

# A GIFT CURSED

## PROLOGUE

"LIHLE!! LIHLE!!" I jump startled, this does not get any better it feels new everytime. How can I, how can I get used to a strange voices with no figure, a voice I do not know where it comes from. I curl myself at the corner of my room. Suddenly the whole room becomes cold even my bones register the amount of coldness in this room, I shiver. "LIHLE!! LIHLE!!" there it goes again, I feel the urge to run but my feet won't let me. Its a fatal failure I console myself thinking even if I do who will believe me. They all call me crazy, weird and in need of help. But am I? A wave of courage flashes and "who are you what do you want" OMG did my lips just betray me too, I scold my self deep down not raising an inch of my head. I decide to lift my head a little and scan the whole room and there is no one WAIT am I dreaming NO it can't be a dream. I still feel the cloud of coldness hovering in my room.

"Lihle!! " I literally fall butt flat on the concrete floor. I turn ooh its my uncle I sigh atleast this time its someone I can see. He switches on the light and I dont even want to describe his facial expression. He looks like he will surely send me to join my parents today, "well done Lihle you got yourself a first class ticket to the grave" there goes my inner voice. I quickly look down.

Uncle : You are at it again aren't you . Heeh mntaka Okuhle (Okuhles child). You are disturbing everyone's peace its midnight for Gods sake. If its your ghost shit I swear on my sister's grave uzowukhomba umuzi onotshwala(you will see what I am made of today) and he walks out  
Okay I thought the voices were scary but I was looking exactly at the photocopy of doom a few minutes ago ,yes am practically doomed with this man .Uncle Sizwe will surely rearrange me. I am truly afraid of that man . My uncle is a walking beast ,he is tall and buff ,has a deep and hoarse voice ,red eyes that pierce deep into your soul.He is forever serious ,speaks only once. To think he is my mothers brother kodwa chaa ngeke(no ways).

I drag myself to bed ,get myself in my blankets and just sit staring into space and begin to think.I am a girl child,at 17 lost my parents, I dream ,I hope and wish I had a normal childhood but nothing has ever been normal about me even my own life is mysterious.I hear voices ,I see things that I cannot even understand. "Am I a witch?" "Am I cursed" .  
Who is Lihlelethu Ngcobo ?

Let me take you through the journey of my self discovery .Hang on for the ride.

A GIFT CURSED

## INSERT 1

Am stuck in the same room in the same mode ,trying to make sense of what's senseless. I see her ,I hear her, I feel every emotion she feels. When she cries I cry with her,when she is at peace am also at peace when she is sad I feel it too. To think I don't even know who she is how her face looks and where she is. I only see her in my dreams, I see her coming towards me every time in a pure white dress ,her skin glowing and her caramel complexion complementing her beauty,a body to die for curves in all the right places. She is not created but perfectly designed she is a true definition of perfection a goddess one that only lives in my dreams.Whenever I am about to unveil her I wake up. Is this real? What is happening to me ? What is this dream all about?

Same dream every night every detail the same as the one on the previous night .Am stuck so deep in my thoughts neglecting the real world .

Linathi : Earth to Bonga .( She snaps her fingers right in front of my face bringing me to reality. )

SILENCE

Linathi : Babe whats wrong I have been starring at you for almost 10minutes and you deep in thoughts. Is everything okay.

SILENCE

Linathi : Bonga!!

Me : What

Linathi : You are doing it again.( She touches my hand) . Please talk to me

Me :( I give a faint smile) . Its nothing babe don't worry about it .I rub her hand gently giving her assurance

How do you explain to your girlfriend that you seeing a girl who has apparently captured your heart in your dreams and don't even see her face. DAMN that's good as falling in love with a ghost .FUCK ME I should visit a psychologists this is too much. I make that mental note in my head . Maybe am imagining all this shit . But imagining one thing for 2 months, is that even possible . I sigh frustrated .

Linathi : Breakfast is ready !! she shouts from the kitchen

I join her for breakfast and we eat silently am deep in thoughts only the sound of the cutlery is audible .I like the fact that Nathi is quite she is giving me time to think about all this shit in peace. Infact I can't wait for her to leave I need my peace and its weekend am supposed to be resting. She tends to forget that she is just my girlfriend not my wife. Even if I want a wife I can never wife her ass she has bitchy tendencies.

My name is Siyabonga Khumalo ride along with me as I reveal my complicated life.

~LIHLE~

No matter how much good your life can be or how much you can have every little thing of everything on earth joy never comes from materialistic things. Joy is inner peace inner happiness. Its not

conditional but it just flows and does not vanish. That is one thing I did not have. I had everything from clothes, gadgets, the good life and my own driver to brag about. From people's perspective outside they believe my life is beautiful, amazing and they even wish to be me but in actual fact I live in the most darkest world with no ray of light, no glimpse of hope, no nothing, it's just a world by name. After my parents' death Uncle Sizwe, my mother's brother, took me in and raised me whilst my paternal family battled for everything that my parents owned, not even willing to take care of me. I remember their words vividly and all they said

"Take who where to whose house, lazi kanjani ukuti yingane ka Mandla le" (how do you know that she is Mandla's child)

"Mandla never told us that he has a child"

"Mina I can never bring another burden to my house, ngithwele nzima ngokukhulisa ezami ingane" (am facing a hard time raising my own children)

"Hayi chaa lento kayifani loMandla" (No, this thing does not look anything like Mandla)

That is what they all called me, a thing, they rejected me, called me a burden, but they all jumped at my parents' property. Even Uncle Sizwe himself, I think he took me in out of pity, but he never wanted me. I remember the arguments he used to have with my mother. The words "Okuhle, what are you going to do with a child of a nobody like Mandla". If my father was a nobody to him, I guess I am a nobody to

him too.

To say I miss my parents would be an understatement, I want them here with me but what you wish for is not always what you get. School is my sanity am doing my 3rd year in Criminology at UZ and things are really going well. My studies are my escape route from all this confusion and chaos I call my life.

I wake up to the sound of Uncle Sizwe girlfriend's moan tjoo shame this girl can scream. I laugh at the thought. Uncle must be giving it to her really good am sure the whole neighborhood must be hearing her screams. Mxm my uncle has money but he simply failed to sound proof his room cause this is what I call noise pollution. I fix my bed and tidy up my room and start my hygiene process. I take 30 minutes in the bathroom and then lotion my body and tie my box braid into a bun. I opt for boyjeans and a white croptop with white fila kicks. Am not a makeup person and I take a look at myself on the mirror and am good to go. I gather my stuff together my backpack, phone and earphones then head to the kitchen. I find Nomalanga in my uncle's T-shirt tjoo ugirl is serious with breakfast whilst her flat ass is out. I want to burst out in laughter so hard thinking about her screams and I hold myself together.

Me : Morning Aunty ( girl is two years older than me and I have to call her my aunty ngoba she is with my uncle. I roll my eyes at that thought)

Langa : morning sweetie how are you

Me : Am good thank you .( I quickly make my cereal and eat up wash the bowl) my uncle shows up as am about to leave

Uncle : Lihlelethu

Me : morning uncle and bye aunty and uncle . I get in the car and my driver drops me off at campus.

I plug in my earphones and mind my own business and get on with my daily lectures for others school is boring but I enjoy it .its a world that takes me away from everything miserable thing around me. I attend all my lectures and the last class Prof Ndebele was busy about defending a guilty client charged with murder. He gave us assignments and that was it for the day.

After class I decided a late lunch would do and Steers it was . You see my life is just lonely I do not have a friend or anyone close to me cause I fear being neglected and rejected, if my family did it why would a nobody care. I then ordered a quarter chicken, fries and juice.Am enjoying my own company and devouring my meal and suddenly.He removes my earphones

1st Guy : Sabona ( hello)

2nd Guy : Aita

3rd Guy : Unjani(how are you)

I don't care who they are what they want but they a disturbing me and my meal and its ticking me off.I

raise my head and look at them then back to my meal .

Me : lifunani ( what do you want)

1st Guy : am Ayibongwe and these are my brothers Ayanda and Ayabonga he says pointing at the 2nd and 3rd guy respectively

Me : So ?

