and pap & meat for you. So, are you ready for tomorrow's exam"?

Her: "Not really. But I will be tomorrow". We both laugh.

Me: "Are you going to Modiegi's tomorrow after your exam"?

Her: "Nope. I am not going I also have a lot to deal with, like finding my Father. I feel like this is some distraction you know".

Me: "Distraction"?

Her: "Yes. Look, just yesterday Mngqobi was telling me that his mother wants to see the both of us tomorrow I don't even

know about what. Then, Tuesday we are supposed to go to Zithobele river to search for our Father and the seer, then bring them home plus we don't know how many hours drive is it to that Zithobele river. So, if we spend our days at Modiegi's it will hinder us from going on a search of my Father. Next week will be too far for me, I've suffered a lot, so njer I need that breakthrough wabona. I don't mind Mngqobi attending he was her crush or vice versa after all, Snikelelo will also be there which means they are standing in for me too”.

Me: “I guess you are right. You are really eager to find your father ne”?

Her: “You have no idea, since my mother rejected me I hope that he won't reject me too, he will give me the love I deserve, at least I will have someone to cry too nawunginyela”. I laugh.

Me: “Mxm uyaphapha wena. But I have no doubt that your father will love & accept you. I am willing to take this journey with you”.

Her: “Is not as if like you have a choice, you are stuck with me forever”. We both laugh.

Me: “Let me order for us then, and after this I will help you with studying. What are you writing tomorrow”?

Her: “Pharmaceutical Practice”.

Me: "I guess I won't be getting some sex tonight, chai this is not fair". She laughs.

Her: "You will be strong babe. Let me go, and make us hot chocolate while you order for us".

Me: "Hamba nes'shwapa".

Her: "Hhe, let me not say anything I might regret, and uzoswaba". She gets up, and she disappears to the kitchen...

66

MNQOBI

I've taken some day off at work just to mourn Modiegi's death even though her father made sure that we as church members don't step inside his yard, if it was up to him he wouldn't even allow family members to be present, but then family is family. I really need to talk to Snikelelo, maybe she knows something because I've tried talking with the other prayer warriors, but they all dismiss me claiming that they don't know anything. The last guy who wanted the history of the Church ended up

disappearing. No one knows where is he, they said I should keep quiet and strengthen my faith with God. But how does one strengthen their faith in God when the Church hides secrets? Why don't they want anyone to know about the history of the church? I just hope that Snikelelo will be brave enough to tell me anything she knows about the church. There is no way that everyone in that church doesn't know what's going on, they can't all turn a blind eye to the Church's history. My phone rings, and it's Nobuntu. Sighs, I hope she is not calling me to remind me about going to see my mother today I am not going there...

“Little bear”.

“Hey, big bear. How are you holding up”?

Me: “I'm pulling through”.

Her: “I've called to confirm if are we still going to see your mother today”? I sigh. Just as I've predicted...

Me: “No. I'll be going to Modiegi's home”.

Her: “Didn't you say that Modiegi's father doesn't want you in his yard, and he chased you out with a gun yesterday”?

Me: “He did”.

Her: “Then why are you forcing things? Why force to go there”?

Me: “Because she was my church mate, and we have to go and pay our condolences to her family”.

Her: “Oh, I see. RIP to you, and your fellow church mates in advance because Modiegi's Father will bomb all of you this time around. Anyway, about tomorrow are we still on seeing that today won't be a success”? I sigh. “Don't answer, I already got my answer. But just to let you know me & Nkanyiso are going to the Zithobele river tomorrow morning”.

Me: “Can't we postpone it, and go there after Modiegi's funeral”?

Her: “Unfortunately we can't. Time waits for no man, and as Dabulizizwe said; our father is yearning for us, he is longing to see us. He is cold & lost there, and needs to be brought home. You can stay here, and mourn for your crush or whatever she was. Goodbye”. She hangs up before I can reply her back, dammit. Now, I'm caught in between a rock and a hard place. I really do want to go, and fetch my Father, and on the other hand supporting the church mates in mourning Modiegi's death. She also had a special place in my heart, but I still want to know what my mother want to tell us I also have to dig

about the church history. I have a lot on my plate currently, and they all need my attention I'm still undecided, hopefully before this day ends I would've made up my mind.

“I'm sure that coffee is frozen now”. Snikelelo says settling next to me. She spent the night here, after she woke me up at 00:50am knocking on my window claiming that she couldn't sleep, her soul is restless, and her heart is too heavy for her to even pray. I allowed her in, and she cried in my arms I think it

was by that time it was when Modiegi's death sunk into her that she is really gone. She cried until she fell asleep, I let her sleep on the couch.

Me: "I have a lot on my mind". Her eyes are swollen.

Her: "Want to off load"?

Me: "No. Coffee"?

Her: "Yes. 3 teaspoons of coffee, no sugar no milk".

Me: "What? That's too much caffeine for one person".

Her: "It calms me down when I'm stressed, nervous and broken. I can't really believe that she is gone, you know what's more funny is that I was always with her, but I never saw that she was unhappy or something was wrong with her. She was forever smiling, or maybe I was fooled by her smile? But why would John kill her? He should've freed her if he wasn't happy with her any more".

Me: “What exactly is going on in that church? Why do they allow paedophile marriages? Why allow young girls to get married to those old men? It's sickening if it wasn't that Modiegi would still be alive now. But no, your church elders turned a blind eye to all of this I blame the church”. She shakes her head.

Her: “No one knows except certain elders how the church works, especially when it comes to marriages on minors and grown-ups”.

Me: “So no one actually cares or is interested as to why is this marrying of minor's to these grown-ups in church a norm. They actually don't care as long as they praise God, right”?

Her: “You sound like your sister right now. Stop accusing the church of things you have no proof of Mnqobi just stop meddling”!

Me: "I will not stop meddling I will dig until I find out the truth about the practices practised in that church I can't believe that all of you are that blind to see that there's something wrong with your church, or you are all just plain ignorant".

Her: "Don't dig about the church history Mnqobi. Trust me you don't want to go that route, it's not worth it losing a life because of a church history. Please Mnqobi, it's really not worth it don't send yourself to the Lion's den". I laugh.

Me: "It is worth me losing my life I was not led to that Church for no apparent reason there's something I need to fulfil there, there's something that needs me. You are all just lost sheep's you need to find yourselves again".

Her: "You were led to that Church to strengthen your relationship with God not to dig about things that don't concern you. It never ends well, they tried but failed. They are not known where they are, yini? Do you also want to be part of the statistic of those who tried digging the Church history but only for them to disappear and never to be seen again"?

Me: "I am not THEM. I am MngqobiYempi. And for your information they won't come for me I am protected by God's heavenly armour, so let them try me. Ask Bab'Dlamini he knows me better once I call the God's name he trembles in fear he now knows better than to come for me don't worry yourself about me, and why are you so defensive about the Church? What are you hiding because I'm quite sure that you know something, but don't want to say what is, but it's fine I will find out myself". She sighs.

Her: "Those people are evil Mngqobi. And I am not being defensive I just don't want you end up disappearing like all those previous men who thought they were smart just like you, but if that's how you feel then it's okay. It's your life after all, not mine".

Me: "It is my life indeed. Modiegi deserves justice, and I will give it to her even if it means the Church hating me it's fine. I am going to do what I was brought for you've been living in darkness for a while now, it's like you are all blinded maarn".

Her: “Do whatever rocks your boat Mnqobi it's your choice after all, and I hope you've prepared your family for your burial”.

Me: “The way you keep on talking about me not making it out alive in all my digging about your Church practices, and how defensive you are about me it baffles me in a way. Or are you maybe the one killing those men who dig information about the church? Are you also part of the evil those senior of yours practice”? She gasps, in total shock. You guys can't blame me from asking her such questions the way she is so defensive about the church makes me question her, ai.

Her: “Wh... Ho... How could you accuse me of such Mnqobi”!
She is fuming.

Me: “It's just the way you are defending your church your behaviour it's questionable Snikelelo, yet you are a prophetess. It's either they brainwashed you, or you are part of their evil dealings”.

Her: "Go to hell Mnqobi! I am trying to save you here, okay? Do you want to die"?

Me: "There goes that 'dying' word again, and I don't need your saving Snikelelo, if I die while digging the truth about your church then let it be. At least I would die in peace knowing that I've saved a lot of lives. Excuse me". I get up from the chair, and she just stands there with tears filling her eyes. I really don't understand why is Snikelelo defending her church like this, now more than ever I'm convinced that there is definitely something evil that the church practice. But now where will I even begin? Which direction will I take? This is frustrating honestly. Sighs.

"Prayer. You can start by praying and ask for guidance". The inner voice says to me. I kneel down...

"Dear Go...". The door creaks open. What is she doing here, I open my eyes and I find her standing before me tears streaming down her cheeks, sighs. I get up from the floor. "I thought you left". She shakes her head.

Her: "I couldn't". Sniffs.

Me: "Why not"?

Her: "Because you've hurt me with your words. You've accused me of things you have no idea of".

Me: "What was I supposed to do? You are so defensive about this church of yours Snikelelo you can't blame me, if you don't have anything more to say you may leave I will see you later at Modiegi's home hopefully today his father won't chase us like he did yesterday". She nods.

Her: "I understand. Not all that glitters is gold, we are also survivors because we decided to be cowards, and not soldier on".

Me: Well, I am not a coward".

Her: "I know. The wound is still there, it becomes painful at times, but I am healing. I wish you luck in your digging quest, may you come out a survivor don't allow the Devil to win. Find Bishop Nhlanzi he will tell you everything you need to know, and be careful. Do it for the church. Save us all". Kissing my forehead then walks out of my praying room. What just happened? Did she also try to dig, and didn't succeed since she is talking about cowards and stuff? With God by my side I will fear no evil

Advertisement

he will lead the way, and protect me until I come out with the truth...

★»★»

NOBUNTU

Haike, the exam was written very well I have no doubts that I've aced it squad, having a boyfriend who studied the same course as you has to be one of the best feelings ever, if it wasn't for I'm sure as hell I was going to do bad. Anyway, today I decided to go and see Lindiwe, and hear what she has to say I hope she won't chase me out like she did the last time Nkanyiso will be

accompanying me, right now I'm waiting for him to come and fetch me, and he is running late.

“Hello”. I turn to look, and it's some girl I've never seen her around here.

“Hi”.

Her: “I'm sorry to bother you, but are you waiting for someone? I can always drop you off”. My blood becomes cold instantly, something is definitely wrong with this girl.

Me: “I am waiting for my boyfriend”.

Her: “Come on girl. I don't bite maarn”.

Me: “Why are so eager to give me a lift? Who sent you”? I'm now facing her looking her straight in the eyes. Her eyes dart around ignoring meeting my gaze at all cost. “Who sent you”? Hissing. I can spot Nkanyiso's car approaching us, and the car that was standing not far from us screech its tires, and drive off

in a bolt speed I caught a glimpse of a woman with blonde hair. I turn to look for the girl I was talking too, and she, too, is gone. Erh, I wonder who is she, and what did they want from me, funny enough I'm not scared of which is rather strange if it was

the old me I would've probably fainted. Nkanyiso steps out of his car and hurries towards me.

“Are you okay”? He asks examining me.

Me: “I'm okay Elami”.

Him: “Who was that who drove so fast when I was approaching”? I shrug.

Me: “I don't know, but it was a woman with long blonde hair”.

Him: “The only woman I know with a blonde hair is Dr Pastel, but that's not her. car”.

Me: “Mxm. Maybe she disguised herself, but what did she want from me? Next time she should send someone who is clever, and doesn't crack under pressure”. He laughs.

Him: “Hopefully next time she will send someone more clever. I will also find out what she wanted from you”.

Me: “Don't bother yourself Elami she will be dealt with accordingly”.

Him: “I wonder by whom”.

Few hours later we are parked outside Lindiwe's gate, it looks quiet though there is no activity taking place maybe she is not around she went to see Crecentia at the hospital. I should've just asked Mngqobi to call her on my behalf, and tell her that I'll be coming here, but since I am here now I can't turn back.

Him' “Are you ready”?

Me: “Yes, I'm ready”.

Him: "Are you sure you don't want me to come with"?

Me: "I need to do this on my own Elami I owe it to myself".

Him: "Okay. Scream so loud if she attempts to do something to you, neh"?

Me: "I will". I step out of the car, and walk towards the gate, and it is not locked I make my way inside the yard, and walk until I reach the door, here goes nothing. Hoping for some normal welcome. I knock 3x and the door creaks open. Her look is not so welcoming, but I don't care.

"Where is Mnqobi"?

Me: "He is busy somewhere".

Her: "I thought I made it clear that I want the both of you here".

Me: “And I am saying that he is busy. So, I decided to come alone and hear what is it that you wanted to say”.

Her: “Nothing that concerns you. Next time come with Mngqobi, and not alone”.

Me: “Why do you hate me so much”? She chuckles.

Her: Me? Hate you? Oh, no sweetie don't flatter yourself, you are not worth it to be hated by me”.

Me: “Oh, okay if you so”.

Her: “Next time come with Mngqobi, and maybe then we can have a decent talk, for now you can leave. Tell Mngqobi to call me”.

Me: “Unfortunately, there won't be a next time you won't see me here, ever. Today was a free day for me, but since you want to talk to me in your own time you can tell Mnqobi whatever you wanted to say on my behalf”.

Her: “Whether you come or not it won't really make any difference Nobuntu, you don't really matter to me”.

Me: “Another reason why I am going to fetch my father I'm sure he will give me the parental love I've been lacking all my life”. She chokes on absolutely nothing, and composes herself.

Her: “Your father? Do you even know who your father is”?

Me: “Khaphela Nxumalo former King of Buhlebezulu village, a Father to me & Mnqobi. So, yes. I know who my father is Lindiwe. I know who your husband is, as I've told you, you can tell Mnqobi whatever you wanted to tell me. Goodbye Lindiwe”. I turn, and walk away. Argh, shame if she thinks that I

will beg her she has another thing coming, wuhhh never shame. But then I should've just came with Mngqobi to hear what she wanted to say, but finding my Father is more important right now.

“Nobuntu wait”. I stop on my tracks, and turn to look at her she is standing before me. “Ho... How did you know? Who told you? Is he still alive? Where is he now”? Sighs.

Me: “Dabuliziwe, and yes he is still alive, and he is residing at Zithobele river”.

Her: “Oh my God. Please bring him home safe for me”.

Me: “For you? Oh no, Lindiwe. I am fetching him for my own sanity, and for me to have a sense of belonging. Hopefully he will accept me as his daughter, and give me all the love I deserve. The love I never got to experience, or feel”. Tears start filling her eyes.

Her: “Nobuntu. Whatever happens don't tell him how I've been treating you, please”. I chuckle.

