

# HUNTED 2

BY MBALI NYABANE



**Hunted 2 by Mbali Nyabane**

### 3 year's later

#### Nombuso

I smiled as I took a sip of my red wine I still couldn't believe it that I had just graduated. The club was full of my classmates who had made it.

I should be dancing and happily drinking but I had barely even touched my wine other than the small sips I had just taken. "Hey." Ayabonga said making him to face him "You look like you are miles away what's wrong?"

I nod a little as I looked down on the table how was I supposed to tell him that I wished it was Mpilo sitting on the chair he was on.

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AD

sans-serif;">He always felt like he was second best and I could not blame him. I looked at him boy is he handsome. Nothing like Mpilo he is focused about to have a wonderful career as an accountant and he knows what he want.

I should be over the moon having such a man but I wasn't. I shift my eyes as I watch the other students dance and as some threw their graduating caps on the air.

"You thinking about him." It was no question he knew that I was. I fiddled with my hands as I looked around the club anywhere but him.

I heard him stand up "I can't do this anymore."

It was at this moment that I was supposed to tell him that I never wanted to lose him and how sorry I was and grab his hand like on the movies begging him not to go but I didn't.

3 months of us dating was not enough for me to get up and run after him. I watched him walked out of the door and not even once had he turned around and looked at me.

There was just a little sting on my heart as I realised he was really gone.

I gulped down the rest of my wine and got up after a while of listening to the deafening music.

The prison building came in to view I got out of the taxi and took a deep breath when the guard ushered me in.

I had to do this I told myself. "You may wait here." The guard said.

I looked at the visitation room not many people were there which made me less nervous. The door opened not believing my eyes I saw Mpilo in his orange uniform looking at me.

I wanted to run and hold him real tight but I didn't knowing that it was not allowed.

I smiled with tears streaming down my face "Hi." I said in a squeaky voice. It felt awesome seeing him for the first time ever since he got arrested.

"You did it." He said looking at my regalia. I nodded not making any effort wiping my tears.

He came closer I closed my eyes as I breathed in his scent. "Why are you here?" He asked as we both sat down.

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AD  
sans-serif;">"I wanted to see you."

"I don't want you to come here ever again." He said.

My heart shattered into a million pieces as I looked at him I never knew what to expect but it was never this.

"I want you to move on it is for the best."

I shook my head "No you don't mean that."

He sighed and sat back on the cold silver chair "I'm not the person I used to be I buried that person a long time ago. Jail" He said as he looked around "has changed me I don't remember who I used to be and to be honest I had lost all the feelings I had before. I'm sorry." He said as he got up and left not once did he turn and look at me I almost laughed realising he did it just like Ayabonga.

I watched as he nodded to the guard as they opened the door for him.

I sat there as I cried not caring if the people ten feet away from me looked at me or not. I cried hating how I felt at the day I was supposed to be at my happiest.

My eyes were welcomed by the handsome sight of Ayabonga putting on a tie the following morning and oh boy did he not look handsome.

He flashed me a smile and turned around “How do I look?” He asked making me to smile “You look dazzling.”

“Oh yeah?” He asked coming over to me and leaned forward as if to kiss me.

“Yeah.”

As he was about to dip down and kiss me I stopped him and covered my mouth “I have not brushed my teeth.”

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AD

sans-serif;">He smiled “It doesn’t matter.” He said as he removed my hand and kissed me.

“You are beautiful.” He said as he brushed my cheek and stood up “I made you some breakfast.”

I nodded and shouted “Good luck.” As he walked out of the door even though he grew up with a silver spoon in his mouth he asked his parents not to do anything for him after high school he wanted to learn to stand for himself and if he needed some help he will definitely tell them.

Even though he worked 2 jobs just to put himself in school he managed to get a scholarship and managed to get good marks and now ever firm wanted to work with him on their team.

I laid back on the snow white sheets and smiled I can’t remember the last time I genuinely smiled.