Ayanda : Mfethu( brother) leave this bitch alone she thinks she is important whilst she is just a piece of trash .She is not worth your energy and time

Ayabonga : Asambeni( let's go)

Me : Please by all means do .I need my peace

Ayibongwe is awfully quite and just staring at me and his eyes are just piercing though my skin and he is making me feel very uncomfortable. His brothers pull him and they leave. I sigh heavily did not even realise I had been holding my breath all this while.

A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 2



~Ayibongwe~

ǃǃǃ¼Mthulise

ǃǃǃ¼ Mthulise angakhali

ǃǃǃ¼Ungamyeki

ǃǃǃ¼Uthi uyamthanda

(Ringo ft Malika ...Mthulise Angakhali)

All I see is her , I could see her pain her sadness her loud cries, its was all written in her eyes .Her soul is empty there is no light at all .There is no joy in her. What could have killed the spirit of such an angel. Yena umntwana wabantu muhle( she is very beautiful). Its been days now since I last saw her at Steers ,she is always in my mind .Those beautiful golden brown eyes starring right at me.I can't get that picture out of my mind. I want to know why she is sad,why she is in pain want to know who switched off her light. I no longer concentrate even my work is the least of my worries .I just want to find her but where.I want to know her name and my heart is not even content with the fact that I don't even know where to start .I scratch my head in frustration. Am in the office, for what angaz lami , am not even doing anything except thinking of her .This has been my routine now and before I sleep. My late father always told me being a Zikhali means being strong, being brave ,being courageous and wise going beyond humanly possible boundaries and doing what no man has done but above all never letting go of a woman who has stolen your heart no matter what . And every fibre in me believes that its her she is the one the one who makes my heart beat fast and slow . Uyisbane kimi( she is my light ) and I have to find her .

Being Ayibongwe Zikhali ,I always get what I want when ever and where ever and she is mine no matter what.I will even paint the whole country red if I have to .She is mine.

## MANZINI KINGDOM

They a busy having their morning feast ,The King ,Queen and the two Princesses.The atmosphere is just peaceful and there is chatter here and there .Everyone busy asking each other about their night . Servants are running up and down serving the royal family. Guards all stationed ready to defend the family at any cost. The only people missing are the princes and their wives and children.

"King Nqobile!!" everyone stopped what they were doing searching where the voice is coming from and the Oracle appeared

Oracle : Nkosi yesizwe ekhokhelwa ngamadlozi labobabamkhulu balesi sigodlo ,isikhathi sesifikile. Indodana ilahlekile idinga ukuvezelwa indlela. Liyisheshele isipho sayo singayiphunyuki .(King of the Land lead by our ancestors and forefathers of this Kingdom, its time. Our son is lost he seeks to be guided. Do what's right so that he won't lose his gift) He leaves.

SILENCE

The silence in the palace is just too loud even an ant can hear it .Everyone is trying to make sense of what the oracle just said .The King informs his messagers to go out and summon all his royal advisors while the King sits in the throne room awaiting their

arrival.

## QUEEN NOXOLO

I am pacing up and down in my room trying to figure out what the oracle meant . It has become a mission for me as to what the oracle could have been talking about. Could it be my husband has another child outside this marriage.Wangenza uNqobile ungizalele enye ingane ngaphandle komshado( Nqobile has finally defeated me ,he fathers a child out of our marriage). Every atom in me wants to eavesdrop on the conversation in the throne room kodwa woman are not allowed . I tap my feet furiously looking for ways to gather the information . There is no other outcome he has another child ,why would the oracle say the son needs to be guided . All this thinking is making my head spin. My womb was blessed I gave the king four sons and two daughters ,Simpfiwe,Sivuyile,Siyanda and Siyabonga my boys and Amkela and Amahle the princess. Nqobile can not do this to me after I gave him all this .I want to give Nqobile the benefit of the doubt. He might be innocent ,he has never hurt me .Why should I paint him with a dirty brush.

## IN THE THRONE ROOM

King : My fellow advisors I summoned you because of the message the oracle delivered

King : I am swimming in a pool of confusion I don't know what to make out of what the oracle said

The King narrates the message the oracle delivered

Advisor 1 : Pardon me my King but I have to ask . Is

there any chance you were involved with someone else outside who you could have given your seed to.

King : Hayi chaa(No) you all know how the sons of the royal family are like . Our ancestors made sure that we were not encounter such since the reign of King Mnqobi. They avoided having half bloods scattered around by making the King bath in imithi and impepho zathunqiselwa kuyena( herbal roots and incense were light for him) since then all the generation after King Mnqobi no matter how they fool around none of the girls get impregnated unless they are the chosen Khumalo bride.

Ever since our fallen Kings had been having problems of having half blood children . Only children born of blue blood were to sit on the throne or succeed the fallen King but during King Ngqabutho reign the Kingdom almost lost everything when a half blood son appeared claiming the throne from the people.A great war and a huge cloud of sorrow ,and tears of the innocent hovered around the Kingdom as blood was spilt for the throne .After the war a cleansing was done the succeeding King was made to posses a beast in which every Prince had one and that beast can make children with it's chosen one and only its chosen one.

Advisor 2 : That's true my King ,then what could have the oracle meant by our son being guided before he losses his gift.

Advisor 3 : what is this gift the oracle was talking about .My King nothing truly makes sense in all the

oracle said.

Advisor 4 : My King the oracle is the mouthpiece of our ancestors . We are mere humans and our wisdom is not similar to that of our forefathers and our ancestors are wiser than us . Why dont we all go and consult the oracle for answers.

King : Usho kahle wakithi ( you have said it well ) let's all go to the oracle . Guards!! prepare the cars .

AT THE ORACLE

The advisors together with the King step out of the cars marching towards the house

Oracle : I forbid you to step in my compound. That blood in your hands cries for justice .That blood has tainted the whole Kingdom.This is sacred ground and your wicked ways will taint it.LEAVE!!!  
LEAVE!!! LEAVE!!!!

A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 3

SIYABONGA

Have you ever wanted something so badly that you even feel your brain and heart supporting the decision. Yearn for something so badly that you wish your life had a restart button. Being born in a royal family is so exhausting. You become an adult before you even grow into one .Everyone expects you to be perfect and live by the rules. Its like being a programmed robot living for the people ,by the people and with the people. Everything is decided for you before you are born. Minding your language, your dress sense, how you walk to even how you sit. FUCK is that even life. All you do is please people ,the same people who are quick to condemn you when you make a mistake,the same people who bad mouth you when they are tired of your ways,the same people who conspire to kill you when greed gets to them ,the same people who never get satisfied no matter how far you go for them. To think you have to protect them and put your life on the line for such nonsense ,some believe being royal is a blessing but in actual fact its a curse. A curse in which people call a blessing because of what they benefit from it. (While am thinking my phone rings in my pocket)

Convo

Me : Mntungwa

.....

Me : the oracle wants to see me? ,did he say the reasons why he seeks my presence

.....

Me : I hope all is well Baba(father)

.....

Me : I will drive down there tonight ngizovukela kuye emadabukakusa Mntungwa( I will see him at

dawn)

.....

Me : Ngiyabonga( thank you)

Hayi marnn now I have to deal with all this royalty thing .Every time they call I have to put everything on hold. The only thing good out of all this visit is that in the process I will be seeing my sisters and mother.

Later I drive to the village ,the drive is long but I have no choice.I arrive at night and the whole family is having their evening feast. I greet everyone and join in .After the feast I ask to be excused and went to my room. As soon as my head hits the pillow I dift off.

The following day I woke up and prepared myself to meet the oracle. Am dreading the meeting but what must be done must be done . As soon as I arrive at the oracles house I find him chanting in a foreign language whilst hovering around his compound like a lost spirit.He is deep in his shit and and I have to say he really looks like an idiot right now. He sees me and indicates with his hand for me to join him.

Me : Ora.....he cuts me off

Oracle : Kupha izihlangu lezo asuwo umuzi kayihlo lo ( remove those shoes ,this is not your fathers house)

Me: Bengi.....he does it again

Oracle : Nkosana makuthule ngiyazi ulandeni ( my

prince keep quite I know what you are here for )

Me : Kodwa ba...he cuts me again

If he cuts me one more time I will kill him . Am already fuming with anger .How could he?