Me: “I won't have time to bad mouth you, we will be busy rebuilding Buhlebezulu village, and getting to know each other better as Father & daughter we won't have time njer. Goodbye,

and speedy recovery to Crecentia”. I walk away leaving her pleading with me to listen to her, I just ignore her till I'm out of the yard. This should be her lesson, and I won't tell my Father about how she rejected me we will be starting on a clean slate, hopefully she will learn to love me as times goes by, and accept me as her daughter. Now, my main worry is Crecentia I hope she won't be affected by all of this, she is going through a lot currently I don't think she can handle another burden, more especially being a child of rape part, yoh it will be too much for her.

“How did it go? And why is she crying”? Nkanyiso asks me as I settle in.

Me: “She still doesn't want me, and I don't know why she is crying maybe she is hungry”. He laughs.

Him: “You are full of jokes”.

Me: “You are still here? Drive before she screams for neighbours to hear her”.

Him: “Hhe asazi. Are we still passing by the mall”?

Me: “Yes, we are phela we have a long trip ahead”.

Him: “It's a good thing that you know how to drive, we will give each other chances”.

Me: “Hmmm, if you say so”. I lean back, and look out the window I wonder how will they receive our visit there at Zithobele river...

We've been on the road for over 10 hours now circling in one place with no direction, we've been coming along just fine I don't know what happened, and now we can't even turn back we are stuck in this god forbidden place. We are even running out of food Nobuntu wants something to eat every now & then, but I don't blame her because I'm also hungry it's like I haven't eaten in days and our beverages taste somehow, sighs. I think us coming here was a bad Idea. Nobuntu is eating next to me without a care in the world, I bring my car to a halt because wawu this is Merry-go-round.

“Been wondering why are you busy driving in one place going in circles and not stopping because wawu this is a joke. A whole LMAO! Mara Elami are you sure that you took a right route”?

“I swear to God this is the route I always saw in my dreams Elami, now I don't know what's happening”. Sighs.

Her: “Let's wait until the sun rises, what time is it”?

Me: "18:00pm".

Her: "What? Tell me that you are joking"!

Me: "I am not".

Her: "But how because we left Jo'burg at 14:00pm, and we've on the road for more than 10 hours, and you tell me that its just 18:00pm? It feels like a decade honestly, we are even running out of food Elami. Coming here was such a bad idea, haikhona this is not normal".

Me: "Tell me about it, and you are right about us coming here it is a bad idea indeed. Now we are stuck we have nowhere to go, we can't even seem to find the way that we came with here, let me try making a call hopefully someone will come to our rescue. I take out my phone, and great there's no network coverage! "No network coverage. We are stuck".

Her: "This is bad, at least tell me that it's 18:10pm or anything above that". I look at the time, and laugh. This is fucken insane, someone is really doing us dirty. "And"?

Me: "You won't believe me, or maybe it's my phone check the time with yours because there's definitely something wrong with mine". She takes her phone from the dashboard, she chokes on her snacks when she's sees the time.

Her: "Oh hell no! Tell me that this is joke, because I refuse to believe this. It can't be 18:01 angeke Elami". This is starting to freak me out truth be told, I'm scared I don't want to lie you. I am even afraid to step out of this car to go, and pee, yet I'm too pressed I really need to release before I wet my seat. "Elami, are you okay"? She asks with so much concern in her voice I get her though because I'm busy wiggling my legs, and shifting uncomfortable in my seat.

Me: "I'm pressed, and I... Actually you know what, never mind I will survive".

Her: "It's okay if you are scared to go out Elami because I am too. So, how about you kneel on your seat and slightly open the door, and release yourself". I laugh.

Me: "Your ideas can be stupid at times, but I will take this one because I don't have a choice or else I will release myself here". She laughs.

Her: "Imagine riding with a man who still wet himself old as he is"? We both burst out with laughter.

Me: "Ave unya ngomlomo wakho. Anyway, let me go ahead with your stupid idea. I kneel on the seat, and she is busy laughing she sees all of this as a joke... Thanks, God I'm free now, I adjust my pants, and sit back down. "Thanks it helped. What to do now"? She sighs, and shrugs.

Her: "You know what? Let's go I'll drive hopefully me driving we will find a way out".

Me: “Good idea”. We swap seats. She brings the engine to life, and off we drive. I hope we will find a way out now, God better come through for us. Nobuntu brings the car to a stop abruptly, and screams. I look at the front window since I was leaning my head against the passengers window with my head slightly thrown back. My legs started to shake when I see short people with gruesome faces, and sharp fangs with vast noses, and short spears dripping blood dancing before the car looking straight at us blood dripping from the heads, my stomach tightens at the sight. Nobuntu clings on my arm for dear life, and buries her face on my shoulder. I feel the car slowly going up leaving the ground, I scream too joining Nobuntu. The windows are being scratched by sharp fingers as they make a loud heart piercing noise that makes me deaf for few seconds. These short people start shaking the car and it sways left–right. Now we are flying really high, we are still screaming I have never been this scared in my whole life, but ke if I die I will die with Nobuntu next to me that would really make my soul rest in peace. I see flames from a distance, a raging fire that is I guess that's where they are taking us. They are going to throw us in the fire.

“Elami”. Shaking her lightly, she shakes her head as a sign that she doesn't want to see any of this. “They are going to throw us

in the fire babe, look”. She slowly lifts her head, and take one glance and buries her face on my shoulders again. “I love you no matter what happens, always remember that but the most important thing is that we will die in each other's arms”. She shakes her head, and lifts it up.

Her: “Dying no Elami we are not dying. We still have a lot to do in life, and a lot to achieve we are not going to die we will get out of this alive”. The trees start making creepy sounds as we are now approaching the roaring fire, Nobuntu looks at the fire as it goes up in flames. There are short people dancing around it, and there are also human bodies placed in line on the ground, some are alive as I can see that they are fighting to free themselves, while some are dead. The car is being pushed further and further to the creepy looking location, the trees continue to whoosh sharply I don't know if they are happy about us being brought here or what, this is why I don't like watching horror movies they scare the living daylight out of me. A horn is blown, and the short one who are surrounding the fire gets up from the ground and raise their short swords. I really don't know why am I still looking at this creepy sight, my eyes just can't move away from all this scene I look at Nobuntu, and her eyes are glued to the scene too, she is trembling with fear, I put my hand on top of hers. You can feel the raging fire

from here, and see the sparkles shooting up like fireworks. I'm beginning to sweat, and so is Nobuntu. The fire is too hot I wonder how hot is it once close by.

“Dear God, please accept our souls we are coming home”.

Nobuntu: “No. We are not going to die, and God please don't accept our souls just yet, or you can accept his not mine”. A very tall man with a wolf face stands up, and all the short men bow... Yes, we are now being put down near the fire. The short men try opening the door, but it ain't budging, they throw bricks but it still ain't budging. The tall man stretches out his hand, and one short man gives him a very huge steel this one will crush our car into pieces. He lifts it up, and he is bringing it down.

“Arizonaaaaaa”! Nobuntu screams so loud, and the car window shatters. The next thing I hear is a sound of an angry roar, then a roaring thunder follows shortly the short men shrieks as the angry waters comes splashing down destroying the raging fire sweeping everything in it's path, while some of the short men try to take cover. My eyes shut close...

★»★«

KHETHIWE

The sun is out to play today, and I decided to take Zweli out for some air he is still the same nothing has changed really, except for the fact he now looks like a skeleton. But he is still my son, I wonder where is Sdumo he is supposed to be here with me, but no I am all alone taking care of our son, who by the way is suffering because of our sins. I hope he is dead or suffering

wherever he is, I also wonder how Nhlakanipho & Buhle are holding up because they are not even trying to keep in touch

with me, when I call they ignore my calls, things are just bad to be honest. I've lost out on a lot, now I do my own things I cook, clean and wash for both me & Zweli I have no one to send from pillar to post, sometimes I go to bed hungry because I run out of food every now & then I'm now a full time beggar, my neighbours are clearly getting annoyed by me. A day never goes by without me going to one of the neighbours to ask for something

that's how poor I've become even my hair is no longer up to standard, my neighbours daughter plait me nakhona u Benny & Betty, plus hairline dololo, as I am busy walking around I spot Nompilo together with her grandchildren sitting under a tree shade, Thakasile looks really skinny and Sanele looks tired I wonder if he is still working or what let me go, and greet them, gogo yena looks like a retired witch. What am I saying? She has always been one, mxm...

“Sanibonani”. They all turn to look at me, and Thakasile diverts her eyes to Zweli who looks semi-dead shocked by what she sees she looks at me with eyes full of pity, Sanele doesn't even care about my presence.

“Yebo”.

Nompilo: “Bengingazi ukuthy nawe uhlala la. Kwenzakaleni ngo Zweli? Sanele, cela uzisele u Khethiwe isihlalo”. (I didn't know that you also live around here. What happened to Zweli? Sanele, please bring a chair for Khethiwe) Sanele gets up from the torn mat, and walks to the hut. Their hut looks better compared to mine.

Me: “Angazi kwenzakalani ngaye uvuke a nje”. (I don't know what's wrong with him he woke up like this). There is no way that I am going to tell her the truth, no way. Sanele comes back with the small chair, and gives it to me.

Her: “Kwaze kwakubi. Seniyile emuntwini we Sintu”?
(That's bad. Did you go and consult?)

Me: “Angina Mali okwamanje”. (I don't have money now)

Her: “Ishonephi imali yakho? Bewunayo iyingqwaba usichomela ngayo la”. (Where did your money disappear too? You had plenty of it making yourself better than us)

Me: “Ishabalele nkathi kwenzeka lesa sgameko lesa se Zulu”. (It disappeared during the rain saga)

Her: “Shame. Bheka manje sewufana nathi uyisihlupheki uhamba ucela ebantwini, kunjani makunje”? (Look now, you are the same as us. You are poor begging for help from the people. Now, how does it feel like)

Me: “Akukho mnandi kodwa impilo iyaqhubeka. Niqhuba njani nina”? (It's not easy, but life goes on. How are you guys holding up)

Her: “Ukuncenga impilo”. (Trying times)

Me: “I see. Nagcina nimtholile u Langelihle”? (Did you eventually manage to find Langelihle)

Her: “Yoh, samothola kodwa wabahlaza kuthina. Futhi uphi yena nje? Akumelanga ngabe u la ulekelela umyeni wakhe”? (We did manage to get hold of her, but she was very rude to us.)

Where is she anyway? Isn't she supposed to be here nursing her husband)

Me: “Ey, angifuni ukukhuluma amanga angimazi ukuthi ukuphi”. (I don't want to lie I don't know where she is).

Thakasile: “Use goli kodwa useqome elinye isoka”. (She is at Jo'burg, and she is dating another man) her grandmother gasps.

Gogo: “Awu kahle Thakasile”. (Behave Thakasile)

Me: “Angimangali yazi kudala ngabona ukuthi uzoba wu nondindwa wase goli”. (I am not surprised I've long foreseen that she was going to be a Jo'burg whore)

Her: “Ukhohlakele makunjalo kanti. Angalandi ukugula le bese uyabhubha uyo ngcwatshwa wubani? Ngizomu ngcwaba njengenja mina”. (She is very cruel if it's like that. She better not catch any sicknesses, then die. Who is going to bury her? I will bury her like a dog)

Me: “Asiyeke ukukhuluma ngaye uyangicika. Besewuvile ukuthi I Buhlebezulu village iyovuka futhi”? (Lets stop talking about her she annoys me. Did you hear that Buhlebezulu village will rise again) she laughs.

Her: “Awukahle ngokudlala Khethiwe iyovuswa yini ngoba akunalutho lapha”? (Stop playing. What's going to make it rise again because there's nothing there)

Me: “Angazi kodwa nami ngicebisiwe”. (I don't know, but someone told me in passing)

Her: “Haike. Soke sibone Khethiwe. Lo ufuna ukuyivusa uzabe azichithela isikhathi sakhe”. (We shall see. Who ever wants to rebuild it will be wasting their time)

Me: “Injalo”. (It's like that)

Her: “Itiye”? (Tea)

Me: “Ngigalithokozela kakhulu”. (I would be grateful) yoh, I don't know when last did I drink tea I can never say no to free tea, at least they can still drink tea.

Her: “Thakasile, hambo yenzela u Khethiwe itiye umphathele nama khekhe”. (Go, and make tea for Khethiwe, and bring her some cakes too) wawu, they even have cakes something of which I don't have, they are living much better than me, far better. Who would've known?



NOBUNTU

My head feels heavy it's like someone was placing brick's on top of it and my eyes are heavy too. Yoh, what happened

mara. I slowly open my eyes, and the light blinds me I close my eyes, and look on my left then open them again. The first thing I notice is a wooden chair with grass on top of it, I scan my eyes around, and I'm unfamiliar with this room I quickly get up, and sit on my butt taking it all in. Where am I? What happened to me? Nkanyiso! I scan around the room, and I don't see him. I get up from the grass bed, and walk towards the door I open it, and the sun is the first one to welcome me by blinding me. Dammit. This place is too quiet I wonder where is everyone, mostly importantly where is Nkanyiso. I sit on the stoep that is next to me... Some girl approaches me I am too lazy to even

stand up and meet her half way all I need is pap & meat with hot chakalaka, and a bottle of Stone ginger.

“I see, you are finally awake. And don't worry your boyfriend is safe, my name is Boitshoko”. I nod.

“What happened? Where is this place”?

Her: “We don't know what happened to you, but our herd boys found you, and your boyfriend lying next to the river. This

is Zithobele village". I snap my eyes open upon hearing the name Zithobele river.

Me: "This is Zithobele village? Like Zithobele village village"?

She nods. "Do you know a certain Khaphela Nxumalo"?

Her: "No. I don't know any Khaphela Nxumalo. Let me take you to your boyfriend".

Me: "Is he far from here"?

Her: "Not really".

Me: "The reason I'm asking is that I'm hungry I don't think I can walk more than 2 minutes". She laughs.

Her: "Your boyfriend did say that you will wake up hungry hence I've cooked before leaving you to rest, come let's get

inside". We stand up, and get inside the house. "You can sit there". She points towards the table, I do as told. And she dishes up for the both of us.

Me: "Thank you". She cooked my favourite, and exactly how I like it pap & chicken livers.

Her: "Your boyfriend said that you love them". I laugh.

Me: "What is it that my boyfriend didn't tell you because he sure did dish up a lot".

Her: "That you are pregnant". I laugh.

Me: "Now that was funny. So, who are you staying with here"?

Her: "I stay with my husband, and 2 kids".

Me: "How old are you"?

Her: "40 years old, and yes I don't look like my age, I look 20 years younger it's just how we are here".

Me: "Wawu, and to think that I saw a little girl when you were approaching me I feel so embarrassed". She laughs.