I spread my arms on the sheets and sighed a sigh of relief as I felt the soft sheets on my skin.

5

Even though I have been here a dozen times before it now felt different since I fully gave myself to Ayabonga.

I got out from the bed and went to the kitchen and true to his words there was indeed breakfast on the table

I quickly went into the bathroom and brushed my teeth and after went into the kitchen to have my breakfast. I took out my phone and went to my Gmail despite for the email telling that I got the waitressing job it wasn't much but at least it was something.

even though I had passed with amazing grades and I really hoped that by now I would be hired as counsellor but here I was job hunting.

My mind traced to yesterdays events even though I told myself that I would no longer go down that route anymore it still hurt having him reject me like that my heart still ached a little bit but then I thought about Ayabonga and a smile broke into my face I liked how he was gentle with me and cares about me.

I stood up and went into the window he had a nice view one I'm sure caused every penny but it was worth it.

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51); font-family: Helmet Freesans sans-serif;">I smiled realising that this could be the life I'm living with him a life that is secured and full of safety.

I went into the shower and quickly showered and went out I got inside my taxi and told the driver where I was going.

My flat came into view in just a couple of minutes it was not as grand as Ayabonga's apartment but it was still my home.

The building was old and did not look just as great I got out of the taxi and got inside the elevator.

I got off and went inside my flat I looked at the familiarity of my flat and sighed it was not decorated as much it had all the mismatched furniture which described me to a tee.

I threw myself on the bed and closed my eyes and took a deep breath as I tried to push Mpilo out of my mind.

6

## Mpilo

I sat on the bench and watched the guys as they played soccer my mind was not on the field it was far away feo here.

I could not sleep last night Nombuso was all that I could think about I didn't want her to go but I just had to do what I did seeing her drive me crazy and she was so beautiful more beautiful than the last time I saw her.

She had shown growth and independence even though I didn't want to hurt her I did

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I had to.

She has been the only one who kept me going in this hell hole and the one person I wanted to meet the second I got out of here.

"What's on your mind?"

I turned to look at Tshepiso the one person that I befriended and shrugged.

"You have been like this since yesterday so what's up?"

I sighed "I just saw someone and... A lot of memories came to mind that's all." Even though he was my friend I was not okay telling him all about my personal life.

I sat back and folded my arms as I tried to concentrate on the match but she was still on my mind all I wanted was for her to have a normal life and not wait around for me and she did.

Seeing her in that gown made me so happy that she did it she managed to make something out of herself.

But soon I will get her back.

7

**Nombuso**

I smiled as I remembered the call that I got from Ayabonga.

“Get ready I am taking you out.” He said over the phone even though he never mentioned where he was taking me I decided to go with being casual just threw on a jean and a t-shirt.

I looked at the watch it was already half past 5 and the knock came through the door and standing there was Ayabonga and handed me flowers “You look beautiful.”

I smiled as I took the flowers and muttered a thank you. I looked at him and saw that he was not also wearing casual.

“Let me put these in the water and we can go and please make yourself at home.” He nodded as he walked deeper into my flat.

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I watched at him as he looked around “You have nice taste.” he said as he turned to look at the paintings I had.

“Thank you.” I said as I poured water on the vase and placed the flowers inside.

He walked over towards my direction and nodded to the flowers on the counter “I hope you like them.”

“Oh yeah they are really beautiful.”

“Not as beautiful as you though.” He said with a smile. I playfully rolled my eyes at him as we got out.

We got inside his car and watched him drive from time to time he turned to me and smiled making me blush just a little bit.

It felt weird being so free not being filled with constant worry and fear.

At this moment with Ayabonga besides me I felt so free around him.



I smiled as I saw the sign of paint ball. "I didn't want our first date to be too formal."

He took my hand as he led me inside we were handed our guns and went inside place and started shooting I laughed as a ball of paint landed on my shirt. "I'm going to get you."