Oracle : Nkosana ngibona ungatholi ubuthongo obufanele ,ukathazwa liphupho elilodwa mihla yonke( my prince you are not sleeping well ,a dream is bothering you and it appears the same all the time)

How the fuck did this man here know about all this . Is he spying on me or having me followed.This ancestor shit is never real to me and how the fuck did he know my dreams.

Oracle : Nkosana isikhathi sesifikile, amadlozi sekuphile isipho sakho ,iphupho lelo likuvezela intombi oyiphiweyo ngamadlozi( my prince the time has come ,your ancestors have given you your gift,the maiden you see in your dreams is the one chosen for you)

FUCK there is the chosen shit ,so the girl I hve been dreaming about is my chosen one.The smile on my face grew wider.This is just the same as telling a kid to take the candy it had been longing for all this while.So she is real after all and am not going crazy .This becomes music to my ears

Me : Oracle I do not know who she is , how her voice sound or how she looks . I never get to see her face



in the dream

Oracle : Ngiyazi lokho Nkosana ngizokugeza  
ngemithi izokuncedisa ukuthi ukulume layo leyo  
ntombazana ( I know my prince ,you will bath with  
herbs I will prepae that will help you talk to the  
maiden)

I was beyond happy ,I couldn't even wait for the sun  
to set .I was already keen to talk to her.  
The rest of the day went well and was busy with my  
business. Night came and I slept early.

DREAM

"Help ,help me please",thats all.I heard I began to  
search in the dark and there she appeared in the  
pure white dress.I walked towards her and stopped  
midway."Sabona(hello)" she kept quite " hie" that  
voice instantly gave me butterflies ,its like melody to  
my ears ,it makes me so calm and at peace .She  
started crying and those cries ,my heart bleed. I  
could slowly feel my beast fighting me wanting to  
come out. The pain was unbearable ,I started to feel  
suffocated .I took a look at my hand green veins  
were popping out and my adrenaline shot up. I  
managed to speak between my teeth "where are you  
how do I find you" and she answered" listen to your  
inner voice ,I know no peace where I am please"  
...the more she cried the more my beast fought me  
....my vision changed to blood shot red ,everything  
around me was now clearly audible from the calm  
wind to the small prints of ants on the soul ...I  
gathered all my strength and asked one last time  
"what is your name?" she sniffed and walked away ,

everything in me felt like it was being broken ,the feeling and the pain was just too much then she turned and said " I am ....."

I suddenly felt cold and wet ,WAIT ....I sat up and scanned the whole room and I saw my mother,father,sisters and a servant with a bucket of water ...WHAT THE FUCK ,WHO WOKE ME UP!!!!!!

## A GIFT CURSED

### INSERT 4

### LIHLELETHU

Crying does not solve my problems,I know crying is the visible evidence of pain,of words deep and bedded without the heart that are left unspoken ,words that cut deep.But who do I say those words to,who will believe my story.My life is a broken window pane ,transparent in the eyes of many but no one sees what is inside or cares enough to peep. Right now am at the edge ,I have accepted my fate that I was born in pain,that I am pain itself and that I will die in it.I have been slowly walking towards a cliff and now am at the edge,am about to fall ,fall really hard.I won't get up ever again I know it and I feel it .....

Early in the morning I prepared myself for the unknown job. I find my uncle in the lounge already on his feet. I guess this was it, I scanned the place I called home to my heart content and I embarked on the journey to the mysterious place I did not know. The journey was long and I slept in between. The place was beautiful and it was all evident in their tall green trees, green grass even the livestock. Farms were flooded with their crops and their roads tared. I could see I was in some sort of village but it looked more developed to be one.

The car stopped in front of this huge mansion, it was the only one of its kind. There were guards on the gate who asked us unnecessary questions but all of them were dressed in uniforms which had some royal print. We entered the premises. And he told me that this is where I will be working. I was introduced to the king and was assigned to be a maid who would be taking care of the young prince who I do not even know.

Sizwe left me, yes you heard me right Sizwe, he has lost the right to be my uncle. He sold me to a king, I was a slave not a worker. He made me some sort of payment for whatever deal he had with the king and my payment was the food I ate and the accommodation I got in the palace. A woman was asked to show me my daily routines and I quickly got hold of them. I vowed not to cross paths or be any form of trouble and maintain my one woman circle. Everything I owned was taken including my clothes and gadgets and replaced with the royal attire.

SIYABONGA

I was excited that I would be heading back to my place and live a normal life .I am a prince yes but I hate being over respected ,I believe that everyone has their limits and this thing that everyone has to bow whenever they see me or call me my prince does not sit well with me. After all am human like them and some don't respect because they want to but they do it because they are forced to.The oracle has refused to let me go back and not that I have a problem with it because my company has an acting CEO who is taking care of the business but here in this place I always feel suffocated and I hate the feeling, infact I hate being HOME .A very beautiful and sweet voice knocks me out of the trance am in. The voice is peaceful and the melody nice and slow.I find myself closing my eyes letting the feeling flow in me. I cannot hold back how I feel but the urge to see the one gifted with such a voice drives me .I walk towards the balcony and there she is .I cannot see her face but her beauty screams out to be noticed .I want to set my eyes on her and am already at the door but am met by a gaurd.Who informs me that my presence is requested in the throne room.I find the whole family seated ,the advisors and the oracle are present .

Me : My King you summoned me and he indicated that I should take my sit and I do so.I already feel uneasy and I am curious why everyone is here .

Oracle : Nkosana ,ukugezwa kwakho  
abakwamukelanga abaphansi ngoba uyise kwamele  
akukhanyisele indlela ukuze uphumelele  
kuloluhambo( My prince your ancestors have not

accepted your plea because your father needs to pave the way for you so that you may succeed in this journey)

Me : Baba angitholisisi kahle ukuthi liqonda ukuthini...angithi sasikhona sonke uMntungwa engiwisela inkomo angicelela emadlozini indlela ( I don't understand what you mean ,you were also present when the King was pleading the ancestors for my sake)

Oracle : ngitsho kahle won a amazwi oqeda ukuwezwa Nkosana, isicelo asamukelwanga. (I mean exactly what I said the plea was not accepted)  
SILENCE

I then realise that everyone in the room is quite ,my mother should be asking more about this but she is in her own thoughts ,my father on the other hand he is just looking at the oracle.

Oracle : lungisani ithuba lisasekhona ( correct everything whilst the time is still there)

Me : How baba  
He looks at me and walks out leaving me confused and worked up. This is my life and no one is jumping to fix it My father is quite as if he didn't hear the oracles words whilst my mother she is just here in flesh but not spirit . What could I have possibly done to offend amadlozi(ancestors). Right now am fuming with anger at everyone for not standing up for me when I needed them to.

## KING NQOBILE

I have failed dismally as a father ,I have failed to stand by my child and support him.I saw the disappointment in his eyes ,he was defeated and that alone has proved my failure. I can be a good king to the people and provide for them but there is no greater failure than that of failing your child.Failing to protect him or guide him ,fail to provide for him ,fail to do him right by his ancestors.Could this all be the results of all my sins .Are they finally catching up on me but why do they have to affect my children not me ,Why should my children suffer not me .How will I look at Siyabonga and comfort him and give him words of wisdom when am the cause of his suffering .Could this be because of the royal blood I spilt.....

He is busy pacing up and down in the throne room whilst his mind is at work.But its not only the King whose is thinking of his sins...

## QUEEN NOXOLO

I am finished ,this is going to be the death of me .The council will not forgive me for what I have done .They will definitely stone me or burn me to death for this.This was all because of my greed ,my desire for wealth,power and it has all led me to my death. The truth should not be revealed ,I have to find a way of stopping this from happening . YESS!! I will visit Mdluli he will fix all this mess. After all the cleansing and 3 days in a grave all to strengthen me and help me achieve my goal cannot go in vain...this has to be dealt with. Yes I will visit Mdluli tomorrow he will fix all this.....