Her: "Don't be it's understandable". There's a knock at the door. "Come in". The door creaks open, and some boy, no wait let me rather say some man, because you might find out that he is older than I. "Khaya".

Him: "I'm sorry to disturb, but Bab'unknown is requesting the girl's presence". Bab'unknown? Who is that now, and why would he request for my presence?

Her: "Why"?

Him: "I don't know, but he said is urgent".

Her: “We will be right there, thank you for informing us”. He slightly nods, and close the door.

Me: “Who is Bab'unknown now”?

Her: “Some old man who never speaks, and always alone, well not alone he is forever with his friend, but his friend is more active than him we don't even know their names. Let's go, and hear what he wants to say you can come with your food along it's fine”. We both stand up, and exit her house. Now, that I'm half full I can clearly see how beautiful this place is. The grass is green, and the sky is clear blue.

10 minutes later we are at Bab'unknown doorstep. Boitshoko knocks, as soon as the door open our eyes lock, and I am met by Mngobi's replica, he is Mngobi, and Mngobi is him. Well, except for the ears of course, but otherwise he is the older version of Mngobi. He studies me, and pulls me into an embrace I feel my hair getting wet, could it be that he is crying?

“Nobuntu, you have come for me my daughter”. He breaks the hug, and cups my face analysing it once more, and yes he was crying behind him appears the old man I always saw when praying, the seer.

“Hail to the Princess of Buhlebezulu village”. He drops to his knees, and the others follow suit. From a distance I can see Dabulizizwe, and her disciples. They all look happy, they slightly bow and disappear when I turn to face my Father I find everyone kneeled before us, including Nkanyiso, I look at my Father, and he is genuinely smiling... God, I thank you. Now, this is the welcome I've been longing for, I will finally have a sense of belonging...

68

NOBUNTU

We are now sitting around fire with some of the villagers, while the women are cooking a feast, and they've slaughtered 2 cows something of which they've never done according to what my Father told me. What I've realized about the people here is that they are united, too united, and they all look young even the oldies I wonder what's their secret. Being in the presence of

people showing you genuine love is one of the greatest feeling ever, I am so grateful to be amongst such warmth, but more over I'm more happy to be with my Father. Nkanyiso is somewhere around with the men of the village doing Lord knows what. Even at night this place is still beautiful, it is one of the beautiful, and unique village I've ever come across, I am yet to find out how did it come about.

“You are deep in thoughts. What are you thinking about”? My Father asks placing his hand over my shoulder, I look at him, my Father is handsome you guys.

“I'm just admiring this beautiful village. How did you end up living here”? Truly speaking, I don't know how he ended up here nare Dabulizizwe didn't tell us how he disappeared.

“It is indeed a beautiful village, and peaceful too. How I ended up here? I, too, don't know how I ended up here I woke up near the river one sunny day, and found myself here together with the seer. I tried thinking how I ended up here, but nothing came to mind, and so, I gave up trying to figure out how we ended up here in this beautiful village. The seer didn't know how we ended up here, and the gods didn't show him anything.

When we arrived here we were shocked as to why everyone looks 20 if not 30 years younger than their ages there were no old man who used sticks to walk, no person in a wheelchair, or old people being taken care off. No hospital, no hospice, no nothing it was strange, very very strange, and the grass is forever green, the trees always produce fruits, the gardens always and I mean always produce the best vegetables, the river's water is always clear. Anyway, one of the old man from around here took us in together with his wife, and they didn't have any children. We stayed with them for few months until we were built our (seer) own hut by the young men from this village. I was also shocked to learn that there's no Chief here considering the fact that all villages have Chiefs but this one

really shook me, and when we did a follow up we were told that they never had any Chief they are waiting for it. Till today, they are still waiting for the rightful Chief, they said this village will be a new village with a new name, and they won't be around then. Should the new King come they will leave to another village, they are keeping us company until the rise of the new Kingdom". Well... There is a light at the end of the tunnel, my Father will rule again.

Me: “HmMMM, it is a mystery village indeed, and nothing seems normal about it, but I like it- it brings so much calmness, and peace. The man, who took you in, is he still alive”?

Him: “No. Actually I don't know, but we were told that he died, yet we never saw him being buried together with his wife, and what's more strange is that their house disappeared too”.

Okay, now this is weirdly interesting.

Me: “Wawu, so you've never enquired about his burial”?

Him: “I did, but I was told is a mystery only known by them. Anyway, how are things there at Buhlebezulu village”? Sighs, didn't he hear kanty? Oh well, he really didn't.

Me: “Buhlebezulu is no more Baba”.

Him: “What? But why? What happened to it”?

Me: "Rain of terror Baba it destroyed everything, even the royal house".

Him: "Oh, God. That's bad. What happened to my people"?

Me: "I don't know what happened to them Baba. When we went there- there was no one on sight, there was practically nothing Baba only soil remained".

Him: "Oh, God. This is bad I have failed my people Princess I've failed them". I shake my head.

Me: "No. You have not failed them Baba. There's a reason why everything happened the way they did, there is a reason Baba. I mean, even the ancestors allowed everything to happen they did not prevent the misfortune that befell you. What if that was a sign for you to start your own Kingdom"? He shakes his head.

Him: "I don't know Princess. Even if I were to start rebuilding Buhlebezulu village where will I even begin? Where will I get my people? It's no doubt that they've taken shelter in another

villages, but what if they are suffering? Wait, what happened to the King”?

Me: “I don't know Baba. The last time I saw him he was bedridden, he was dead but not dead as in dead, but yes he was dead”. He laughs.

Him: “There's no such thing as dead, but not dead as in dead. It's either his dead, or alive but not doing anything”. I laugh. “Where is his wife”?

Me: “I don't know where Khethiwe is Baba, but I'm su...”.

Him: “Wait, wait. Khethiwe? Which Khethiwe because the Khethiwe I know was just a villager like all the other villagers, and she was happily married, and had kids”.

Me: “Ey Baba, that Khethiwe. She is very evil Baba. She threatened me on my wedding day”. He gasps.

Him: “Whoa, wait. You are married? To whom? And how come you get married without me knowing? And what did your mother say about all of this? How could she allow you to get married without my go ahead”! Okay. He sounds very angry right now, I shouldn't have told him hey, but the damage has already been done why not tell him everything?

Me: “Yes, I'm married to a man who never loved me or appreciated me. Who belittled me together with his girlfriend every chance he got, they made my life a living hell along with their friends. His name is Zweli Khethiwe's son. You mean, your wife right? Because, that woman is not my mother. She wasn't the during my growing up years I only got to know about her few months ago, but either way she threw me out of her house like I'm some random sack of potatoes. She even poured me with water after everything I've been through, I've suffered all

my life Baba, I just wanted her to tell me that everything will be okay she will walk this journey with me, but I was lying. To think I was excited about getting to know her, and I finally have a parent in my life she outright rejected me, and called me a cursed child. I was really shattered by her behaviour, it got to a point where I was hated by everyone, everywhere I go people will be disgusted by me. I got sick to a point of where I thought

that death was the only option. Benginuka Baba, I had worms coming out my body, I was something disgusting. But Nkanyiso

- Mngqobi were with me through it all, especially Nkanyiso. He took care of me smelling & disgusting as I was, he risked losing his job for me Baba. It was breaking my heart seeing him that broken, but he still stood by me Baba. He believed in me, he believed that I will be healed one day, and Mngqobi has been praying for me too. I don't know where I would be if it wasn't for the 2 of them I'm sure I would've given up on life, but they gave me hope that one day I will be healed, and indeed I'm healed. Everything has its own time we just have to patient, I am a living testimony Baba. I've seen God and ancestors pulling me through the pits of evil, prayer works Baba. Look, I can now talk about this without shedding any tears I've healed". I look at him, only to find him wiping his tears.

Him: "I'm sorry I wasn't there to protect you Nobuntu please forgive me". He pulls me into a hug.

Me: "I am not angry at you Baba you did nothing. Now, you can be able to protect me".

Him: "I promise to give you all the love you need Princess, and I promise to protect you with my all, and protect you from this young man who captured your heart". I laugh.

Me: "Yoh Baba, Nkanyiso will never do anything to me, but you should protect him from me".

Him: "Hawu. Why"?

Me: "He is driving me nuts sometimes Baba, but I love him".

Him: "Love is a beautiful thing Princess. Cherish it. Now, where is this husband of yours"?

Me: "I don't know Baba".

Him: "Why don't you divorce him"?

Me: "I did send him divorce papers Baba

Advertisement

but he hasn't brought them back I don't even know if he signed or what”.

Him: “If he knows what's good for him he will sign those papers”. I chuckle. “He better sign them Princess, or else”.

Me: “You will deal with him accordingly”. We both laugh. Someone clears their throat, and it's one of the old man together with all the villagers they look so happy. Nkanyiso pushes through them, and come and settles next to me. How I missed him. The seer is standing next to my Father.

“Our time for us to leave have finally come”. My Father look at him confused.

Him: “What are you saying Mohapi”?

Mohapi: “The Princess and the protector of this village are finally home, and it's time for you, and the seer to take your rightful places as you being the King, and him being the seer of this village. This is your new kingdom, and your new village. Don't worry about the occupants we've sent out a voice to the other villagers to bring forth your people from your old village, they will be here as the sun rises. Rise, and take your rightful place. Nomcebo, Tambira, Elewani & Zakhele please step forward. Three men plus a woman step out from the crowd, they have 2 crowns with, and a cow skin attire with the royal emblem, and a lion skin attire with the tail of it being tied into a very beautiful gold wand. “Nomcebo, give me the crown”. Nomcebo hands him the crown, and he walks towards me. The crown is embedded with a blue sapphire and a white feather on the right side. My heart is beating out of my chest as he stands before me. “Princess Nobuntu”. He smiles. I hope my voice won't fail me.

Me: “Yebo Baba”. My response comes out as a whisper.

Him: “Look at this place”. I look around the place. “This is now your new home you should cherish it with your all, you have greatness within you. I crown you the Princess of Zithobele village”. I kneel down, and he puts the crown on my head, and

covers me with a blue & white cloth. He blesses me, and steps back.

“Bayede”!

Him: “Tambira”. He steps forward, and hands him the lion skin with the wand, and walks towards Nkanyiso who looks out of it, I chuckle & pinch him. He snaps out of his thoughts the others laugh. “Protector Nkanyiso”. He nods. “This village is in your hands. You are the protector of this village the ancestors have chosen you. You were marked from birth that you are supposed to be a protector of this village. They've seen you in work, and they are proud of you, this is your outfit, and this is your spear to protect this village”. He hands them to him, and covers him with the blue & white cloth. A lion roars behind us, we all look and it is a big Lion it settles next to Nkanyiso who looks mad scared. He blesses him too, and step away.

“Bayede”!

Him: “Elewani please step forward”. He steps forward, and gives him the cow skin attire and a royal staff covered in blue & white cloth. “The seer. He who heals without medicine. He whose wisdom is greater than anyone's wisdom. I will not say much about you, but you know your duties, and how powerful your wisdom is”. He hands him his attire, and the staff (rod) then covers him with the blue & White cloth. Same blessing routine. He looks at my Father, and smiles. “Zakhele please step forward”.

Dad: “You are going to tutor me too”? We laugh.

Him: “No. I am just going to crown & bless you”. He laughs. He takes the crown, and my Father kneels before him. “Khaphela Nxumalo. I officially crown you as the Zithobele village King”.

He crowns him, and gives him the royal staff painted in blue & white and covers him with the cloth too. The women start ululating, and giving praises this feels like a dream. White doves fill up the sky as their feathers cover the whole area.

Dad: “My people. It feels good to say this”. Everyone laughs, Nkanyiso pulls me into an embrace and kisses my forehead.

Mohapi: “Let me go, and show you your house. These huts will be occupied by your people, but be warned that those with evil hearts will be rejected, and will not be welcomed here until they cleanse themselves, and confess their sins”. He bows, and walks away, and we follow after him.

Nkanyiso: “Should I wake up first, or wake you up first because all this seems like a dream”. I laugh.

Me: “Whatever happens just don't wake me up, but I am hungry”.

Him: “Haike! Kwasuka lokho”. We both laugh. I wish Mngqobi was here to celebrate this day with us, I can't even call him because I don't know where my phone is. I don't know about Lindiwe though because my Father did not say anything about her...



MNQOBI

My mother called me few hours ago while I was doing some research she sounded very down over the phone I wonder what's wrong with her. I hope it has nothing to do with Crecentia because I don't think I will be able to handle another heartache, Modiegi's death is enough to last me a lifetime, I will go, and see her later since she said is on her way to her friends house. And I still haven't heard from Nobuntu nor Nkanyiso I've been trying to get hold of them, but their phones aren't going through, I hope they arrived safe there by Zithobele village, and have found my

Father. Now more than ever I wish that I went with them, but ke I also have commitments of my own to deal

with this side. I take my car keys from the key rack, and exit the house, and walk to my car... Something just doesn't feel right, or maybe I am just over thinking things. My phone rings, I take it out from my pocket, and it's Snikelelo.

“Kelo”. Unlocking the car.

“Mnqobi, don't step inside your car I foresaw your car burning up in flames while driving, please don't drive your car”.

Me: “Are you sure Snikelelo”?

Her: “100% Mnqobi. Call an uber, and meet me at Tasha's”. She hangs up. I know better than to defy her, she is a prophetess after all. I take out my phone, and call an uber while inspecting my car for any foul play, but I see none. What could possibly burn my car? Nothing. Sighs, 10 minutes later

the uber is not here. I take my car keys, and step inside and roar the engine to life.

“Though I walk through the valley of death I will fear no evil for you are with me”. I repeat the words twice, and drive off playing Kirk Franklin x my life is in your hands when all of a sudden my car smells funny, then it hits me that it must be the smell of petrol. Snap! I look at the time, and Tasha's is 10 minutes away I pray that it carries me until I reach my destination. I hear my tire blasting, I abruptly pull over, and step out of the car immediately I step out it explodes making my ears to go deaf for a couple of seconds. All I do is to watch it going up in flames, but otherwise I thank God for the gift of life that I manage to come of that car fast, my redeemer lives. Snikelelo's car parks before me.

“You don't listen. Get in”. I step inside the car.

Me: “It's a good thing that it exploded here, and not in my yard because my house would've caught fire too, and I didn't want to find myself homeless”. She laughs.

Her: "At least you can think".

Me: "Mxm. What's the destination"?

Her: "We are going to find the truth it's time people knew the truth. We can't be trapped in that church all our lives, and we can't leave that church because once you do they kill you we need our freedom back we need to be free in church, and not pray with heavy hearts. I've brought back up with". And my heart just eased, God I thank you for opening their eyes.

Me: "Thank you for coming through for me I really appreciate it".