I heard Ayabonga's laughter as he ran to hide.

Soon we were both covered in paint as we both laughed at how ridiculous we looked. "You look beautiful." He said as he held me by my waist.

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51 51); font-family: Helmet Freesans sans-serif;">"Thanks." I said "Thanks for today I really enjoyed."

He kissed my forehead and looked at me "You wanna grab lunch."

I looked at my clothes and shook my head "We are both full of paint."

"I brought change of clothes." He said as he ran into the car came out with clothes in a plastic bag. "I hope you don't mind when we both match."

"I don't." I said taking the plastic and went into the toilet and quickly changed into the black sweatpants and a vest.

9

Surprisingly he took me into a Kota place "You are full of wonders." I said as we both sat down.

"I know right I knew that I grew up in a wealthy home but I still wanted to experience things and live like any normal person."

"Thank you for today."

He shrugged "And just know that there are still too many dates yet to come." He said as he kissed my hand.

butterflies flew like crazy on my stomach I can't even remember the last time I felt like this

I once thought that all the feelings I had would long disappeared but turns out I was wrong cause this man right here makes it much easier for me to fall for him.



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sans-serif;">"I forgot to mention." I said as I took a bite of my Kota "I found the waitressing job that I had applied for couples weeks back."

he smiled like I had told him the greatest news ever "Really that's awesome.". I shrugged "Yeah I'm sure is not a fancy as your job assuming that you got it."

"Hey." he said lifting up my chin "That waitressing job is still a paying job alot of people out there would be happy just to be in your shoes right now."

I let out a small smile it was much easier for me to do that. there was just this something about him that makes me want to appreciate everything that I have. "You are right."

He nodded as he put the last piece of the Kota in his mouth and wiped his hands. "And yes I got the job I was actually signing a contract."

"That's amazing Aya."

"Yeah its not such a big deal." I laughed "Look who's being modest now."

10

For the past few weeks it had felt like I have been living in a fairytale world. Ayabong has been such a breath of fresh air he has been nothing but sweet as he he took me out to all the amazing places or if we were too lazy to go out we had an indoor picnic or played video games or even watched Netflix.

My world had felt like it had completely changed from what I thought I always knew. He has shown me love that I never thought existed except on movies only. each and every single day he would be there waiting for me to clock out whether it was raining or not.

I looked at my self in the mirror and smiled as I put on a dress I wanted to impress his family. Although he told me not to stress and just be me it was hard to be meeting his family felt like a big deal to me and besides I never had much practice from Mpilo. I looked at the watch it read 6:50 and soon he will be here. I looked at myself once more and smiled at the progress that I had made.

My braids were up in a ponytail I had a little bit of make up on and had put on a sleeveless dress. The knock came at the door. I smiled as I looked Ayabonga he looked breathtaking in his black and white tuxedo. "You went all out."

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sans-serif;">"So did you." he said as he kissed me "You are really beautiful my Angel and I brought you something." he said taking a little box from his pocket and opened it and I was met by the most beautiful and sparkly necklace "Wow."

"Please turn around." he said as he took it out from the box I did as he said and lifted up my braids for him to easily put it on. As soon as he was done I looked at it and it had a small heart "I like it." I said as I turned to face him.

"And I like you."

soon we were driving into his parents place and I just couldn't stop fidgeting . "Hey." he said holding my hands "You don't have to be so nervous my parents will see why I love you."

My breath caught on my throat as I heard the *I love you* we had not yet said those words to each other I looked at him and back at the road "You said the 3 words." I could feel his eyes on me for a second or two and I heard him clear his throat "I know that we agreed to say those words when we were really sure about our feelings and Nombuso I mean them. I love you to the moon and back there is nothing that I wouldn't do for you."

I didn't know what to say Lord knows how much I wanted to say those words back but I didn't. I just kept quiet until we arrived at his parents house.