LIHLELETHU

I see him again ,that person dripping of blood ,but now his body is whole and only blood is visible ,I cannot see the face but I hear the pain in his voice ,he wants me to help him but how do I do that ,how do I explain it that I am seeing ghosts cause definitely this is what am seeing. Am I even capable of doing this ,where do I start how do I go about it. All he says is LIHLE!! LIHLE!!. Leaving Sizwes house I thought I will have peace and concentrate on my broken life, I thought the palace was to be my sanctuary but it seems where ever I go I carry my problems and pain with. Am caught in between my brain and heart .My heart wants to help who ever he is but my brain or should I say the fear is winning cause I am even scared of this ghost in front of me . "what is your name" there goes my mouth betraying me as usual ,mxm traitor .He looks at me and he says "are you going to help me" .

Imihlolo( wonders shall never end) so Lihle can now talk and understand ghosts .Who was I fooling my life is indeed chaotic. I nodded my head indicating my acceptance to help this ghost.

Him: They killed me ,they killed me like an animal and left my body to be feasted upon by crawling creatures

Me : Who killed you

Him : they reaped my body apart and took my organs, I do not have kidneys and my manhood is

missing

Me : Please tell me who you are atleast

Him : they used my organs for their selfish reasons ,they used them to strengthen themselves ,I see them happy everyday whilst my soul is not at peace .I WANT MY JUSTICE !!!

He said that and disappered, his voice made the whole room tremble. I was more than frightened ,I was beyond traumatized. Here I am wanting to live a normal life but there is nothing normal about what I just saw .Why me of all people ,my life is already pain itself and the load had to be added on me and Lihle has to be the one who sees ghosts. I sigh at that thought and I prepare myself for bed.

SIYABONGA

Ever since the oracle delivered that message my heart,mind and body know no peace. What happened in the throne room that day was evidence enough that am all alone . I have to embark on this mission to find my path. Countless questions are running in my mind and am in pain I am left to wonder alone without answers why my parents stood there and never spoke on my behalf. Its true when they say it only takes a few words for life to take a drastic turn. Am busy battling with my thoughts trying to find out the answers to the oracles words .....

QUEEN NOXOLO



No one is supposed to know about my departure to Mdluli and I have to leave in the early hours and come back before sunrise. I prepare for my journey. As soon as the clock strikes 2am I am sneaking out of the palace. I manage to leave the palace without the guards noticing. I had already hired transport to deliver me since I cannot leave using the palace cars. Getting to Mdluli's homestead takes me half an hour and I am already there. I had already notified him that I would be visiting. He welcomes me in and we go straight to the traditional hut where he does his rituals.

Mdluli : Ngethekelelwe ngabesikhosini lamhlanje ,uhamba ngani ndlovukazi( am visited by a royal today ,why are you here my queen)

Me : I like the fact that you went straight to the point,my deeds are about to be laid out in the open ,and I don't want that to happen.

Mdluli: Ufuna kwenziweni ( what is your wish and how you want it to be done)

Me : I want the oracle out of the way and the prince to be further blinded ,I want him to only trust me and only me

Mdluli : labo obaqambayo abasibantu balutho,kabazi lutho njalo omunye ukhokhelwa ngamadlozi ngalokho abakavezi iqiniso phambi kwakhe( those you have named are not threats and the oracle only says what he is told and your ancestors have not revealed the truth to him yet)

Me : then who is the threat and I still want my son to

be blinded of the truth

Mdluli : indodana yakho ivikelwe yisitha sakho labanye abaphezulu kwami engingeke ngilinge ukubathinta (your son is being protected by your threat and another greater force ,I cannot temper with.)

Me : this threat who is it and where is it coming from and how can I defeat it

Mdluli : isitha sakho sibucwadlana lawe ndlovukazi sidlisana lani esigodlweni ngakho ungasingqoba nje ngokuphendula inhliziyo yaso I've mnyama usisebenzise kuhlangothi lwakho( your threat is closer than you think ,you live with it in the palace and you can only defeat it but turning its heart dark and using it for your victory)

I left Mdluli homestead with more questions than answers. So my downfall is in the palace ,the one to finish me is living in the palace .How will I find this threat and Mdluli was not clear enough to tell me if its a person or something else . .....

LIHLELETHU

I woke up early and did my rounds and went to clean the young prince's room.I always clean his room whenever he is having his morning feast .I do not wish to cross paths with him.the fact that I have not heard any complains or corrections to my work means he is satisfied with my work and that I clean his room to his satisfaction. Cleaning his room.does not take long and I do it quickly so that he may not

find me here. I take out the laundry and leave ...

I sit outside and gather all the necessities I need and start washing the sheets that I found in the laundry basket. For a palace with which is modern this prince has an odd way of doing his things ,he prefers his laundry hand washed to washing with machines .I start doing the laundry and am also singing my favourite song. I feel like am being watched again but this time its different, ever since I started communicating with ghosts I now know the difference between a ghost and human .and right now am being watched by a human.I don't bother myself about since this is a palace and guards are always crawling around .Its probably one of them.....

## AYIBONGWE

CALL me a stalker or whatever you like ,I had been keeping tabs on that girl I had met at Steers and also looked for guys to follow her .I gathered that her name was Lihlelethu Ngcobo ,what a beautiful name for an angel.My boys had also found out that she Sizwes niece ,she is a niece to our enemy and that alone just ticked me off thinking of the amount of energy and resources I would have to use to make her mine.But I don't care as long as she is mine .I WILL DO ANYTHING FOR LOVE ,and no its not an obsession but I want her to be mine and nothing will stop me from that. Its been weeks now since I heard from my boys about My Angel ,she just disappeared off the surface of earth like that nje.The fact that I don't know where she is who she is with and if she is safe or not is making my head spin.If Sizwe laid a hand on her or anything I will be the one to reap out

his body .Am blocking my thoughts from thinking that maybe she is with another guy cause I will definitely go on a killing spree and after than comfort her and win her heart .Call me a sick bastard or a psycho but for this girl I will even dick a mountain with a needle....

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 5

AYIBONGWE

I am waiting on my boys to give me feedback on their hunt.Not being able to do anything is really pissing me off .Every fibre in me regrets leaving the Pythons ,by now I would have gathered every Intel on her whereabouts .Its so frustrating .  
My boys enter the office after an hour

Me: Magents (gentlemen)  
They all look at me and there is no one talking,its pushing me to the edge ,am already frustrated and they are making it worse.Am already a ticking bomb waiting to explode.

Scar: Boss ...she is no where to be seen,its like she just vanished

Me : I fucken know that,that's why I hired you to dig

deeper!!

Scar : Mfethu we have done all we could but it's like we chasing a ghost. We gave our connections her pictures maybe she is out of the country.

Me : GET OUT NOW!!!

Fuck ,fuck ,fuck ,fuck she cannot be out of the country . She has no relative out there what could she be doing out . Damn it if that son of a bitch Sizwe sold her,he should be prepared for what's coming his way .He will not even realise what hit him.

LIHLELETHU

I have been having different encounters with Khayaletu,yes that is the name of the ghost that has been visiting me.The experience is no longer traumatizing and he now appears less scary in his full body form without any blood or scars . Getting information out of him is rather a challenge ,he takes his time maybe he doesn't trust me but why did he approach me if he didnt.

Am in the Kings office today ,apparently I was assigned to it.Seeing a picture of an individual that was the splitting image of Khayaletu in the Kings office made everything more complicated.Why would the picture be there.Could it be that he is trying to make me tell the royal family or (they know him) about his death. Ever since I stepped in this palace thats when he started communicating with me more than often.

Even the Queen herself has been rather strange lately .And to be noticed by her makes the situation worse.I want this to feel right but nothing does.Have

you ever had that feeling where you just see that everything is all going wrong in every angel ,being recognised by the queen felt that way.She is to meet me later on.What for only she knows .....

KING NQOBILE

Dreams of how he died have been tormenting me .How he pleaded for his life ,how he knelt down and promised to give it all away .How I watched him bleed to death. Rather I call it an act of diplomacy. I desired and took it .All this was my work ,my plans and they worked in my favour .No matter how he visits I will fear not for the dead are never to dwell among the living .

Am brought to earth by the ringtone of my phone

Convo

Me : Hello

.....

Me :What do you mean you see him

.....