Her: "No. Thank you for opening our eyes we were really blinded, Siyabonga". We park outside this big house I guess is Bishop Nhlanzi's house. "Are you ready"?

Me: "I was born ready".

Her: "Let's go". We both step out of the car. "There's some dark Aura hovering this place".

Me: "I got it. Phela I don't fear anything, I fear fokol! I call upon all the seven Archangels of heaven to protect, and walk with us. I call forth Raphael, Gabriel, Michael, and Uriel to watch over us in all four corner's of this yard, I also call forth the heavenly animal Cherub"! I hear wings flapping from a distance. Snikelelo is just looking at me mouth agape. I slightly slap her, and she snaps out of it. "Let's go in". I take her hand, and we walk inside the yard. "Fear not Snikelelo, we are heavenly protected the ancient of days Angel's are with us".

Her: "I Stan your faith. God is indeed with us". We are standing before Bishop Nhlanzi's doorstep I knock twice, and he opens looking really scared, it's no rocket science that Bab'Dlamini is here with someone else.

Me: "Good evening. May we come in"? He nods, and steps aside making way for us. We get in, and yes as predicted Bab'Dlamini is here together with none other than Modiegi's

Father! I chuckle in disbelief. Isn't he supposed to be mourning his daughter's death?

Snikelelo: “Bab'Dlamini. Bab'Malebana”! My eyes dart to the table, and there is a butcher knife, grinder, and body bags, and some powders in 5 different colours.

“Arhhh. Thank you for joining us the party was about to begin”. Bab'Dlamini comments. “Prophetess Snikelelo you never learn my girl. Do you want to die for real now”? He laughs. I can feel Snikelelo shaking in fear next to me.

Bab'Malebana: “Boy, why are you sticking your nose where it doesn't belong, huh? Why are you busy digging things that doesn't involve you? I hope you are covered insurance wise”. He picks up the grinder, and approaches me. I give him a smile, and slightly tilt my head.

Me: “I fear not for my redeemer lives, and again I am heavenly protected I fear nothing. I call forth Angel Raphael”! A very bright light shines through the entire lounge. Bab'Dlamini groans, and falls down changing into a serpent with 3 heads,

and hisses. Bab'Malebana eyes becomes red. “Attack”! I kneel down, and start praying...

68.2

{Good VS Evil Battle}

It won't be long...

{Narrated}

Snikelelo decided to join Mnqobi in prayer, and they are busy praying and God is really doing something within Bab'Nhlanzi's house. Mnqobi snap his eyes open when he feels heat all of a sudden, and he finds that Bab'Malebane has transformed into a scary looking beast more like a devil. He has horns protruding from his head, his eyes are red, he has a spear tail and sharp fangs, and long claws he also has a flaming spear in his left hand he is Satan himself, and he keeps on getting bigger and bigger as he fully transforms to Satan. And Bab'Dlamini is still in his serpent form, but he, too, is growing bigger & bigger, besides them stood some of the old church members who he didn't know when did they come in because he did not see

them I can't believe that almost half of the old church members are also part of this cult it's shocking. The women are wearing red robes, and the men are wearing black robes they have spears with. And the prayer warriors are surrounding the house

in their all white armour with white doves circling around them. Bab'Dlamini roars so loud that the ground shakes, and he breaths fire aiming at Mnqobi, and Snikelelo whose eyes are now fully open shocked by the 2 beasts before her. Mnqobi ducks, and Snikelelo raises up her hands.

“Shield”! She yells, and a transparent canyon covers them. “It will not hold for long with you inside it. You need to go out, and fight Mnqobi this is your battle”. She tells Mnqobi with such urgency in her voice. Mnqobi looks at her, and nods. She creates a passage for him with her hands, and he steps out of the canyon. Romolous laughs and breathes again this time around some of the fire burns the curtain.

“You still have time to surrender to us Mnqobi. You are overpowered”! His voice is deep.

Mnqobi: "I will not surrender"!

Uriel: "This is your battle, and you will conquer it like your name. Defeat Romolous together with Lucifer, and all the evil of this world will disappear the world will be a better place, we

are on standby. Fear not for he is with you". He clasps Mnqobi's shoulder, and take a step back. Mnqobi nod, and look at Romolous who's horns have suddenly grown 2x than how it was before, and Lucifer who now has 5 heads, and 2 tails. Everyone steps back except for Bab'Dlamini (Romolous) and Bab'Malebana (Lucifer) Romolous is one of the ancient highest ranking demon in the dark world he is second best after Lucifer. Romolous hits his spear down, and fire surrounds him, Mnqobi and Lucifer and the others are watching from the sidelines each protecting their own.

Raphael: "Here's your armour Conquer". Mnqobi looks at himself, and he is wearing all white, and has a sword on his right hand shining so bright like a diamond. Romolous lifts his spear, and Lucifer spits hisses a very rough hiss, he only hisses like this when he is about to spew poison that kills immediately. Mnqobi looks at his opponents, he has to defeat them, but how

will he do that if he is facing 2 powerful demons? Sighs. Romolous throw his flaming spear at Mnqobi, and Mnqobi blocks it with his sword and it falls down. He roars, and extracts another one, and charges towards him. They go blow-by-blow, ducking, and going blow-by-blow both their weapons making immense metal noise. Lucifer continues to hiss as he is watching the fight between Mnqobi & Romolous. Romolous

breaths fire again, and charges towards Mnqobi who closes his eyes, and concentrate on the waves he is hearing in his ears, and the beautiful village before him. He sees white doves flying around freely, and from a distance he sees 4 people holding hands, and a lion is next to them.

“We are with you in spirit Prince. This is your destiny fight, and save your people. Go now”. They all say in unison. He snap out from his mini tour, and Romolous attacks him with a quick spear cut in his right hand, he looks at his hand, and blows air into it and the cut disappears Romolous look at him not believing what happened, he roars in anger, and once again attack him with a spear, Mnqobi ducks again. The devil's agent are burning with anger they want to enter into that ring, and defeat Mnqobi they can't afford to lose all that they worked for, no ways. The Ancient Angel's are aiming their swords at them making them to

step back, once the devil's agent tries to attack its game over for them, even those in the underworld who aren't present will suffer a great ordeal of heaven's wrath, they just can't risk it. Mngqobi charges towards Romolous, and exchange blows with him his hand is one with the sword, the way he swings it, and use it to block Romolous blows is simple. His hand starts twitching, and a new powerful sensation manifest in his body, he is overly protected as his wearing

another gold garment on top of the white cloth he was wearing, and his spear is gold too. Romolous gasps.

“Unbelievable”! He drops his head, and a million of mini spears spew out from his horns like a fresh wave of tears, they stop midway, and not go any more further than how they were intended to go. Mngqobi raises up his hand, and makes them to turn back he then points the sword towards Romolous

Advertisement

and mini swords spew out of it joining the mini spears heading straight to Romolous. He lifts his spear in attempt to stop them, but he is a little too late because the spears together with the swords lands everywhere piercing his body, he screams in pain as the small weapons lands in his body, and

more is coming his way he drops to his knees, as giant as he is he can't withstand the pain. This pisses Lucifer off, and he starts circulating around Mnqobi he has jump through the white line the line is the one preventing evil from crossing over, but Lucifer has done it. He has crossed over the line, the devils' agents upon seeing the sight, now they can attack however way they want the line that prevented them from crossing over has been cut, but then it was too easy this feels like a trap one of the devil's agent says to himself. The heavens fighters gasp not believing what just happened it's impossible.

“Behold Mnqobi. The only person who can defeat Lucifer is on her way, fear not keep on fighting”. She hears Nobuntu telling him.

Lucifer: “I am Lucifer! The ruler of this universe! I will not be defeated, I refuse, but you will surrender to me, and everyone in this entire world will worship me I will rise. Attack the prayer warriors”. He commands his agents... They all run towards the prayer warriors, and heaven descendants when all of a sudden they hear a very harsh wind, and roaring thunder causing the whole house to shake. Everyone stops on their tracks, and not go any further. Lucifer starts moving all his 5 heads around still

hissing wondering who the uninvited angry guest is. The roof flies up as dust fill the entire lounge, and Arizona appears before them with her 7 snakes heads, plus 2 dragons heads. She looks so scary, Lucifer can't believe his eyes. How is she still alive because he remembers killing her?

“Arizona”. He hisses. “I thought you were dead”. Arizona tilts her head, and look at the devils agents, and the 2 dragon faces opens up their mouth, and she, breaths fire amongst the devils agents. They shriek, and attempt running away as the fire gets

in contact with them, not even Hell's fire can stand this fire it too powerful even Lucifer is feeling the heat too even though he is a distant apart from it.

Arizona: “I was never dead Lucifer I planned it. I planned my death because you wanted to kill me for my throne Lucifer”! She roars, and one of the 7 heads snakes spews poison in one of Lucifer's face, he groans in pains Arizona is angering him.

Arizona has no time for playing catching up. He, too, spews poison at Arizona, and Arizona blocks the poison with her armour, and she spews more poison out of her mouth, and

Lucifer starts wiggling his body. “Command anything that you want to happen Mnqobi”.

Mnqobi: “I command you Lucifer to leave this body, and go back to where you come from. Out in Jesus name, go back to where you belong. You have no refuge in this body I command you to leave now! In the name of the Son, the Father and the Holy Spirit I command you to leave this body at this instant, out. Fire!”. He roars, and start praying in tongues. Lucifer groans, and hisses as 1-2-3-4-5 heads all drop dead on the floor, and Bab'Malebana goes back to his normal self, and so does Bab'Dlamini who looks unconscious. He is indeed a God of possibilities, he is able if you believe in him, and never doubt

his existence, he is for us. Be patient. Wait on him, don't rush him, be patient and you will see him showing up unexpected. Remember that his promises are yes & Amen, give him all the praise he needs. He is God of miracles, and he lives. Everyone around Mnqobi erupt in cheers as the devil is no more, Snikelelo hurries towards Mnqobi, and hugs him.

“You did it Mnqobi. You've saved us”. She breaks the hug. “Now we wait for them to wake up then they confess”.

Uriel: “God is so faithful. Your belief in him, and your faithfulness to him is what made you defeat the devil. The world will be a better place now, tell everyone that he is God of everyone they must just wait upon him, and fear not for he loves them all”. He bows, and so do the others including Arizona, and they all leave. Mngqobi, Snikelelo, Bab'Nhlanzi and some of the remaining prayer warriors look at the aftermath of it all... Nc nc nc. Prayer is very powerful bahlali, only if you believe in his word...

My name is MngqobiWempi! I live up to my name.

★»★«

KHETHIWE

News is out that all the people who used to stay at Buhlebezulu village are requested to go to their new home, a new Kingdom ruled by a new Chief as per the Chief's request. It is said that we

will be leaving tomorrow before the sun rises, I am so happy to tell you the truth. Hopefully the new Kingdom is better than here, and who knows maybe I might end up ruling again. My bags are already packed, and so are Zweli's I wonder who the new Chief is seeing that we had none before the rain of terror happened, and I wonder which Kingdom is it because all villages I know already have Chiefs, well I guess we will see tomorrow morning. Those who were laughing at my downfall will regret it shame, they won't see me coming. I'm already picturing myself living a life of a Queen again, sure as hell it feels good.

69

It's quite long...

NKANYISO

It's 05:00am in the morning, and I am already awake and Nobuntu is still sleeping. I still can't believe that I am a protector of this Kingdom, a mere guy like me njer turns out that he has been marked since from birth that he holds greatness within him something of which never crossed my

mind I wonder if my dad knew, or what. Speaking of him, he is coming too today together with my brothers, I called Ziyanda last night since I couldn't reach my father and told him the so unbelievable, yet exciting news, and he was really excited bathong. I get off bed taking my robe from the bedside table, did I tell you how beautiful our room is? Hhe, it is so beautiful and very vast too. Who would've thought that one day I will be waking up in such a vast room with a very beautiful painted wall, I swear all of this feels like a dream. Stepping out of the room I go straight to the kitchen, and as I am approaching the passage leading to the kitchen I hear voices coming from the dining area. I guess its Nobuntu's Father with the seer let me go, and greet them before anything else.

“Sanibonani”. The table is filled with full English breakfast I wonder who prepared it considering the fact that there's four of us here, or maybe Nobuntu's Father is the one who prepared it.

“Hello son, how are you”? Nobuntu's Father asks me, and the seer just nods acknowledging my presence.

Me: "I'm good, thank you".

Him: "You may take a sit". I do as told.

Me: "Thank you Baba".

Him: "Nobuntu is still sleeping"?

Me: "Yes, she is Baba".

Him: "I wonder what did you feed her because she was raving about you all day yesterday". I laugh.

Me: "I fed her nothing I think it's the other way around".

Seer: “Wuuhh, the Princess would never feed you anything you fed her something, and left her with a package”. I look at him confused.

Me: “Package? What package”? He snorts.

Him: “You will find out soon enough. I like you young man you are the perfect man for our Princess”.

Me: “Thank you. She is also perfect for me”.

Chief: “I hope your Father have budgeted enough Lobola for my daughter, because she is no ordinary girl she is a Princess”.

Me: “I hope so too”.

Seer: “Tell him to sell his house if it needs to”. We all laugh.

Chief: "I am honestly happy hey, I never thought I would ever see a day where I sit in a feasting table with my son-in-law. Wait, a whole protector of this newly found Kingdom I wouldn't have asked for a better son-in-law than you. My daughter told me all that you have done for her, and how you were always besides her the time she was really sick risking your job for her. And for that I am really thankful, if it wasn't for you, I don't know where she would've been, or maybe she might've died along the way. Thank you for your continuous support, and showing her genuine love. May God richly bless the both of you, and may your relationship never be hindered by any evil, but be warned that should you ever hurt her anyhow I will moer you beyond repair my boy".

Seer: "You will drink tea using a saucer, and you will never get to eat meat ever again, your Father will cripple you too". We all laugh.

Me: "I will never harm her in any way".

"Like heck you won't. Good morning family". She settles next to me, and when I look on the table there's no pap & meat here. I laugh, and scratch my head. Her Father look at me then at her as she scans her eyes to the table. "Something is missing here,

and please Nkanyiso next time when you wake up take your lion with I can't be woken up by your lion's scary roar I am not a protector of this Kingdom. Now, where's pap & meat"? We all look at her, her sudden addiction of pap & meat is really alarming. I observe her as she ravages the table.

Chief: "We've completely forgotten about that Princess". She shakes her head.

Her: "Cha Baba. You haven't forgotten you just don't know, Nkanyiso here was supposed to tell you".

Him: "He, too, didn't know that we've already prepared breakfast when he woke up he found the table already set, is not his fault please don't blame him". She flares her nose, and snorts. "I don't mind cooking for you". She shakes her head.