11

The house was spectacular I could not help but look around. "We are here." Ayabonga shouted as soon as we walked inside.

He took me into the kitchen where his parents were and went and hugged them "Mom Dad this is Nombuso my girlfriend." he said as he came to stand besides me. I felt small as they both looked at me like I am some cheap thing.

"Hi." I meekly said. they both nodded at me as they turned and talked to their son. I stood there not knowing what to do.

"Is there anything we can help you with?" Aya asked.

"No we are almost done anyway you guys can go and sit down."

Ayabonga led me into the living room and helped me with my chair I muttered a thank you as I sat down his mother came carrying a dishing pot and placed it on the table. "Nombuso right?" She asked as she sat down.

I nodded "Were are you from?"

"Uh Tembisa."

"Oh really and where are you staying now?"

"Kempton Park"

she looked at me with disgust "Don't get me wrong but you are not the girl I had expected my son to bring home."

"Mom." Ayabonga half shouted.

She looked at him "What? It is true

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"Oh really and where are you staying now?"

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she looked at me with disgust "Don't get me wrong but you are not the girl I had expected my son to bring home."

"Mom." Ayabonga half shouted.

She looked at him “What? It is true she is just a low life girl who saw money as she looked at you and knew that she had to sink her nails to you.”

My heart broke at her words but I refused to myself cry Ayabonga stood up “That’s it” he said as he turned towards me “We are leaving.” I stood up and held him from leaving “No” I said “Let us have the dinner and I can try to convince your mother that I am no gold digger.”

He looked at me with surprise “Are you sure?”

I nodded as we sat down. “I am amazed at the character you have in mind about me I understand that you want what is best for your son as any mother would and I will not spend my time trying to convince you of the person I am but what I can tell you is that I really love your son with everything that is in me he brings out the best in me and that is all that matters.” I said as I looked at him and already found his eyes on me “He makes me want to be the best version of me.”

The table went quiet for a couple of seconds until Ayabonga’s dad cleared his throat “Let us eat before the food gets cold.”

13

When the morning rush was over I could now finally breath I took the last cups and plates on the counter and continued to wipe the table.

“Excuse me.”

Without turning I continued wiping the table “I’m sorry but can you ask someone else to come and help you?” I said as I turned around.

I could not believe my eyes I stepped back a little bit refusing to believe my eyes I shook my head as I placed the tray back on the table “It can’t be.” I said more to myself than the person standing besides me “No.”

Mpilo smiled he has grown a beard from the last time I saw him even though I wanted to throw myself in his arms I didn’t

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I stayed rooted where I was even though there were no guards to stop us “What are you doing here no wait how are you here?”

“I got a parole I didn’t want to tell you incase I didn’t get it.” He said nodding as he looked around the little restaurant “I’m glad that you found yourself a decent job.”

“Thanks but you haven’t answered my question. What are you doing here?” I said sitting down.

“I came to see you.” He said joining me “And you look beautiful like always he said trying to touch my face.” I moved back and watched him take his hand back “You can’t do me like this.” I said “You can’t come here and act like you and I are okay while we are not you can’t come here and be like everything is back the same way you left it.”

“I know.” He said looking at the table “I know a whole lot has changed and..”

I shook my head “Let me stop you right there” I folded my arms “You pushed me away so many times and you told me to move on and now that I have and I am finally happy you decide to come back in my life and destroy whatever bubble of happiness I had created for myself.”

He took a deep breath “I know this is real selfish of me I know but I never stopped loving you not even once while I was in there.”

“It’s a little too late for that if maybe you had said all that when I came to visit you I may have been the happiest girl in the world.” I stood up “Now You no longer have that right to tell me that I’m glad that you out but I’ll be more glad if you stopped coming here.” I said picking up the tray and left him standing there.