Me : How is that my problem

.....

Me : grow some balls I do not baby sit grown men

.....

Me : hayi wena hlukana nami

.....

Me : try me and I will wipe you off the surface of earth

.....

Me: I dropped the call.This piece of shit is busy bothering me when I have my own problems and I have no time to be baby sitting him.

## SIYABONGA

I have been visiting the oracle day ,after day .I need answers and who can give them to me except him.I have no one to look up to except my ancestors and they should not forsake me now or I get rotten to the core .The Oracle had said I should visit and am just arriving in his compound.

Oracle : Nkosana(my prince)

Me : baba

Him: ukuhlukomezwa kwakho akubangelwa ngumoya omubi kodwa abantu obathandayo abakweyakho inhliziyo(your suffering is not caused by a bad spirit,instead its that are near you and you love dearly)

Me: uchaza ukuthini baba (what do you mean oracle)

Him: awusaphuphi ngaye( you no longer dream of her)

Me : iqiniso lelo ( that's the truth)

Him: imbangela yikuthi uphandliwe Nkosana njalo intombi leyo isiwanyathele amagceke akwaleli(the cause is you were blinded,the maiden has also stepped in this soil)

Me: blinded how and where could she be

Him : bakubambekele izihlahla ,mhla umbona uzoba mazi okhethiweyo ,bekezela Nkosana

Me : its not easy and its not like I hve any choice

Him: Nkosi yami kunengi okukulindele phambili kunengi kodwa wena lokhethiweyo kwamele libambane ukuze lingobe .Izitha zizoqela,izilingo zizanda,abanengi bazo hawukela bafise ukuba ngabecyibo abazabe belapho,okwakhiwayo

kuzodilika liqale phansi,abanye  
bazokuphika,abanye name lawe,uzofanele ukhethe  
kahle obathembayo njalo ufunde ukuthula ubukhela  
ngolwazi ,abanye bazokuthengisa kodwa ngibona  
unqoba konke lokhu uma wena lokhethiweyo  
libambana lisima ndawonye lihamba nyawo nje  
,phezulu kwakho konke igazi lizocitheka.

LUNGISELELA ( My King a lot is awaiting you where  
you are hearing,but you and your chosen one have  
to be strong so that you may conquer what is to  
come,your enemies will be many,trails and  
tribulations will also be many.Many will envy and  
wish to be the ones with you,what was built will be  
broken and you will have to build again,some will  
denay you and some will stand with you,you will  
hve to choose wisely who to trust and watch  
everytjih with great wisdom.Others will sell you out  
and I see you overcoming this if you and your  
chosen one standing together and walking  
together.Above all a lot of blood of the innocent will  
be spilt.BE PREPARED)

### QUEEN NOXOLO

My room is decorated in blood ,fingerprints every  
where, and huge letters are written on the wall(you  
will die just the way you killed us).

My sheets a dripping of blood.I try sitting up and  
slow steps are audible. My whole body is shivering ,I  
see foot prints in blood walking towards my  
direction.I feel every hair on my body standing,pain  
penetrating deep in my abdomen ,I want to scream  
but my voice fails me.Tears are already falling freely  
on my cheeks ,this cannot be my death its too early I  
have not completed my mission yet.I gasp for air ,my  
wind pipes are blocked ,I feelnthe the hands on my



throat ,l can't talk l cannot move ,and my soul is  
being sucked out of my body,am already weak and  
cannot fight anymore ,my body is already giving up  
.....

AYIBONGWE

Me :I WANT LIHLE AND NO ONE ELSE!!!

My brothers have been at it the whole day and no  
one is listening to what l have to say .WHY!

Ayabonga: Am not asking am telling you to let this  
go marnn

Me: Why why should l ,l love her dont you get it and  
l will get her at any cost even if l have to paint this  
whole country red so be it

Ayabonga : Try me and defy my orders

Me: you want her don't you ,you want her

Ayabonga : Hayi voetsek marnn Ayibongwe

Me: l will not hesitate slicing your throat if you do  
and l will even forget that you are my blood...if you  
have feelings for her better bury them and pray l  
don't find out ...am a wolf with fangs of a cobra l will  
sniff till l get what l want better not be an obstacle  
or else ...BY THE WAY THAT APPLIES TO YOU TOO  
AYANDA

Me : As for the both of you l will advise you to stay  
out of my way cause the demon instead me knows  
no mercy and it cannot be remorseful either ,if u  
value your lives do as l say

I have sent my boys to bring Sizwe for a treat ...this meeting will be nice.Am so excited its been a while since I wore a white suit ...my blood is already boiling .Sizwe better have answers or else am partying on his blood tonight.Can't wait for my suit to be decorated.And my babies should be boiled and cleaned before the meeting ....

## A GIFT CURSED

### INSERT 6

(Not edited)

### SIYABONGA

I wake up in a dark room ,with a hammering headache .I want to think that maybe I just got beaten but by who,if the impossible happened again I will surely go insane.I pick myself up and search for my phone in my pocket.I scan the whole room and I see a pile of ashes in the corner of the room.Curiosity beats me to it and am already digging in the ashes searching for what I don't know .As soon as I feel something warm I dig deeper only to be met by a body ,it looks like a person and she is breathing. I turn her over and get the shock of my life.

All the oracle said comes flooding down on me ,I feel

like my breathe is leaving me. My palms are sweaty and my breathing escalating .I sit to gather my strength ,I close my eyes for a while waiting for someone to splash me with water ,maybe just maybe am dreaming .Am afraid of opening my eyes ,I don't want to get hurt I don't want to hate myself for thinking about her but ,she is there in front of me .Nervousness strikes me am now pacing up and down in the room am even afraid of touching her . I snap out of my thoughts and think run out of the room.

After a few minutes I arrive and pick her up and put her in the car .I drive like a maniac out of the kingdom straight to my penthouse. Questions are flooding in my mind ,all this while when the oracle said my chosen one is closer than I thought he mean in the palace cells. He knew all along and never told me. How long has she been in those cells and why the fuck was she covered in ashes. My blood is already boiling and not having answers its making it all more difficult to contain the anger within. What crime did she commit ,is he even from this Kingdom .Fuck ,fuck ,fuck I need answers

I call the doctor as soon as I reach the penthouse and he attends to her and plugged an oxygen mask on her. The sight of her helpless body just laying there kills me. Who ever put her in that cell I don't care who should have answers I believe or else the person will face the wrath of a man in pain. The doctor asks to speak with me aside

Doctor :She will be fine ,she needs to rest a lot and also eat ,her system is empty not even a single trace of food .I don't know how she is still breathing cause her body is totally weak and for a person in her state she should have been long death by now

Me : is she going to be okay that's all I want to know

Doctor : Yes she will...she is just unconscious and I suggest you get her food before she wakes up

Me : thank you doctor .Am scared of leaving her alone ,what if she wakes up and leave ,I cannot bear to see her leave .I have found her and I cannot lose her now .I search for food in the kitchen and I find a food .I prepare noodles and meatballs for her .

Right now am sitting next to her ,am afraid of touching her or even looking at her .I have to say her beauty is just extra ordinary .Her bushy eye latches to her brows perfectly plastered above her eyes.Her small pink pouted lips , her hair is messy but that just makes her more beautiful .My very own beautiful mess. Her skin glow under that dust .And just looking at her makes my heart beat very fast .She has that effect on me...I cannot contain myself this right here am addicted to ...she is a BEAUTIFUL ADDICTION and I can never get enough of her.

AYIBONGWE

I tortured Sizwe the whole night until he gave me Lihles whereabouts.The son of a bitch sold her to a damn King of a fucken Kingdom to pay his debts.He sold my woman,my angel for a price infact a trade .There is no disrespect beyond this.I want to kill the son of a bitch but am still my father's son and he is the only one I will have to pay lobola to him for Lihle .I will spare him for that one reason.But he deserves a slow and painful death.After our

wedding I will bath in his blood and celebrate my victory after that help my wife Lihle mourn. I laugh at the thought of Lihle being my wife .Damn she will be the most beautiful bride ever. I used the info from Sizwe and sent my boys to get Lihle at any cost .I don't care what ever method they use but they better come back with my angel or else I will blow their brains.