Her: "Its fine Baba I will just eat a banana, and besides we have no time our people will be here any time soon they must find us ready".

Him: “Hmmm, I see you are already taking your Princess duties serious I like that”.

Her: “I think I was born ready for this, and I can't wait for Mnqobi to get here so that we lead side by side with you”.
The seer shakes his head.

Him: “Mnqobi's destiny is not like yours. He may a Prince by blood, but his true calling is being a preacher. He is heavenly anointed, and he is set to rule his church with a prophetess besides him”.

Her: “But how? I thought that Royal families don't have preachers amongst them”.

Him: “With him is different. God, marked him before he was even born. His true calling is to preach the God's word to the lost souls of this world, and give them new hope and meaning in life”.

Me: “Now, who will take up the Chief's throne once his time comes to an end”?

Him: “Nobuntu. Nobuntu will be the Queen of this Kingdom with you by her side, you will rule as one”. Wawu, this is just wawu I don't even know what to say. And again, who would've thought that Mngqobi one day would be a preacher? A whole preacher bahlali, God's messenger? He is God of wonders indeed.

Me: “Speaking of your people coming I've also called my family too, I hope it's okay with you”.

Chief: “More than okay son I would really love to meet your family, and if it was up too I would've liked it if all of you stayed here, but I know that you have your own lives in the city”.

Nobuntu: “Don't worry Baba. We will always be here we can't neglect our people then once I'm done with university me & Nkanyiso will stay here permanently. We will have all the basic needs that the villagers need, who knows maybe we might

have our own chemist here”. A horn sounds from a distance I guess it's alarming us that the old villagers are approaching, I wonder if Khethiwe & Zweli will be amongst them, if they are; I wonder if they will be allowed in since they are evil. We all stand up, exiting the house, and walk towards the gate there walk to the gate is rather long if you ask me.

“Elami, I'm hungry I haven't eaten anything since last night”. She's whispering in my ear, hold up she is complaining.

Me: “I will make you something to eat when we come back from welcoming your people I don't like hearing you complaining about hunger it doesn't sit well with me”. She laughs.

Her: “Its good to know that you actually care about me. I love you”.

Me: “I love you too”. From out of nowhere people or should I say Royal servants are marching towards us they have our garments with they drop to their knees as they get to us.

Bayade boNxumalo”. They give us our garments, and we wear it right there & then. They get up, and fall besides us as we proceed walking to the gate. I still need time to process all of this... And we finally reach our destination! I look at Nobuntu's Father, and he looks like a real Chief and his broad shoulders are not making any justice, and the seer is not even showing a set of teeth, then there's Nobuntu busy complaining about hunger. The invisible gatekeepers open the gate, and I am surprised to see Ziyanda's car I did not expect them to arrive so soon, I hope he did not come with Gina. The Lion walks towards the car I can see fear in their faces all the way from here, the Lion circles around the car then come back to us.

“I didn't know that your Father fears a Lion, the very same man who was boasting about being a Father-in-law to a Princess. Mr we must now behave like ‘royalty’ wawza”. Nobuntu tells me then laugh.

Me: “Mxm uyaphapha wena”.

Chief: "Let them come in I want to see the man who gave birth to you, I hope he is vibrant, and know how to throw jokes who knows maybe he might be one of my advisers".

Seer: "I'm sure his jokes are dry. I'm kidding man, this feels so good". Ziyanda drives his car in and as soon as it stops my Father is the first one to step out of the car looking dapper in his brand new white with a tuxedo, I'm saying brand you because its my first time seeing him wearing it. He fixes his tie, and put on his navy blue hat and walk towards us his walk has changed too, guess he really meant it when he said he will now behave like your royalty because he surely is behaving like one.

Seer: "Now I see where you got your sense of fashion from".

We all laugh.

Nobuntu: "Don't start with my boyfriend please because we are yet to deal with his dramatic but loving Father".

"Step out of the car boys you can't disappoint me in front of our Royal in-laws". He bangs Ziyanda's window. Nobuntu and his Father giggle.

Seer: “And he is dramatic too. I thought you were just saying in passing”. Laughing is a norm all of a sudden here, and it's refreshing. My brothers step out of the car looking rather nervous. “Well, at least they are a different kind of breed”. They all chuckle.

Dad: “Greetings my fellow beautiful royal in-laws”. He bows his head.

Us: “Greeted”. He looks at me confused as to why am I wearing like this he better be patient, and ask no questions because he will find out soon as to why. My brothers eventually step out of the car and walk towards us. “Well, at least a different kind of breed”.

Him: “Thank you for the extended invitation I am so honoured to be amongst a royal family, I mean I even feel like I'm royalty

myself, huh. I've even perfected my royal walk, and I'm also ready to negotiate Lobola”. We all laugh. My brothers greet

Advertisement

and we greet them again.

Nobuntu: "My favourite people are finally here. Welcome you guys".

Ziyanda: "Now you most definitely look like a royal Princess. The great one". They hug. "And what is up with him"? He points at me.

Nobuntu: "He is the one". A horn sounds again. "And that's our people".

Mbuso: "This place is so beautiful I wouldn't mind staying here it is so soothing and peaceful".

Chief: "You are more than welcome to stay here".

Him: “Good, because I've already brought my clothes along I need to start on a clean slate, and this place is the right place for me”. We all look at him. “I will be part of the Royal family soon. So why not”? I shake my head.

Mveli: “Well, you are not the only one son I've brought mine too”.

Seer: “You are all more than welcome, plus there are small houses in the palace”. The horn sounds louder this time around. “There are evil people coming too, and who are not ready to confess their sins”.

Nobuntu: “I'm hungry”.

Nkosikhona: “And that's why I'm your most favourite brother-in-law because I've brought your favourite, pap & chicken livers. Of which makes me wonder. Are you maybe expecting because...”.

Nobuntu's Father clears his throat cutting him short. “Right”.

Nobuntu just stares at him blankly, and he turns away and walk

towards the car to fetch Nobuntu's food. That was also my sentiments pertaining this sudden love of Nobuntu

for pap & chicken livers. Ey, damn I'm such a dead man. Mngqobi will sure as hell deal with me, or maybe not seeing that he is destined to be a preacher. Angithi preachers must be godly people, and not to do bad to others but pray for us. Anyway, we all stand in a straight line waiting to welcome our or should I say the new dwellers of Zithobele village.

Nobuntu: “Baba, that friend of yours said that those with evil hearts will be rejected right”? He nods. “Of which brings me to this issue. The time I was hated for no apparent reason it happened that Thakasile called the villagers to attack me back there at the village, and I ran for my dear life. Will they also be rejected? On my side I would like to believe that they were made to behave like that they did not do it willingly, for example; take a look at Sanele. Sanele & I were very close Baba until that one unfortunate event, he was completely someone else. Will he be rejected”?

Seer: “No. They won't be. Only those with evil hearts will get rejected, those who used to hurt people without showing any remorse will be rejected”. She nods...

Her: “I see. Then in terms of choosing the royal council, how are you going to go about it”?

Him: “They will be chosen”. Immediately as he finished saying those words 2 doves land on my Father's shoulders. Nobuntu's Father smiles. “He is the first one”.

Dad: “Does this mean that I am one of the elders”? The seer nods. “Mbuso, please tie my shoelaces for me”. We all laugh. “Truly speaking I am grateful. Thank you to the underground gang of this Kingdom to choose me I'm really honoured”. He bows as a sign of respect.

Ziyanda: “Then what are we”?

Mbuso: “Good question”.

Nobuntu: "F boys of this Kingdom". We laugh again...

★»★«

KHETHIWE

This Zithobele village is very beautiful I tell you it's a world of its own. The river is so clear, the water is sparkling this is God's best masterpiece, let me not get started about the grass, trees, and the beautiful colourful different flowers, from here we can

see the very gigantic magnificent royal house I am already imagining myself standing by the balcony drinking coffee with warm milk watching all my servants, and my people going up & down doing their daily duties.

“Look son. This place is so beautiful I wish you can be your old self again so that you can see the beauty of this wonderful new Kingdom of ours. Our new home, and we will go back to what we used to be before”.

“Kumnandi ukuphupha”. (It's nice to dream) Nompilo comments.

Me: “Awazi ukuthi ukhuluma ngani Nompilo”. (You don't know what you are talking about)

Her: “Besengizisholo njer”. (I was just saying)

Me: “Kuzokusiza ukuthi uthule ngoba ukhuluma umsangano wodwa”. (It will do you good to keep quiet because you are talking nonsense) she laughs.

Her: “Ngathi ukhohliwe ukuthi bengikondla la, wena futhi ukhuluma nami so”? (It seems like you are forgetting that I was feeding you, now you talk to me like this) Everyone gasps and I just roll my eyes at her talk about being unnecessary extra.

Me: “Bewungondla ngani? Usho lamakhekhe wakho amabili ongiphe wona ne tiye lakho belingana shukela”? (Feeding me with what? Are you referring to those 2 scones you've given me, and your tea without sugar)

Her: “Yebo. Phela wena bewunganako kona loko, bewumbashe umlomo phela wena, kodwa njengoba sewushizo ithi ngithule”. (Yes. I mean, you did not even have any of it, your mouth was perched, but as you've said let me keep quiet) Yerrr, Nompilo can be annoying at times. I click my tongue, and focus on the road ahead. All the buses come into a complete halt well it seems like we've reached our destination. This is it, new beginnings. I feel someone stirring next to me, I look and it's Zweli he is sitting up right I can't believe my eyes, and so is everyone else. I place my hand over my mouth in total shock, not believing any of this. But how?

“Mama”. Tears fill my eyes as he calls me. “Where are we”? I just shake my head not believing this it feels surreal.

Me: “Zweli”. My voice comes out as a whisper.

Him: “Why are crying? What's going on, and where is this place”? I just stare at him blankly.

“We are going to our new village”. Comments one man.

Him: "Oh, so Buhlebezulu village is no more"? I nod. "I guess this is us starting a new life in a new era, and to tell you the truth I am ready to take the throne". I choke on my tears.

Man: "Take the throne from whom? We will be led by a new King, the King of this new Kingdom. So, don't talk about the throne because it's not yours".

Him: "What? That's not happening! I was supposed to be the next King since my Father is... Wait, where is he any way? Don't tell me that his dead"!

Man: "Your Father's whereabouts are unknown, but I'm sure your mother will tell you everything once she's done with being shocked".

"Everyone please step out of the bus, take your belongings with". The bus conductor tells us. We all stand up taking our belongings along, then step out of the bus, and yet again we

must join the queue something of which I never did while I was still a Queen.

Zweli: "I don't understand why we must stand in a queue, I mean you were once a Queen mama, and by the looks of it seems like these people here have forgotten about all of that after everything you've done for them. Is this the thanks you get after what you did for them? Such ungrateful bunch".

2nd man: "Exactly. She is a 'former Queen' but now at this instant she is a commoner just like the rest of us, so she, including you must humble yourselves because You've both become a nonentity in our lives. And you, young man better forget about being the King because it will never happen. And secondly your mother has never done anything for us".

Me: "Shut up Sizwe shut up"!

Him: "But I'm telling the truth". Sizwe just like Nompilo is annoying, I will rule again and I will banish them in this Kingdom. They will learn to respect me again.

30 minutes later we still in the slow moving queue I wonder what's taking so long, while standing on the queue a dove lands on Sizwe's shoulder. Impossible!

Me: “No. It can't be”! Shaking my head.

Zweli: “Can't be what mother”?

Me: “Urh...m nothing son. It's nothing”. He nods unsure. The line keeps on moving, and moving.

“Hhayi”! Nompilo yells, and she drops to the ground. A lion comes and settle next to her preventing anyone from coming

near Nompilo's aid. Thakasile is standing like a statue, but Sanele seems happy. All of this just doesn't make sense. I don't know when did he get here, but here is Nkanyiso, Zweli's old friend standing before us, I look at Zweli whose mouth is open wide in shock, and he ain't even blinking. My legs start

trembling, but how? He just stares at us and not say anything then he walks away. I give Zweli a slight slap, and he snaps out of his thought.

Him: “Was that Nkanyiso”? I nod. “What is he doing here? Is he a protector of this Kingdom? Hmmm, if that's the case then where is Nobuntu in all of this”? I think my worst fear has come to life, let's just hope I'm wrong about all of this... We continue walking, and my stomach tightens in knots and my legs are shaking and about to fail me, I can't believe any of this. Khaphela Nxumalo and the seer are alive, and very much well for that matter. I go down on my knees when I see Langelihle standing next to his Father, I start having breathing difficulties. Zweli leaves me there, and hurry towards Langelihle shouting...

“That's my wife! That's my wife”! He keeps shouting until he reaches the gate, but he can't get inside the yard something is preventing him from getting in. “Langelihle baby, please let me

in my love. We are married, remember? It is me, Zweli your husband”. She sneer's and flares her nose then giggles.

Her: “Your what? Didn't you sign the divorce papers I've served you with? And you think that after how you treated me, and humiliated me, I will welcome you back with warm hands? And the last time I remember you gave my relationship with Nkanyiso blessings, and no you & me are not married, and we were never in love. Just sign those divorce papers Zweli because you & I will never work, don't make things harder than they already are because as far as I'm concerned you are no longer welcomed here until you confess all your sins, together with the people who will remain outside here. In that manner, if you know that you did me bad it will do you good to confess your sins before you are granted permission to step into this Kingdom. This is the Kingdom of the pure not there ones with stained hearts”. She turns on her heels, and walk away leaving Zweli on the gate calling her name. Life is really unpredictable! And it's true that nothing stays hidden forever. What just happened? 27 years later what I thought I have buried have resurrected. I am screwed, and I'm sure by now they know what I did. The mighty has indeed fallen.

69.2

★»★«

MNQOBI

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean in your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight”. Jeremiah 3:5-6

“Through God we shall do valiantly. And it is He who will tread down our adversaries”. Psalms 60:12

“Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city”. Acts 18:9-10

“He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds”.
Psalms 147:3

“Call upon me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honour me”. Psalms 50:15

I live by these verses they carry a lot of messages within them, being in the presence of the Lord is amazing, and knowing that he lives and never slumbers is a bonus. Never stop praying, rejoice in him and in his word for he is God of possibilities.