14

**Mpilo**

It was hard for me to accept that she wanted nothing to do with me even though I was the one to tell her that she must move on. But I never thought that she would actually move on I thought for some stupid reason she would wait up for me until I got out of jail at least that's was what I wanted.

There is no one that I want besides her

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AD

sans-serif;">There is no one that I want besides her and now I had managed to push her away just like that and in just 4 weeks she has managed to find her own happiness or maybe a boyfriend.

It just bothered me how she could easily move on just like that it was now 7:30 p.m and she had just closed down the restaurant I stayed hidden behind the bushes as I watched her and gosh she looked so beautiful she waited near the door as she looked down the road and short after a car pulled up and left.

My heart dropped to the floor as I watched the car disappeared down the road I could not believe it. She has managed to a partner I kicked myself for pushing her away from me and now I have lost her forever.

I got into the cab and all the way from I wondered how I was going to prove it to her that I still loved her.

15

**Nombuso**

I was still spooked about what had happened earlier today it was still a huge shock to me that he was out.

“Are you okay?” I looked at Ayabonga and nodded “It sure doesn’t seem like you look okay you barely touched the fried chicken that you love so much. What’s going on sweet cheeks?”

I sighed “Nothing really I just had a long day at work.” I said as I forced myself to eat the chicken. “And your day?” I asked as I tried to shift the focus on me he started talking about the clients he had today but my mind was elsewhere even though I tried not to think about him

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AD

but my mind was elsewhere even though I tried not to think about him It felt so hard not too. I pulled myself out of my thoughts as my phone vibrated my heart pounded on my chest when I saw the unknown number with a message that read : *I know you hate me right now but can you please meet me tomorrow at 12:00 p.m at the park we usually went too xxx*

I switched off my phone and turned to look at Ayabonga “Who was that?” He asked as he drank his cold drink. I tried to act nonchalant “Zinhle she asked me to cover for her tomorrow at work but I’ll text her later and tell her I cannot since it is my day off tomorrow.”

“Okay. Are you down for a movie? we can cuddle.” He asked as he took our empty plates to the kitchen. “Not today babe.” I half shouted for him to hear “I’m tired today maybe tomorrow?”

“Okay but I’ll be in the lounge watching a movie you could join me later if you feel like it.”

I went into the bedroom and looked at the message again and again and it was a question of whether I was going there or not.

16

## **Mpilo**

It was now 12:40 and I had set everything up I wondered if she even read my text yesterday or she just ignored it. Just as I was to give up I saw her in a green dress hugging her body so perfectly. I watched her as she walked over to me on the inside I was screaming with absolute joy it was so hard to believe that she was here.

“Hi.” I said when she was close enough. “Quit the pleasantries and tell me why I am here when I could be home relaxing.” I nodded as we sat down “I am sorry for pushing you away.” I said “I am sorry for hurting you.”

“Don’t you think it’s a little bit tad too late now?”

“It is but I want you to hear me out.”

“And what is that going to change?” I shrugged “Probably nothing but can I still say my peace?”

“Okay.”

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Freesans sans-serif;">“I know I have been an asshole before but I didn’t want you to see me like that in an orange uniform. I didn’t want you to have that picture of me in there I was not myself in there and I didn’t want you to see another version of me a version that I too never liked.”

she looked at me like I was insane “Why? I didn’t care about all that I wanted to be there for you be your pillar of strength but you pushed me away.”

“And I’m sorry I did but you don’t understand while I was in there I could not show any emotions I could not show who I cared about because they would have hurt you because of some stupid rival gang and when you came that other day I had to pretend that I didn’t want you there because even some of the guards work for the gangs and I could not put you in harms away.”

She kept quiet for a while as if she was pondering all that I had said “Oh.” She said as she fiddled with her hands it was that one thing she constantly did when she was thinking “I didn’t know even so Mpilo I have found myself a boyfriend and he is treating me good he protects me he makes me laugh try new things and he is a good guy.”