I want Lihle so badly and I see her in my arms her calling out my name .Her moaning on top of me whilst we make sweet love ,saying all my clan names on top of me .Making me feel greater than the man I am .See her asking me to give it to her harder and faster whilst she pulls the sheets on the bed trying to get a hold of herself buried deep in pleasure whilst I show her heaven .To when she carried junior our very own AJ ....

SIMPHIWE

My brothers and I are gathered planning how we are going to initiate our plan of digging minerals in MANZINI. We have never had any interests in the Kingdom all we ever wanted was money ,money and money and money we shall get. Getting our father to support the plan will be a mission but if the old bastard does not accept we have a plan B. Siyabonga has always been different from us and having him in the plan would have totally destroyed everything

Me : So we going to sell the plan to the old man but how

Siyanda : We tell him that we want to develop the

village into a growth point and I introduce shopping centres and garages and clinics

Sivuyile: We draft an agreement ,we write what we truly want to do in the village that is dig minerals but the old bastard we tell him its developing the village

Me: Since we are his sons he won't dispute it thinking we Princes who have the kingdom and its interests at heart and he will sign without reading the whole contract

Siyanda : And then brothers we start digging and living rich and big till we drop

Sivuyile: this is it bafethu...here is to the sons of doom ,here is to richness ,here is to brotherhood

Them : BROTHERHOOD!!cheers

SIYABONGA

She finally wakes up I feel her moving whilst my head is against the bed.I fear scaring her off but my greatest fear is her rejecting my help.I sit still and wait on her

Her : she touches me ,my body is getting excited .I want her to never let me go.I love how she makes me feel but I have to raise my head .

Me: I look at her and I get lost in her beauty,its so intoxicating ,her golden brown eyes makes justice to her beauty .she is perfection am in my thoughts ,am

peaking deep in her soul and she is just amazing .I shake my head bringing myself back to life only to realise she wants water .

I run around and get her a glass and I help her gulp it all down in one go and she requests another and she does the same thing .Am looking at her just taking in more and more of her intoxicating.I can never get enough of her .She clears her throat and I look at her

Her: who are you ,where am I ,how did I get here ,are you...

Me : I cut her short ...one question at a time beautiful how about we get you something to eat ,freshen up and get you a change of clothes before we answer each other

Her: (I see that she is uneasy and I don't want that) okay

Me : am not going to hurt you ,I mean no one so please don't be afraid of me I just want to help that is if you let me .

**SHE NODS SILENTY**

She eats all her food and asks for more and I do as asked and I dish out some more .Then she freshens up and I give her my pants and t shirts .and she looked hella fine in them .all her curves are out and her caramel skin glowing making the beauty shine more.My mind is already thinking beyond

boundaries and she is just standing there shyly looking down and fiddling with her fingers. I get closer to her and she raises her head am practically looking deep in her eyes everything in me is pushing me towards her .My manhood is not helping its throbbing in my sweatpants and my breathing is escalating .I touch her head and remove the hair covering her face and.....

## A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 7

## SIYABONGA

I want to kiss her so badly ,my blood is boiling and my heart yearning for her touch,but I do not want to scare her off.She is looking at me straight in the eye

Me : Am Siyabonga Khumalo ,and I extend my hand

Her : Lihlelethu Ngcobo

We both awkwardly standing in the middle of the kitchen just starrng at each other waiting for the other to talk

Me : about your questions how about we answer them

Her : okay



Me: You are in my penthouse and I found you in the palace cells buried in a pile of ashes and you were unconscious and very weak .To makes things more clearer I want to help you ,until you recover you can be staying here ,I will get you food and some clothes and toiletries .No one from the palace knows about this place and I assure you ,you a safe .

Her: Why are you helping me am practically a stranger and what were you doing in the palace cells ,only the royals I permitted to enter those cells .

Me : fuck she has cornered me but to get her trust I have no option than to tell the truth but I can not tell her that I love her it will freak her out) Helping you lets say its an act of kind ,let's say am your guardian angel and about the palace cells its true only royals enter there a disaster happened in the kingdom and I just found myself there .But am Prince Siyabonga the youngest prince of Manzini Kingdom.

Her mouth practically hangs open and her eyes balls are popping out of her sockets. ..I find the sight amusing and very cute ...DAMN am so hung over her

Her : you are the young prince ,the same young prince who prefers his laundry hand washed ,the same young prince I cleaned after

Me : you did what ,you were the maiden who was assigned to look me.You really have a beautiful voice

Her : she frowns ...how did you know about my voice my prince

Me : please Siya will do am not in the palace after all.How I.know about the singing is a story for another day.

Her : she laughs out loud ...ooh my ancestors help me ,her laugh is just beautiful ,I turn and look at her that when I realise that she her dimples ,damn this sight is priceless ...Siya you were the one stalking me ,I.cannot believe you stalked me ,I always thought it was the guards

I throw a cushion on her and we start cushion fighting whilst I tickle her ,she laughs so loud until tears fall on her face.She even starts to beg me to stop that's when I leave her and watch her whilst am catching my breath.

Me : let's prepare something to eat

Her : help me up so that we can do it together

I pull her from where am sitted in the floor and she lands right on my thighs whilst her head is on my face .Our foreheads are just a centimeter apart.She is looking straight in my eyes and I can't help but stare back.We breathing at the same pace ,sharing the oxygen,breathing each others breathes .My hand is on her waist whilst her hands are on my shoulders.She pulls out of the embrace and stands on her feet

Her: am sorry

Me : please don't be ...shall we  
SHE NODS

Me : so tell me who put you in the palace cell and for what offense

SILENCE

Me: please Lihle

Her : the Queen did

Me : my mother for what offense

Her : I talked back at her when she was addressing me

Me : and am sure you were standing your ground ,my mother can be a pain sometimes ,us royalty we were raised to be correct all the time even if we are wrong and we tend to use that as a tool.to manipulate people instead of being fair on them

Her : are you sure you are a prince ,never have I ever heard a royal talk like you do ,less a royal standing by the truth and for the truth.

AYIBONGWE

Am still in my thoughts thinking of her ,am pushing time waiting for my boy's feedback.All I want is my woman .In the mean time am busy playing with Sizwe to pass time I wanna do damage control that next time he sees my face or hears my name he will

surely run .I gather my babies and they a so shinny and appealing .He is tied up hanging freely in the air in his baby suit ,I start with his cheek and write A with my knife.His blood is dripping down his face and that sight motives me and I feel the other me agreeing to this sight and am more eager to see more blood on him.

I begin to whip him with a chain on his back until his skin rips off .Blood is splashing all over my white .Damn am loving the decoration on this suit.Blood splashed all over my face and the taste of it is just mouth watering.L want more and more .On his open back I pour vinegar and salt ,as I watch it all sinking in as he groans in pain its just all music to my ears .I want the son of bitch to suffer and suffer till he faints.

I go for a hammer and start hammering his knees .He is apologising asking me to spare his life ,is this a man ,a man never begs ,now am hammering him.for pleading why the fuck is he pleading .I start cutting off two of his fingers on his right arm then I hammer the other arm.and it doesn't please me.I opt for acid ,flesh and bone acid and pour it .He whales like a woman ,the acid eats the flesh and bones leaving no trace when its about to reach the elbow I cut the hand and he collapses from the pain .

Scar : I see you were having a party on your own and you didn't invite any of us

Me: he was mine after all stop being jealous  
I laugh then get my game face back on

Me : How about you tell me what I want to  
here. Where is she

Scar: Boss she is not in the Kingdom but in a  
penthouse not far from here. The house is owned by  
the prince of that Kingdom his name Siyabonga.  
That's where she is

Me: What the fuck is this Siyabonga doing with my  
wife and why didn't you get her

Scar: we thought its better to alert you first before  
we.....

Me : before what damn it ...I gave a simple order get  
me Lihle at any cost .I will have to fight my own  
battles you all are useless get out

I will have to visit my wife soon and give a surprise  
visit ,she will love it .....