Hmmm, who would've thought that one day I will be clothed in Jesus blood? Who would've known that one day I will be a preacher standing before people, and reminding them the word of God and to come back to him before judgement day comes. Life is one big mystery itself, you don't know what it has in store for you. Here I was ready to be a Prince, and serve my people then boom little did I know, God had other greater plans for me. Hhe, never underestimate the power of God bahlali. It's been a journey... Modiegi has been finally laid to rest. Her Father, Bab'Dlamini and other church members who were practising devil worshipping are sentenced for dear life in prison. Modiegi's Father did confess that he killed Modiegi, it was actually a sacrifice in order for him to be the 8 head serpent with a spear tail in the underworld he had to sacrifice

his daughter since he wanted to be rich, he also confessed that by the time Deacon John approached him he had already made a deal with the devil that once Modiegi reaches 30 years old he will sacrifice her of which he did, and he killed Deacon John too with the help of Bab'Dlamini. I just don't understand, how does one sacrifice their own flesh & blood, where do you even begin? Why would you want to be powerful at the expense of your child? Why harm your child in a most cruel manner just money & power? How evil can you be by taking your child's life in a cruel manner? Her cries & plea, didn't they move him? This is another level of evil. And another reason as to why the church had many members it's because they've been sacrificing infant's blood, and if you were a woman and pregnant in church once they smear oil on your forehead you've automatically sacrificed with your child hence too many women were miscarrying here in church unknowingly so. And again they will sleep with the woman in spirit causing her to miscarry in that present moment. What I don't understand though is how come these women never saw blood coming out of their sacred places, or maybe they didn't know that they were pregnant including their spouses too? But I would like to believe that they were blinded maarn, phela these evil men were very evil, sies. They were cruel maarn, Yerrr. Good

riddance to bad rubbish, may they burn until they turn into ashes in hell. My heart goes out to those women who lost their babies through sacrifices, and may God heal them, and once again bless their wombs with children. Modiegi's mother decided to move away from here to start a new life somewhere far, where she will not get to be reminded about Modiegi death and her husband's evil deeds she wants to forget everything? But how will she do that seeing that the wound is still fresh? This really hit her hard, may she heal and find comfort in God, and may she continue to pray without ceasing.

I am on my way to my mother's house I've been trying to get hold of her for the past 2 days, and she hasn't been answering my calls of which got me really worried. Oh, and Crecentia is healing well but, she, too, decided to go away for a couple of months once discharged just to clear her mind and reevaluate her life I wish her the best too. I park outside my mother's house, and the house looks dead quiet from the outside hopefully I will find her, I make my way inside the yard, then knock on her door 3x and there's no response I peep through the keyhole, and the key is there. Sighs. I turn down the door handle, and step inside the house it's too dark since there's no light getting in, I switch on the kitchen light and it looks so dirty, what is actually going on with her? I get to the lounge, and

switch on the light and I find her sitting on the one sitter couch staring into space she looks so skinny.

“Mama”. She slowly turns her head, and looks at me she looks like a zombie. I walk up to her, and crouch before her. “Mama, what's wrong? What's going on”? Fresh wave of tears make their presence felt. “Talk to me Ma”. She continues to cry I just let her be, all I do is to stare at her as she cries her eyes are lifeless. It's as if like she has given up on life. What got her this skinny though?

“Take me to the Zithobele village right now I messed up I need to make things right”. She tells me this wiping her tears.

Me: “What did you do? Is this about your treatment towards Nobuntu”? She nods. “So, you want to go there, and tell her why you hate her so much”?

Her: “I don't hate her Mnqobi”!

Me: “Then why did you treat her like she was not your daughter? All she wanted from you was love, but instead you threw her efforts in her face you humiliated her. She tried reaching out to you again, and you still rejected her, and had the audacity to tell her not to tell our Father how you treated her? You did all of that without the influence of anyone right”?

Her: “You don't understand Mnqobi. I, too, don't know why I hated her so much I had no control over it”.

Me: “You know what's funny? It's the fact that you know exactly what you did to her, and you remember everything if you were under a spell you wouldn't even remember what you did to her. You did all that to her with a sane mind Mama, you've failed her”.

Her: “Please Mnqobi. Just don't I beg you, all I need to do is to get there and apologize to her”.

Me: “Why don't we take Crecentia with? She needs to be with people who love her currently, and her going there will give her peace of mind”.

Her: “Hmm, okay. Let me go, and pack for the both of us then”. She gets up from the couch, and looks at me. “Do you think she will forgive me? I mean, after everything I've put her through”?

Me: “Yes, she will forgive you Mama”. She nods, and walk away. I text Nobuntu letting her know that I am coming with my mother, and she calls immediately. “Little bear”.

“Biggie. When are you coming”?

Me: “Today, we will probably get there after the sun has set”.

Her: “Gosh, I can't wait to see you. So, you're coming with your mother you say”?

Me: "Yeah, she actually wants to apologize to you". She laughs.

Her: "Willingly or you forced her too"?

Me: "Willingly little one".

Her: "Well, let me ask the helpers to prepare your bedrooms I can't wait for you to get here, and see how beautiful this place is".

Me: "Me too little one. I can't wait to meet our Father".

Her: "He is your replica biggie. See you when you get here, I love you".

Me: "I love you too, and don't forget to send me the location".

Her: "I will do". Hanging up.

“All packed up, and I've already called the hospital”. I nod, and I help her with her bags then we walk out of the house.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

It feels so good to talk to my brother again, and I also can't wait to see him as for Lindiwe I am not really sure about seeing her, but then again she's the woman who gave birth to me, and I will just have to welcome her, ai. I get up from the bed I was

resting a bit, I don't feel really well lately and I'm forever sleepy. On the other side Khethiwe, Nompilo, Thakasile and some of the evil villagers still don't want to confess their sins it's annoying, and it seems like they enjoy spending the night outside without any food or water, but today is their judgement day the river will decide their fate. Should it happen that the river doesn't give them a second chance it will sail them to the village of the witches, and the ones with stained hearts. I wear my slippers, and head to the dining area, and I find the boys eating & laughing I settle next to Nkanyiso, and give him a kiss.

“Mnqobi is coming today together with Lindiwe & Crecentia”.

Nkanyiso: “What time will they get here”?

Me: “I don't know, but I will have to tell the helpers to prepare their rooms. My feet are killing me”. My Father selected random villagers to be our servants & guards they all stay around here. You should've seen how happy the villagers were when we allocated them in their new houses, some were crying tears of joy while some were just too overwhelmed by their new Kingdom. They have running water, and good sanitation in their yards, they all have mini gardens in their backyard the atmosphere, and the living conditions are much better than Buhlebezulu village here they will get everything they need, and will not know how hunger feels like.

Ziyanda: “You want a foot massage”?

Me: “No. Thank you. I just need some meat”. They all laugh. “What's funny ”?

Mbuso: “Nothing koti. I wish I loved meat like you, yoh”.

Nkosikhona: “Me too hey. I mean, you never get tired from eating it 3x a day”.

Me: “Mxm, niyaphapha”.

Nkanyiso: “Tell them wena Elami, bayaphapha laba”. They laugh. “Are you hungry? I've prepared some very peri-peri chicken livers for you, but this time they will go with fresh baked rolls”.

Ziyanda: “And a hot cup of hot chocolate with crushed banana”.

Mbuso: “And I will give you a free foot massage”.

Me: “Okay, what's the occasion because my birthday have long passed”?

Nkosikhona: “The occasion is that you are final...”.

Mbuso: “Finally a Princess of this beautiful Kingdom”. He cuts him short. I look at him straight in the eyes, he is straight up lying something is really going on la. Hhe...

Me: “What is going on you guys”?

Nkanyiso: “I will go, and fetch your favourite meal. You need to stop this thing of yours of asking a lot of questions Elami”. He gets up from his chair, and leave our presence.

Ziyanda: “And I'll go, and look for the servants who will prepare Nkanyiso's room”. He, too, leaves our presence.

Mbuso: “I need to make a quick call I'll be back”. He too leaves, but turns back when he notices Nkosikhona not standing up. “Nkosi”. He signals him with his head to come to him.

Nkosi: “I was no... You know what

Advertisement

fine let's go". He gets up from his chair, and drags his feet you can see that he doesn't want to leave. Okay, something is going on. Why did they all leave my presence? I try smelling myself, and I am not smelling. Dear God, let history not repeat itself I am not ready to face humiliation. And now my tears want to make their presence felt I try holding them back, but I am failing. I get up from the chair wiping my tears, and walk outside I budge at the door when I find everyone including my Father, and the elders looking at me straight as I budge at the door. One of the child come out from the villagers with the banner written "Will" the second one comes "you" third one comes "marry". I can't help it but burst out with tears, I cover my face with my hands so not believing this. I remove them, and I find Nkanyiso kneeling before me with a diamond ring in

his hand, his eyes are glistening with tears, I stretch out my hand, and he takes it as he fights back his tears. He slid the ringer in my finger, and everyone cheers for us... He gets up from the floor, and spins me around he puts me down kissing me all over my face.

"Thank you for allowing me to be yours".

“I wouldn't have asked for a better woman than you Elami. I love you”.

Me: “I love you too”. We share a deep kiss.

Mbuso: “Okay, love birds. Congratulations mommy & daddy to be”. I look at him.

Me: “What are you talking about”? I look at Nkanyiso, he, too, just like me is confused. The seer steps forward, and touches my stomach.

Him: “You are with child in your womb. You are carrying the next heir of this Kingdom”. Nkanyiso pulls me into a tight embrace, he is suffocating me you guys. My mind blanks out for a couple of seconds. I am going to be a mother? A whole mother? Wawu, but how”?

Nkanyiso: “You've just given me more reason to love you”.

Mveli: “Haike, and the Lobola will double up now I am going to be bankrupt. But then congratulations to the both of you”. He hugs the both of us. My Father approaches us too.

Him: “And you've made me the happiest old man alive. This is my first grand child I can't wait to meet him, finally it is out in the open. Thank you, Princess, and to you our very own protector, you may go now, and bond before the judgement hour comes”. He slightly bows, and we bow too. I still can't believe that I am going to be a mother, and on top of it all my boyfriend proposed like you guys, God's timing is the best, wait let me also not forget our underground gang we are very grateful for everything happening in our lives currently. This is where we are exactly supposed to be, everything has its own time and this is ours.

Nkanyiso: “I can't believe that we are going to have our mini Elami”. He places his hands on my stomach, I laugh thinking about Mnqobi's threats.

Me: “Me too hey, but I'm sure you had your suspicions too neh”? He softly laughs.

Him: “Yes, but I did not want to jump the rail as yet, now that is out in the open I'm happy fucker”.

Me: “And Nkosikhona was so ready to break the news to us, he has a quick mouth that one”.

Him: “Tell me about it. That's why we hardly tell him secrets because we know that he will spit it out”.

Me: “Clearly you can't gossip with him around”.

Him: “You wouldn't even try”. We both laugh, I look at the beautiful band on my finger I can't stop looking at it. “You like it”?

Me: “Are you kidding me? I love it”!

Him: "I'm glad. So, whose going to plan your wedding"?

"I wouldn't mind planning it". I look at the door, and it's Boniwe. But how? I mean... "Aren't you going to give me a hug"? I chuckle, and get up from the bed.

Me: "What? But how! Wait, where's Arizona"? Hugging her.

Her: "Someone who always wanted her has finally got her. Hi Nkanyiso, and bye Nkanyiso by bye, I mean please excuse us we have a lot to talk about".

Him: "But we were still bonding"?

Her: "Nkanyiso please she is going to sleep in your chest mus, now get out before I rain terror on you". Nkanyiso widens his eyes, and quickly leapt out from the bed. Boniwe laughs. "I'm kidding wena, I am demon free now".

Him: "Phew, thanks God, and lovely seeing you again". He kisses my tummy, and walks out of the room Boniwe diverts her eyes to my stomach, and smiles.

Her: "Congratulations humanity". I chuckle.

Me: "Hhayi. What happened to you? Where's Arizona"?

Her: "Arizona is now in Mia's body".

Me: "Who is Mia & how did she end up in her body"?

Her: "Well, after I defeated the serpent I went back to the underworld the plan was for me to stay there forever, but they gave me a second chance. They saw all the good I've done in terms of protecting you, and they saw me fit to lead a normal

life in this new Kingdom. I am demon free now, and Mia is some chick who always wanted Arizona to be one with her, and she is not a protector like I was, but she is evil and her heart is

stained with nothing but evil things. So, I did a small cut on my wrist, and so did she and we linked our wrists exchanging bloods, then I was cleansed, and I was pure again, now I am a normal Boniwe the one you knew before this”.

Me: “I'm just happy to have you back. So, did you see Mbuso”?

She nods. “And”?

Her: “I just couldn't look at him after all that I did to him, I can't”.

Me: “What did you do”?

Her: “It doesn't matter any more what's done is done”.

Me: “I'm sure it's not that bad. Do you still love him”?

Her: “A lot actually, but I don't think he still loves me”.

Me: “You will never know unless you try talking to him, who knows maybe he still has that ounce of love for you”. She chuckles.

Her: “So, what's your theme for the wedding”?

Me: “Talk to him it won't kill you”.

Her: “I will try your royal your highness”. I laugh, and slightly punch her in the shoulder, and we both laugh.

★»★«

KHETHIWE

The sun is not having any mercy on us it is scorching hot if the sun is this hot here I wonder how is it like in hell, because wawu I've even turned dark from it. Today it is said that is our judgement day, what they actually mean is that they are going to kill us, us those who do not want to confess our evil doings. The truth is I'd rather die than to confess my evil deeds to everyone present here. And I'd rather die than to bow to Nobuntu, and worship the ground she walks on. Zweli, left with the buses after his little futile tantrum he threw days ago.

“Seliyeza ihora lo mnqamulezo”. (Judgement day's hour is coming) Nompilo comments.

“Sewulilindele yini”? (Are you waiting for it)

Her: “Kahle nje ngiyazi ukuthi mina nawe lizosishaya”. (Very well, I know that me & you won't survive it when it comes)

Me: “Haike, mina angizimisele ukuvuma izono zami ngamane lingishaye”. (I am not ready to confess my sins I rather won't survive it)

Her: “Haibo. Awufuni ukuphila kancono wena”? (Don't you want to live a better life)

Me: “Awusho ke. Uzothini nakung'kuthi uyazivuma izono zakho kodwa ungaxolelwa livele likushaye izembe”? (Tell me here. What will you do if you confess your sins, but not be forgiven and not survive the judgment)

Her: “Awww, kodwa ngo Thakasile wami Nkosi”. Nxa, I look at Thakasile, and she looks so drained. The hour bell rings, making few of the villagers that I'm left with stands up. The gates of the royal palace opens, and the royal family together with the royal elders, and villagers comes to view, the seer points us with his

stuff, and walks towards the river we all follow him, the water is so clear, and it's making waves.