“Do you love him?” I asked asking such a question terrified me but I had to know.

“Does it matter?”

I shrugged “I just wanna know.” she sighed “I think I do.” she said she was not sure and that left me with a small chance for me to be able prove myself to her.

17

## Nombuso

I felt guilty when I walked inside the apartment “Hey.” Aya said when I closed the door “I knocked off early today since you were off.” I walked up to him and gave him a hug ” Oh yeah?” I asked when I tried to pull away from the hug he held my hand “Wait.” he said as he pulled me to him my heart pounded on my chest as he closely watched me “You didn’t kiss me.” I gave out a sigh when I kissed him on the lips.



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Freesans sans-serif;">"So where were you?" I placed my bag on the couch and kicked off my shoes "Oh I was just out for some fresh air and I just needed time to think."

Even though I felt so guilty about going out and meeting up with Mpilo I found myself enjoying being with him it felt like he has never left. It felt good to talk things out here his side of the story and just talk like two grown adults. Even though I shouldn't have I found myself agreeing to do another meet up as *friends*.

I hated what I was doing busy going behind Ayabonga's back but I was not doing anything wrong. it was not like I was planning to get back together or anything like that with Mpilo. We were just catching up but why was I feeling so guilty if all I was doing was just hang out.

18

## Nombuso

As the days passed I found myself spending more time with Mpilo as he took me out to all these amazing places I found myself liking the attention he was giving me.

"Where are you off to?" Ayabonga asked as I put on my denim jacket "Off to see some friends." I said as I kissed him on the cheek "I'll see you later." I grabbed my bag and was ready to walk when he shouted wait.

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Freesans sans-serif;">"For the past few days we barely spent time together it's either you are tired or you always ready to go somewhere."

"I didn't know you felt like that?"

Ayabonga shook his head "Exactly how would you have know if we barely even spend 5 minutes together? Do you even still want to be with me Nombuso?"

I walked over to him and held his hands "Of course babe I don't wanna lose you Aya. I'm sorry you felt like alone just give me a couple of hours and I'll fix all of this." I said as I kissed him on the lips and hurried to meet with Mpilo.

I knew that I had to fix all this mess that I had made I have to choose and that was what I was going to do.

**Nombuso**

I found Mpilo already waiting outside the club I let him take me to the mall. I listened to him talk about almost everything seemed really excited to spend his time with me.

Although I also enjoyed spending time with him Ayabonga's words kept ringing on my head and he was right I have been playing him all this while making him a fool behind his back.

“What's going on? You have been awfully quiet.”

We stopped walking and he looked at me “Have I done something? Or said something that you didn't like?”

I shook my head “No it's not you Mpilo.” I looked down at the stuffed animal he bought for me “I realised that I am tired Mpilo I am tired of the sneaking around. I don't even know what we are doing here.” I said ignoring all the people who were passing by “Don't get me wrong

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I loved all the things we did recently but I can't do this anymore I feel like I have been choosing you for so long that I even forgot to love myself in the process because I have been putting you first and I deserve to put me first.”

I looked at the stuffed animal although it was beautiful I handed it back to him “And I realised yet again that I have been foolish all this time so allow me to love me and put me first.” I said with a smile and walked away from him.

This time I didn't turn around to look if he was looking at me or if the crowd of people have blocked his view.

I quickly called Uber I was anxious anxious to see Ayabonga and hold him in my arms when the car parked outside the apartment I quickly ran out and went to the apartment and found him on the stove cooking he looked surprised seeing me there “What's wrong?”

“Tell me again Aya tell me again that you love me.”

He kept quiet for a second as if wondering where all this came from but he quickly recovered and said "I love you Nombuso." He said standing so close to me that I felt his hot breath.

"I love you too." When our lips locked I knew that I had made the right decision in his arms right now I felt secured and safe. I held him a little bit closer to me and I just knew right there and then that I wanted no one else but him.

I choose him.