LIHLELETHU

The way things have turned out ,its just better than I  
thought ,from prison to Siya. I cannot get my eyes  
off him .He gives me butterflies ,his smile ,even his  
voice just sends chills all over my body. Some  
woman knew what they were doing when giving  
birth. This is definitely a walking god in front of  
me, everything from his dark short hair, deep brown  
eyes, firm lips ,buff body .He is just gorgeous..yes a  
gorgeous man. His silky white teeth are just a bonus .

We have been having encounters where we look at

each other for the longest time. The feeling is foreign to me .I feel connected ,protected its like my whole world lives in his eyes.Those silly accidents just make my heart leap for joy all the time .When he is just far from me I cannot raise my head to look at him ,but I cannot help it I love the way I feel around him and I feel so drawn to him ,I just want to be with him more and more and just get lost in his eyes all again but .....

## A GIFT CURSED

### INSERT 8

#### AYIBONGWE

I am trying to be a generous person and I have decided to send a gift to the King and Queen thanking them for taking care of my wife.I am more than sure that they will love the gift.I will have to call them as soon as the gift is delivered.I still kept my word and as it is I am driving to that good for nothing Prince Siyabonga's penthouse ,I want to give my wife a surprise and I hope she will love it. I get out of the car as soon as I arrive and go straight to the door and knock.She opens the door and DAMN I am looking at her again ,she is just amazing ,those innocent and beautiful eyes popped out ,her lips I just want to be all over her right now I cannot contain myself she is my favourite dessert from now onwards

Her: Sakubona(hello)

Me : hello( she stares at me for the longest time )  
may I come in please

She hesitates letting me in, this place is beautiful I  
have to give that bastard credit he really has great  
taste .But am not here to admire his house but only  
to take what is mine.

Her: can I offer you anything ,juice or wine

Me: water will do my angel...(she is just how  
imagined her caring and kind).

Her : so how may I help you and what brings your  
here and how did you know about my whereabouts

Me : I came to take you home and I have my ways  
and that's how I found you

Her : home ,whose home as far as I am concerned I  
have no home ,so what home are you talking about

I am really getting impatient and fed up of this  
question and answer with her. I am already tired of  
playing nice, kind and angelic with her . SHE is  
wasting my time and am already losing my cool...she  
better come with me now or else I will drag her out  
of this shithole forcefully.

LIHLELETHU

I receive a knock and am shocked that Siya could  
have come back early. It cannot be Siya because I

did not hear his car pull up. I open the door only to get more irritated, it's the same guy I met a couple of months ago with his brothers at Steers, the same guy who interrupted my meal and removed my earphones.

He asks to come in and I let him in.

Right now am already regretting letting him in he is busy blurting nonsense and telling me about taking me home. He is not even making sense at all and am just not in the mood to be tolerating this man here. For someone with a presence that commands respect and his handsomeness his words are totally opposite of what yummy and cute he is. But he has nothing on my Siya.

Him : he is fooling you

Me : what are you talking about

Him : Siyabonga has a girlfriend in the city her name is Linathi

Me: And what makes you think I will believe you

Him: I knew you would not believe me so I brought you evidence, here look at these pictures.

I scan the pictures he has thrown on the table and there he is my Siya holding hands with a very beautiful girl, everything about her is perfect and I don't even fit in her class. Another picture of him kissing her pops up and another with him smiling brightly. Am already feeling my heart getting weak and weaker the pain is unbearable, I want to cry, scream I want to be alone. Who was I fooling I just met him and I don't know him, he is a prince for crying out loud and am not even in his class. After all he did say he wants to help me only. I fight my



tears stopping myself from crying what have I gotten myself to

Him : he will just use you and dump you like a used chewing gum ,he is only after your body nothing else .

Me : and why are you telling me ,what is your gain in all this

He moves towards me and holds my hands

Him: look my angel I care about you and your well being.I have loved you ever since the day I saw you.I spent day and nights looking for you .I could not sleep all those nights thinking about you.I want you to be happy.I see the pain in your eyes I see your suffering and I want to take all that away from you .I want to cherish you ,adore you and make you happy all your life.I never want to see a tear on your face and let me take you home please let me take you to happiness Lihle ,and all am doing it because I love you and I always have that's why I never gave up on looking for you.

I look at him straight in the eye but I don't feel anything. I don't feel him at all instead his eyes show only darkness .

Me : I remove my hands from his grip ...I am not going anywhere with you,I would rather go back to being a slave in the palace.I don't know you and I cannot just leave .What do you have to offer to be trusted .

He stood up quickly and moved towards me and

held my hand aggressively ,hurting me in the process and spoke in between his teeth saying "you are coming with me right now and am not asking your ass am telling you" I try fighting him off but he is stronger than I am .All that I am praying for is for Siya to come soon before I go.He pushes me toward a wall and roughly kisses me whilst making his way to my thighs ,I cannot scream and am.already at my weakest ,tears are freely falling on my cheeks ,I see my life flashing before my eyes .

He let's go of me and starts pacing up and down he then holds my cheek again roughly and kisses me and then say "if you value that prince of yours you better come with me now or be prepared, we don't want you to have the blood of the royals in your hands ,would we" and he walks out slamming the door behind him.

I curl myself and starts crying. I am crying for a lot of reasons, crying because I have feelings for a guy who loves another,crying because am afraid of going back to the palace to that Queen,crying because my life is threatened and crying because I have just been abused .I was feeling dirty and am even afraid of moving I am terrified.

## SIYABONGA

I decided to go visit my mother today and ask her why she put Lihle in prison. The anger is visible on my face .I want answers and how could my mother be so heartless to imprison someone to death without even food .I park my car as soon as I get in the palace.I burge in her room and she smiles brightly if only she knew that am not here to chit

chat.

Me : why did you imprison her without a reason ,you even denied her food ,simple food mother

Her : my son ,my prince is everything okay what are you talking

Me : am talking about the girl you left to die in prison

Her : ooh her,is she dead that's good then good riddance

Me : MOTHER!!!

Her : Siyabonga don't you dare raise your voice at me ,am your mother and your behavior is uncalled for

Me: uncalled for ,uncalled for you say what about yours ,since when do we imprison innocent people.Okay what did she do to deserve such a punishment

Her : she disrespected me and why are you concerned about a dead person anyways.I know you were stalking her all along ,you better bury those useless feelings you have for her and act normal.Now leave I want to rest you making noise for nothing. You crying for a simple maid ,son please.

Am beyond pissed right now and I want to punch anything to take out my anger on.All am thinking of

is Lihle,her presence will calm me .I drive out of the palace and decide to buy some items in town before I go back to her.I pick up the groceries and essentials that are needed, I pay up at the till.I pack the plastics in the boot and as am about to close the boot I suddenly feel weak,frightened and my heart beating uncontrollably.

#### KING NQOBILE

Things have been really hectic in the palace ,people are complaining and are constantly living in fear after what happened.Everyone is still mourning for the loss of their families and some are rebuilding. The council has sat down and decided to help and buy building materials to help the community and also loan some royal cattle to the community to help them with farming and some other heavy duty work.Am in the throne room discussing other plans with the council and my phone rings

#### Convo

Me : King Nqobile speaking

.....

Me : what for and who are you

.....

Me: what gift are you talking about

.....

Me: and the caller hung up

Am just wondering what all this is all about .Someone calls telling me a gift was delivered for me and the queen and gave me the location.The person even tells me that I should only go with the queen and no one else.Am a king and I always need

protection he must be really sick to think I will go on my own.

I address the elders and tell them that something urgent has come up and they all leave. I summon the Queen and notify her of the caller and she agrees to go with me but we do not leave the guards behind. We arrive at the directed location and when I arrive I get the shock of my life. Sizwe, what is he doing here in my Kingdom. He is laying there in the grass, blood is all over him and his back. He is beyond recognisable and his left hand is missing his legs are both swollen and his right hand is missing two fingers. There is a rose on his body and to it attached a note I take the note and it reads

"Watch your back I have eyes and ears everywhere i will be your worst nightmare"

\*'A'\*

The Queen's eyes are already popped out, she zones out and starts shaking. I order the guards to check if he is still breathing and he confirms that he is breathing and I tell them to call an ambulance for him. I then take my Queen to the car, she is already traumatized and I do not want such for my wife. We arrive at the palace and she quickly goes to her room leaving me to my thoughts.