“This river you see here will be the one determining whether they grant you access here, or you don't. There is no longer time for you to confess your sins because we've given you 2 days to confess, but you denied. Now, the water will judge you according to your heart, and how remorseful you are for all that you've done. You will get inside that water, and if it spews you out that means you are granted permission to get inside the royal palace. And if not the river will sail you to the village of the evil with stained hearts, and you will stay there for the rest of your life. Take off your shoes, and get inside the water”. We do as told without putting up a fight, we get in, and Nompilo starts crying pleading with the seer to give her a second chance she is willing to confess, but the seer is not having any of it. Thakasile is too weak to do anything. I close my eyes, and all I see is what evil I did to people the sight is not pleasing, I shoot

my eyes open, and I find myself sailing with the river, and by the looks of things it seems like I'm the only one floating, I try screaming for help but no one comes to my aid. My body shivers as I enter a very dark tunnel scary sounds are all that I hear, appearing on the other side the water here is bloody red its giving me creeps as I am sailing further & further I come

across fresh human bodies slaughtered, and the blood smells fresh my fear escalates as I go in further & further. Regrets overcome me, now more than ever I wish that I should've just confessed...

“WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING DEAD”. I am welcomed by those words as the gates to this scary village opens, from a distance I can hear Nompilo's & Thakasile's voices. People here are scary looking. This is not how I have planned my life to turn out to be, but greed, power & jealousy got me here. No bad deeds goes unpunished, and no evil surpasses the light.

My name is Khethiwe, and this how my journey ends hope you've learnt something from my story. Should it happen that I

survive in this forbidden village I will tell you all about it one day.

70

ZWELI

So, I am now back in my old house since no one was interested in buying it due to it being rumoured to be having evil spirits hovering around it. And Natasha is the cause of it, but I also can't fault her too, because I'm quite sure that whatever happened to her happened for a reason. My dramatic tantrum that I threw back there at Zithobele village couldn't really save my ass, but then what was I expecting after the way I've been treating Langelihle? I was making myself a fool before the royal family, and other villagers, yeses the embarrassment I've subjected myself too, mhhhm. But then again above everything else I am just grateful that I am back to my old self, moreover humble from what I used to be back then, actually I feel lighter now, and from now on going forward I vow not to take things lightly or mistreat people, or judge them before knowing their full story because you don't know the destiny of that certain individual I've learned that lesson a hard way. Not so long ago I was untouchable, and everyone worshipped the ground I walked on, I had plenty of friends and life was good, but now

all of that lavish life is gone, and I've gained nothing from it. And to think that I was married to a Princess while I was just a commoner, and treated her like shit not knowing that one day I

will have to bow down before her, unfortunately for me my pride didn't allow me to stay there at Zithobele village after how I treated Langelihle, My conscious just wouldn't allow me stay there, but I did confess my sins, and sincerely apologized for all that I did bad to Langelihle, and the villagers whom I mistreated before the royal family, and the villagers. I was asked to step inside the river, and the water will be the one deciding my fate I did as told, and vowed to tell nothing but the truth. I was nervous I wouldn't lie, but that was a risk I was willing to take. The water spew me out, and I was cleansed because of the clear conscious that I had, I was also ready to accept my punishment. Yhey, the relief that overcame me after was truly refreshing I felt like a brand-new person, I guess it's true when they say don't judge a book by its cover because you don't know how the content looks like in the inside, there's a story a very great story waiting to be unfolded. Now, I am going to start from the bottom like every other person out there without the help of anyone. I also hope that my mother have finally confessed her bad deeds so that she can be free, and lead a new life and do away with her old wicked life. A part of me feels like everything bad that I was doing she contributed to

some of them, but now I am ready to start my life afresh without her if possible, even though I don't know what happened to my Father, or where is he since he was never declared dead I hope he is fine wherever he is, and I will reunite

with him one day. God have been so good to me honestly, and that near death experience of mine, wait I am being dramatic now I mean my short paralysed experienced have made me view life in another angle I don't want to see myself being in that position again it was hell, not being able to do anything by yourself is really embarrassing, it was truly embarrassing especially when my mother was bathing me, geez. Sighs.

I look around my house, and I must complement myself I did a good job, I really did try my best by cleaning it for it to look this good, and smell so heavenly, and since I don't have any money with me at the moment I will have to sell some of my furniture to make a living for myself, go job hunt or possibly start a business that will generate me money, I've been taking things for granted, but now I know better and I'm not willing to make the same mistake twice, always remember that for every action you do there's a consequence that will follow. Oh, and then there are my siblings the last time I saw them was months ago since that first heavy rain saga, and since I know that they are

staying with my grandmother abroad. I will have to make time once I'm back on my feet, and go and see them. They might've abandoned us, but I will make us a family again. I take my car keys on top of the kitchen counter, and walk out of the house I am going to sell this car, and then buy grocery with the money

that I would get from selling it. I drive my car out, and I find a car parking on the other side of the street it's a beautiful car I must complement I wonder who drives it I step out of my car, and go and lock the gate when I feel a soft tap on my shoulder I turn to look, and it's the upgraded hobo, she looks totally different from the last time I saw her. She looks really breathing taking if it wasn't for the eyes I wouldn't have recognized her, she gives me a very beautiful smile.

“Hello”. I just stare at her, she chuckles and pushes away a strand of her from her face she looks so beautiful. “Zwelibanzi”. I snap out from it.

“Urhmmm... Sorry. Hi, how are you”?

Her: “I'm good thanks, and how are”?

Me: "Good, thank you".

Her: "Were you going out"? She giggles. "Look at me asking the obvious, where are you going"?

Me: "I'm going to town".

Her: "Mind if I tag along"? No. She can't tag along. I don't want her knowing that I'm going to sell my car I will have to come up with a good excuse. "I'm tagging along, and I will not take a no for an answer".

Me: "Oh, okay. Let's go then". My mouth is out of words. I don't know when was the last I was this nervous before a woman I'm sure it was back in my high school years if not university.

Her: "We are using your car right? And don't worry lunch is on me". I scratch my head. "Yini? Do you want to run after me again"? I laugh.

Me: "No. I don't want to run after you".

Her: "Then grab this opportunity, and this time around make sure that I don't slip out of your hands". We both laugh as we

walk to her car. "I'm Thabile by the way". She extends her hand for a shake, and I clasp it then we shake hands.

Me: "Lovely meeting you Thabile, and there's no need for me to introduce myself seeing that you know my name". She rolls her eyes, and we both get inside her car, yes I am the one driving.

Her car is much bigger, and more expensive than mine. I wonder what does she do for a living.

Her: "We have a lot of time to get to know each other, asambe". I laugh, and bring the engine to life. Could she be my forever? I can only hope for the best, because she compliments

me very well and for the fact that she is free around me really is a bonus. And God loves us all... I will get my happily ever after- after all.

My name is Zwelibanzi, and this is where my journey ends. I hope you've learnt something from my story, hopefully one day I will update you all about the life I will be currently living.

★«★»

MNQOBI

This place is very beautiful I do not want to lie to you, the view is just top-notch and this place is soul soothing. We are parked outside this huge steel bar gate I don't even know why the gate ain't opening we've been parked here from the past 10 minutes without any sign of movement. I've also tried calling Nobuntu, and Nkanyiso but their phones are switched off of which is

strange because I was communicating with them on our way here, or maybe they have network problems.

“Is someone coming to attend us, or we will sleep here”? Crecentia asks me.

“I don't know Crecentia”. I look at my mother who is busy biting her nails, and shaking, I shake my head and keep busy with my phone.

Her: "I'm tired, and hungry. I need to take my medication then sleep, sleeping in your car is not that comfortable especially for my back".

Me: "I know, we can only hope that someone comes to our rescue I also need to rest the drive here was long, let me step outside maybe they are watching us from somewhere thinking that we are strangers, or trespassers".

Her: "Please do. Is your mother okay there"?

Me: "I don't think so, she is sweating". I step out of the car, and look around but I see no one. This waiting is tiring maarn. A horn sounds, why is it sounding again, or maybe we are at the wrong village seeing that it horned the first time when we got here, this all just puzzling. A car parks right behind mine, and the door opens and out of it steps out a chained barefooted woman wearing rags, and her hair is messy, she is scratching her coarse, and smelly hair. I take a look at her, and I can't believe it. No ways! What happened to her now? She looks like a crazy lunatic, and her face have nails scratches. A

male nurse steps out from the drivers side, and they walk towards me. Londiwe, starts laughing at absolutely nothing when the nurse greets me, I greet him back.

“What happened to her”?

“I don't know I was asked to bring her here because it is said that she has been calling this village name, and confessing before she dies”. I'm about to reply him when the gate creaks open, all three of us avert our attention at the gate

Advertisement

and there stood the royal family Nobuntu looks like a real Princess, and the man standing next to her looks exactly like

me. The lion that was standing next to Nkanyiso approach us, Nkanyiso looks good in his protector attire I wonder how he acted like when they gave him his attire, no smile is the order of the day here. I guess they've been waiting for Londiwe, but why were they waiting for her arrival? We are yet to find out. The lion roars as it circles both the cars, and walks back to Nkanyiso. My Father nods, guess is his way of showing us that we are welcome to come inside. I open the doors, and ask both

my mother & Crecentia to step out of the car my mother is now drenched in sweat, yoh but it's not hot here mus, I help Crecentia out of the car first.

“Mama, are you okay”? She nods, and step out of the car. Her legs are wobbly. “Are you sure that you are okay, because to me you don't look fine”?

Her: “I'm fi... Ne son”. We walk towards the gate, but only me, Crecentia, and the nurse are the only ones who get in while my mother & Londiwe remain outside. My Father pulls me into an embrace, and I hold on to him for dear life then let go, he cups my face, and examines me.

“You are indeed my son. Welcome home son”. For a second there I've even forgotten about my mother & Londiwe. The seer blesses me, while my Father pulls Crecentia who looks so confused into an embrace too, after the seer is done blessing me I go, and pick Nobuntu up I can't help but notice the rock on her finger.

Me: "Is this what I think it is"? I take her finger, and look at it. She looks at Nkanyiso then nods. "Congratulations little one, wena Nkanyiso you better treat her right or else hhe". We all laugh.

Him: "Or else what? You are going to pray for me"? I laugh. He is such an idiot.

Me: "Mxm uyaphapha wena. I hope asihlalanga". (She's not pregnant) we fist bump, and they all laugh. Oh snap! "Bruh, come on maarn, njani mfethu"? (How man)

Him: "Underground gang, and God bafanas".

Me: "Yazi, if it wasn't for the fact that I am now a preacher I would've given you a spin kick by now".

Nobuntu: "You wouldn't have dared cabanga". I look at her not believing that she just said that, then I burst out with laughter, and she follows me... Hhayi maarn, my mother and Londiwe are still standing outside.

Me: “Why aren't the two of you coming in”?

Seer: “They need to confess their sins first before they are granted permission to step inside this Kingdom”.

Me: “Sins? What sins, because the last time I checked Jesus died for all your sins”?

Him: “Yes, he did but it is also said that in order for one to live a righteous life they must confess their sins. Let them confess with their mouths what they did”. I look at him, then at them. “You can go first girly”. I look at Londiwe who looks much better than how she arrived here, she kneels down before us

then looks me with eyes full of regrets she doesn't dare avert her attention to Nobuntu who is staring at her without even blinking.

Her: "My name is Londiwe Mahlangu. Firstly, I would like to apologize to Nobuntu even though I did apologize once upon a time I would like to apologize again. I am sorry Nobuntu for all the pain I've caused you, jealousy made me do it I just couldn't accept the fact you've become so close to Mngqobi. Mngqobi, I'm sorry for taking your love for granted I allowed jealousy to get the best of me, and I'm sorry for what you are about to hear". She takes a deep breath, and look up the sky. Then looks at Nobuntu straight in the eyes, and back at me. "I'm the one who caused Nobuntu's sickness that almost killed her that was the plan. I wanted her to die I didn't want her to be loved by anyone, I'm the reason why worms were coming out of her body, the heavy uncontrollable bleeding, the hate she got from people whereas she did nothing. All her misfortunes were caused by me". My blood is boiling right now, how can she be so heartless? Nobuntu did nothing to her, why did she make her life a living hell? I swear to God, my hands are throbbing I want to panel beat her so bad, but the good man within me is not allowing me to do that, I look at Nkanyiso whose veins are popping in his forehead he is very angry.

Seer: "You've missed the most important part. The sacrifice". She looks at the seer shaking her head tears already rolling

down her cheeks, and on to the ground. “Talk”. The Lion roars causing her to jump up.

Her: “I... I've sacrificed with our baby”.

Me: “You did what! How could you be so heartless Londiwe? Why, why didn't you tell me that you were pregnant? You shouldn't have sacrificed with my child”! Tears fill up my eyes, I cover my face with my hands. This cuts so deep, my heart is so shattered. She robbed me the only chance of being a Father, why would she sacrifice my child just to make my sister suffer for something she doesn't know about? I don't think I can forgive her for this, not any time soon she really crushed my spirit. I can't help it, but burst out into tears. They say man don't cry; but this is painful. She played God with my child's life.

★»★«

NOBUNTU

Seeing my brother breaking down like this moves something inside me, my heart breaks for him, and tears are streaming down my cheeks I can't believe that she sacrificed an innocent child just to see me suffer, the pain my brother is feeling right now lshuuu cuts deep. What irks me the most is the fact that she didn't tell me this the first time she came to apologize to me this shows that she wasn't even sincere with her apology towards me, she was apologizing just for the sake of it. Mbuso takes Nkanyiso with to go, and cry in peace Crecentia follows after them. I look at Londiwe, and shame is written in her face.

“I would've forgiven you for what you did to me, but because you've sacrificed what could've been my niece or nephew I will

not. You've robbed my brother the chance of being a Father because of your evil heart, I will not go down further with you about this issue, but all I can tell you is that you deserve to join your kind, the evil stained at LIVING WITH THE DEAD village. You deserve to be tortured, you are heartless & cruel. The at LIVING WITH THE DEAD village will deal with you accordingly, you are not human. Guards"! They hurry towards me. "Take her, and go, and throw her in the dungeon first thing tomorrow morning she will be sailed to her new home". They walk to her, and pick her up as she kicks, and screams she better know that no bad deeds goes unpunished. I look at Lindiwe, and she doesn't even look at me in the eyes. "Talk".

Her: "I have nothing to say". I pace up & down. Yazi, she is frustrating me.

Me: "Baba, talk to your wife".

Him: "Lindiwe. What brings you here"? His voice is so firm he ain't even smiling.

Her: "I... I came to apologize to Nobuntu for how I have been treating her". Ehhh, I laugh.

Him: "Talk once, and stop wasting our time we have a lot to do here".

Me: "What exactly are you apologizing for"?

Her: "For how I treated you".

Me: "Why do you hate me"?

Her: "I don't hate you Nobuntu".

Me: "Then why did you treat me the way you did? You've been treating me like you never gave birth to me Lindiwe. I would've understood if it was the spell that was cast on me, but no even after the spell have been lifted off you still hated me, and

treated me like trash. I will ask you one last time; why do you hate me”? She sighs.

Her: “I don't hate you Nobuntu. I don't like you because you've taken up a space of my other child”.

Dad: “What other child”?

Her: “The child that I was supposed to carry before I conceived Nobuntu. The child who was going to bring me peace & happiness not this curse of a child, Nobuntu was cursed while she was still in the womb she was supposed to die before she turned 3 years old, but I don't know how she survived all those other years. I felt like she also took Crecentia's...”.

Me: “Oh please. That's one stupid reason or excuse I've ever heard. You are spewing nothing but rubbish, I don't know what's so hard in just saying that you hate me for no apparent reason rather than giving us this hogwash explanation of yours”.

Dad: "Your explanation doesn't make any sense Lindiwe. You are not telling us anything, you are going in circles".

Her: "I'm sorry I have no valid reason as to why I hate her".

Jesus is Lord. This is all just a complete waste of time.

Me: "Baba see to it that you deal with your wife because I can't stand this". I walk away leaving them, honestly Lindiwe is draining me. Who hates someone only because they are breathing? It's a complete waste of time, and energy if you ask me. I get to my room, and throw myself on the bed I will see Mngobi later, right now I need to nap.

NQOBANI (Ex-King)

Reflecting back on my life for the last couple of months I can gladly say that I have finally found peace. Few days ago I learnt that I was a King at Buhlebezulu village, a respected one for that matter and I had a family something of which I did not recall until they showed me my life for those past couple of months in a mirror, it was really interesting but for the fact that I didn't remember anything it clearly showed that my destiny was not there. And I've also learned that my real wife & kids were burnt inside the house something of which I've completely forgotten too, right now it feels like I'm starting a new life again hopefully this one will be better than the ones I used to live.

“She is ready for you, you may go in”. I nod, and get up from my chair I knock twice, and I'm granted permission to get inside. I make my way in, and I'm surprised to find a young girl seating behind the desk. She stands up, and extends her hand for a handshake as I get to her, we shake hands, and she tells me to sit down.

“Welcome Mr Zulu. My name is Zubenathi the co-owner of Z&B construction company. I've been going through your portfolio, and I must say that it was very well put my husband can attest to that. So, we've decided to give you the job you are a perfect candidate, this is your contract you can go over it tonight, and if you are happy with it you can sign it, and if not you can also tell us what is it that you find missing. And if there's something you don't understand please do not hesitate to contact the HR manager. It is with great honour to officially hire you as Z&B construction safety office. Welcome to the team”.

Me: “Thank you”. We shake hands, and I walk out of her office.

God is good indeed. New beginnings, new life.

My name is Nqobani, and this is where my journey ends. Should it happen that I am granted a new life, I will most definitely share it with you.

3 of 3...

EPILOGUE

NKANYISO

I've never seen Mngqobi that broken Londiwe really did a serious number on him, and for what? Nothing. She gained nothing from all of that witchcraft she participated on because Mngqobi still didn't care about her. She is very heartless I tell you. Mngqobi, didn't come out of his room last night to join us for supper hopefully he will grace us with his presence during breakfast, I don't even want to know how the pain in his heart feels like it must be, geez I don't even know what to say.

Nobuntu stirs next to me it is only now that she managed to get some sleep she has been tossing & turning all night worried about Mngqobi. She didn't want to sleep, but I had to give her some sleeping tablets. And then there's this issue of her mother, ai that woman is too much honestly, why would one hate their daughter this much for no apparent reason? I think she's bipolar but just doesn't know it yet, or maybe she knows, but she's turning a blind eye to all of this Mngqobi must pray for her or something because wawuza. Her fate is yet to be decided. I rinse my face then step out of the bedroom quietly as I can be because Nobuntu is one weird person, even if she

drinks sleeping pills she is still a slight sleeper just one tiny uncalculated move she is awake, but if it was wine hhe, let me

not get started, she would sleep until you wake her up.

Happiness is knowing that she will not be devouring in wine for the next couple of months if not a year. I find everyone gathered around the feasting table including Mnqobi, it's good seeing him smiling again after his breakdown yesterday. I greet everyone and settle down next to him, it's a man's house up in here we need more females just to balance things.

“I don't think I will ever get used to you always waking up before Nobuntu”. The King comments.

“If it was in any other different circumstances she would've long woken up, and besides she couldn't sleep last night”.

Him: “What? Why”?

Me: “She was stressed about Mnqobi”.

Mnqobi: "My little bear though. I'm sorry for stressing her
maarn it was not my intention, but then I was hurt man
Londiwe really crushed by spirit, otherwise I forgive her. I won't

heal any time soon, but with time I will eventually, or maybe
that was the sign to show that she was not meant for me".

Me: "You will be fine man".

King: "She was indeed not your chosen one, you will find
your one". The seer shakes his head.

Him: "He has already found the one for him". I look at Mnqobi.

Me: "Do you know her"? He shakes his head. He is lying, I know
him phela.

Mveli: "So, how will he know that, that particular lady is
his chosen one"?

King: "The signs will be there, and he will feel the connection once with her".

Him: "I see. And the lady? Will she also feel the connection? Pardon me for asking too much, and no I don't like news I'm just curious". We all laugh.

King: "Yes, she will also feel the connection".

Him: "Smiso. How did you know that Nobuntu was the one for you"?

Me: "The very first time she opened her mouth and started singing that's when I knew that she was the one for me".

Nkosi: "He basically fell in love with her voice before seeing her face"?

Mnqobi: “You are very much correct”.

Mveli: “I think also you boys should start falling for voices before the faces, and church is a good start you can sit by the gate, and listen to the voices before seeing their faces”. We all

laugh. My Father is one silly character, but I would never trade him for anything/anyone in this world, well not entirely anyone.

Ziyanda: “Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend church and fall for voices because I, too, just like Nkanyiso I'm going...”. He stops talking, and look at Mnqobi. I understand him though he doesn't want to open the wound for Mnqobi again.

Mnqobi' “You are going to be daddy Ziyanda”. He gives him a very assuring smile.

Mveli: “Gina is pregnant? Hhayi wena! Such shocking news, how far is she”? Talk about being dramatic.

Ziyanda: "Six months".

Mbuso: "Erh, congratulations man the Dube clan is growing".

We also congratulate him.

Nkosi: "I guess it is safe to say that the pregnancy was the one making her hate Nobuntu, or maybe her child sensed that Nobuntu was pregnant too".

Me: "Yeah, it might be possible". The horn sounds, well it's time for Lindiwe together with Londiwe to go to the sacred river to have their fate decided for them. We all get up from our chairs and walk outside, oh. Boniwe is Nobuntu's personal helper again she decided to be one since she understands Nobuntu better than all the other female here. And Crecentia must also step inside the river to be cleansed since she lost her baby, and by the look of things she, too, will be staying here.

We get to the river Lindiwe & Londiwe are already here waiting for their fate to be decided, looking at Londiwe she looks like she has been crying the whole night, while Lindiwe seems unbothered by all this. She is so cruel, but then again my wish is

that they give them both second chances Lindiwe is still Mngqobi, Crecentia and Nobuntu's mother, and Londiwe also has a family that loves her, she also confessed her sins, but they should not be welcomed here, and hopefully the river will grant them that second chance we can only wish that it does.

“This is the sacred river of Zithobele village. This river will be the one to determine your faith if whether it grants you a second chance, and sail you to the village of THE LIVING DEAD, the very dangerous and deadliest village to have ever been there. It's survival of the fittest in that village, only the brave survive. You must bear in mind that every consequence is followed by an action. Take off your shoes, and step inside that water”. Londiwe does so without any arguments, but Lindiwe is plain refusing.

“Leave me alone I am not stepping into that river I am not. I did not do anything wrong. Was I wrong for wishing to have a boy child after how I conceived Crecentia? Was I wrong for being scared that both Crecentia & Nobuntu will go what I went through? At least I would've handled one girl's situation, but 2? It was too much for me, I feared for both their lives I really did, and I really didn't know how to handle it. All I wanted was another boy child, having 2 boys would've been better because

they would've protected their sister. I was fearing for their lives". She burst out into tears. We didn't think that it was this deep, but either way she had no right to treat Nobuntu the way she did. She was disappointed with giving birth to another girl instead of a boy, but she had no right whatsoever to direct her anger towards Nobuntu.

Mnqobi: "Even if that was the reason Mama, you were not supposed to treat her the way you did. She did not ask to be born, you are the one who brought her into this earth. You could've approached this situation in a very approachable manner, like sitting down with her, and gave her the reasons as to why you hated her so much".

Her: "I know, and I'm sorry I was just disappointed".

Him: "Then step inside the river, do it for me then if not for yourself, and you will have to forgive yourself it was not your fault. Forgive yourself so that you can give Nobuntu all the love she needs, we all deserve second chances in life, and nothing was go to happen to them". She nods, and gets up from the grass.

Her: "You've grown so much my son, and I'm proud of you". She pinches her cheeks, and get inside the river... Yoh, the water start boiling vigorously something of which did not even happen when Khethiwe and the others stepped inside it.

Mveli: "Why is the water angry now"?

Seer: "It is still deciding their fate, remember that the other one sacrificed with an innocent child

Advertisement

and the other have harboured too much hatred within her".

Mnqobi: "I have no doubt that they will be given a second chance". The water continue boiling, and they are slowly but surely sinking in, and without any warning given the water spew them out. Almost all of us breath out a sigh of relief, they've been given a second chance. Thank you, God, and the underground gang. You see that if you confess with your mouth that you are a sinner, and believe that God will give you a

second chance, he will give you since he is God of many chances, he never counts our mistakes like people do...

★»★«

THAKASILE

Life here in the LIVING OF THE DEAD village is not nice at all. We are always fighting to stay alive day in day out we never sleep. Unfortunately my grandmother couldn't make it, she died in a crossfire battle between the red moon tribe & the black sun tribe I don't even know what she was doing there. We live off by

eating human flesh we've turned into cannibals, we go and hunt for human in the big cities but never at Zithobele village. 3 if not 4 of the dwellers here tried, but they never came back and that was 3 years ago, even here in this scary village Khethiwe still want to rule. She is now planning to start her own village around here, she still wants to be in power, too

bad there's no money here, and as for me I don't want to be here any more, but how will I break free when I'm already married to the 2nd Prince of the red moon cannibals tribe? I am trapped here if only I never listened to my grandmother feeding my ears with poison I wouldn't be here, but what's done is done, and it's time I adjusted to this new life of mine of drinking blood, and eating raw body parts, but it is said that there is a big war coming in the near future we must be prepared. A woman who was once scorned, and betrayed will be back to seek revenge. She is going to shake this Kingdom. I wonder who is the woman? But we are ready...

My name is Thakasile, there is nothing to learn in my life because my journey is only beginning...

★»★«

{4 YEARS LATER}

NOBUNTU

Life have been amazing for me for the past years. My relationship with Nkanyiso have grown so much in these years, and we are expecting our second child Nkanyiso doesn't know though I will tell him tonight our CebolweNkosi Sphakamiso Dube is 4 years old now such a naughty child he is, I'm sure he takes after his Father because I don't remember being troublesome when growing up. My relationship with my mother have grown too, and I must say that I am very happy about it, yes she stays here, and my Father have given her another chance so their relationship is coming well just fine. Mngqobi is officially a preacher, and he has his own church now

together with his beautiful prophetess wife Snikelelo, and they have a 2 years old daughter HlelolweNkosi Alwande Nxumalo such a cutie pie. Boniwe & Mbuso also gave their relationship a chance, they both own a cleaning company in the city, but they stay here full-time they have people who work for them, well they don't have a child yet since Boniwe can't conceive they are planning to adopt, and Mbuso doesn't have a problem with it he is supporting her, after all love conquers all. Ziyanda & Gina also have a son, but they are not staying here they come here to visit only, me & Gina are good now I guess her son was disliking my son since from birth, because they sometimes fight, and they are the same age, but otherwise they look out of for each other young as they are. Crecentia, is now a trauma counselor in the city clinic, wait our (Me & Mngqobi)

sophisticated clinic people here in the village never get sick, and she is not seeing anyone. Nkosikhona went back to university he decided to pursue his law career, and rumour has it that he, too, is going to be a Father. Mveli, my Father-in-law is still around he is seeing someone too, and he is still his crazy self. I also heard that Zweli is a Father now, and his Kota joint business is growing he has drawn inspiration from Z&B hangout joint Bayanda is in the process of helping him expand his business they are best of friends now. Makhosazana is rumoured that she is unstable (lunatic) and has been admitted in a mental institution. Londiwe went abroad to start a new life,

and Natasha is said to be passed on may her soul rest in peace. Oh, and the fake seer Sdumo is still not known where he is, as much as he was a fake he was right about me being Nkanyiso soulmate.

I am looking at my body in the lengthy mirror and my tummy is very much visible, and the black line is too dark now of which makes me wonder why is it dark now, and for a 3 months pregnancy it looks big haikhona. Wehhh, I'm a sexy mama bathong. Nkanyiso appears behind me, too late for me to cover myself up. He places his hands on my tummy.

“When were you going to tell me that we are going to be parents again”? Kissing my cheek.

Me: “I was going to tell you tonight”.

Him: “And as usual I've ruined the surprise, and for a 3 months pregnancy your tummy is hella big”. I laugh.

Me: “How do you know that I'm 3 months pregnant”?

Him: “Because your sanitary pads are still sealed”. He keeps tabs on my menstrual cycle now? I am happy maarn, do you have a name for her/him already”?

Me: “Nope, not yet. And you do”?

Him: “Yes, I do. U manikiniki u chicken u beef”. I laugh.

Me: “Uyanya wena shame. Ngamane uhlale”. We both laugh.

Him: “I'm kidding Elami. Olwethuloluthando will do just good”.

Me: “I love it, but it's such a long name Elami”.

Him: “They can always shorten it”.

Me: “You are right hey”.

Him: “I love you”.

Me: “I love you too”. The door creaks open, and Cebo comes running in.

“Mommy”! I pick him up, and spin him around I take it that Ziyanda & Gina are here he has been visiting them. “Nkanyiso”. Nkanyiso snorts, and laugh.

Him: “Can you for once just call me Dad, daddy”?

Cebo: “Okay daddy”. Nkanyiso takes him walking out with him leaving me to finish dressing. Today is my graduation day, I am your pharmacist. God, has been good to me. Through our trials

- tribulations we will come out victorious, and remember it gets too dark before you find the light.

My name is Nobuntu Nxumalo-Dube, and this was my story. I hope you've learned something from it, and remember that God loves us all, and we must always believe in him, and never

cease praying. Your day is coming, hold on. I do hope to see you again in future hopefully as a Queen this time around.

Thank you so much for being part of this roller-coaster journey, where we cried, laughed, cursed and hated some characters. And almost stopped reading, but you continued. It has been fun hosting you, thank you a trillion times.

.....**The End**.....