The only person that comes to my mind is the one will killed together with Sizwe, other than that why would this person send Sizwe body to me if it was someone else. Could he be turning in his grave, or wherever he is, to thing we left him in a trench to he bugs food and he never got a befitting burial. If he

has killed Sizwe which means am next ,this cannot be happening after all I have achieved he cannot be back now or else things will all go south for me.

## QUEEN NOXOLO

My whole body is sweating ,my head is already spinning ,SIZWE !!!SIZWE KOSANA he cannot be here in this kingdom ,what is he doing with the king ,the king seems to know him well ,what if the King knows,what if he told him.No!! No!!No!! this cannot be happening, not now of all the times .This will ruin my plans all my plans ,all I have ever worked hard for.To see his body like that ,bruised and left to die. If he stays longer my plans will be ruined .I have to do something about this .I have spent my whole life burying my past and Sizwe knowing him he will do anything to get money from me and I cannot have the king knowing about this.

The safety of my children comes first and now I have to talk to the King about the Princesses. They have to leave the Kingdom until all this dies down.My daughters are innocent in all this and they do not deserve to be part of all this damage. I have to kill Sizwe before he speaks in that death bed because my life will be short lived.

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 9

## SIYABONGA

All these mixed feeling , the headache and my aching heart can only mean one thing ,something is wrong with Lihle.Am driving to the penthouse,the car speed is not even doing Justice .It feels like its moving in a sluggish manner .I get in the penthouse and the whole house is dark.Am already panicking .For the first time I plead with my ancestors to find her in one piece.I turn the lights on and she is rocking her self in corner .I can feel her fear .I move towards her and she jumps as soon as she feels my hand on her skin.WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED?

Me: Lihle Lihle its me ,its Siyabonga I won't hurt you ,I won't

She looks at me and the fear is visible, I want to know what happened,what ever caused this amount of fear to her does not deserve to see day light .I manage to lift her up and she just breaks in my arms.I feel her every emotion.She is regretting,she is in deep pain , she is terrified of only God knows, if I could also see her thoughts.I let her cry it all out and only sniffs and hiccups are now audible. I lift her up and take her to her room.I place her gently on the bed,kiss her on the forehead and prepared a bath for her .She is looking at me all this while and a soon as I am done I tell her to freshen up while I prepare dinner.

Feeling her every emotion has automatically affected my own emotions.I am already drained , sweating her pain is mine and I am so low but I have to prepare my woman something to eat .After collecting the plastic bags in the car I start on

dinner.I prepare something simple since am already exhausted ,its nothing much but she will have to manage the macaroni and cheese ,chicken soup and drumsticks.As soon as am done I freshen up and then call her .

I knock in her room and it takes minutes for her to open and I figure she had fallen asleep.When settle in the dinning room with our food and start digging in .Am looking at her and her eyes are puffy ,the are visible hand prints on her face and even her wrists are red.I clench my jaws and anger is slowly creeping in.I want to know what happened and she beats me to it

Her: he was here and he showed me the pictures ,h..he..he kissed me an..and touched my body ,he said he wants to take me home .

She is already a crying mess and every tear she sheds makes my heart ache ,it makes my heart bleed.I never want to see this woman in front of me in pain or shedding a simple tear unless its out of happiness .And the fact that this bastard made her cry this much pisses me of to the core .

My anger is already sky rocketing ,why the fuck would her uncle look for her after dumping her in the palace.How did he find this place in the first place.What the fuck is he up to .I will have to personally visit that good for nothing man.

Me: Shh shh please don't cry ,please.Every tear that fall on your beautiful face breaks my heart.Lihle am sorry ,am sorry that I was not there to protect you from him,am sorry that I arrived when it was too late ,am sorry that you had to be entangled in such a



web.I promise I will never leave you all alone ever again.I promise .Please don't cry ngiyacela(am begging you)

After dinner I escort her to her room and prepare her bed for her then tuck her in .All this while her eyes are glued on me and its giving chills .

Me: goodnight( kiss her on the forehead)

Her: Siya

Me : Lihle

Her: please don't leave ,am scared please ( her soft voice just weakens me ,I want to disagree cause I don't trust myself with her but my woman is scared ,but destroyer here will have to take this one for the lady even though he is already throbbing in my sweatpants)

I remove my shoes and shirt and get in the blankets .She places her head on my chest and I rub her back softly and she slowly drifts off to dreamland.I can't help but realise how peaceful her presence makes me feel at peace.She is makes me calm.

LIHLELETHU

(DREAM

Am in beautiful place and there is a huge river in the middle with crystal clear water and blue as the summer sky.The flowers are a beyond beautiful.Birds a chirping a sweet melody and a

spectrum of bright light shining through the mountains. Am still admiring the place and I see my mother and father. They are smiling brightly. I run towards them, I have always wanted to know what happened to them and this is the right time to ask

Me : mom ,dad you here

Dad: angel eyes ,my joy you have grown to be a beautiful princess ,am proud of you

Mom: my baby ,you are home now ,am happy that you have found your joy

Me : what do you mean am home ,what joy are you talking about. I am miserable I miss you ,life has been juggling me like a ball. I know no peace. Please take me with you

Dad: no princess he needs you ,you have to stand by him or else he will fall

Me : dad who are you talking about

Mom: baby he will take care of you , you are safe with him, and trust only him, he is your home my child.

Me: mom dad what are you saying, okay atleast tell me who murdered you

Dad: princess our death is not important ,the truth will come out at the right time .For now you are safe and you will be forever safe with him

Mom: he is your chosen one and he will never leave you,do not be afraid of him,he is of no harm to you.

Them: thank you for setting us free ,we will always watch over your ,now go go and be happy always our light.)

Me: mom dad!! Please!! Please !! Don't leave me!! I open my eyes and realise that I had been dreaming all along.What does it mean.Its been a while since my parents visited me in my dreams.What did they mean when they said he is my home.Who is this HE? I move slowly on the bed not waking Siya up,I turn and face the other side instead he moves closer and grabs my waist.I suddenly feel my blood heating up.I feel something poking me on my back and I move my hand towards it and try removing it ,I pull it slowly slowly mind you I don't want to wake Siya up ,and he starts groaning my ear.His groans a doing things to me and my Nana starts to vibrate ,I ignore it and try again to pull this thing poking me in my butt,and he groans harder.Now my whole body is registering every breath that is hitting my neck.What is Siya doing to me my body feels different and I want him to touch me.Omg Lihle what are you thinking. I shift again this time getting under the blankets to see what is poking me before I see it he wakes up

Siya : what are you doing

Me: uumm uumm I was... I ...I..

Before I could finish my statement Siya flips me over

and looks straight in my eyes and says " can I kiss you"

Me: I don't know how to kiss ,I have never been kissed before.He tells me to follow his lead and I do as told .The kiss goes on and on and my body heats up,my breathing changes ,I find myself moaning in his mouth and he curses between the kiss.My body starts to shake uncontrollably and I then feel a of pleasure and my panties are already wet.He removes my PJ top and cups my breast in his mouth ,sucking my nipples ,he does the same to the other breast .I am already a mess and I don't even know what to do with myself ,my hands a clinging to the sheets and ...#REMOVED

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 10

KING NQIBILE

Everything is just a total mess,having Sizwe in such a state only meant one thing what ever it is that's coming for this Kingdom is huge.Every one is living in constant fear for what ever misery is yet to come.Some have already started bad mouthing the royal family.All types of names are being laid against the royal household.How do I fix this ,if my brother was here he would have solved this.I

suddenly feel another presence in the room and I turn only to be met by the one I love

Her: what is troubling you my dear husband

Me: All these things that have happened in the past weeks are unusual. I fear for the Kingdom, I might lose the throne and the ancestors will never forgive me for what I have done

Her: what you have done? What did you do my King?

Me: its not important my Queen

A sudden deafening scratching sound alarms us. The sound escalates and it grows sharper and sharper by the minute. Its like someone is scratching the wall vigorously. I try with all my might to close my ears tightly but its to no avail. A liquid is now flowing from my ears. I touch my ears and its blood coming out. I feel my energy being drained out, my knees becoming weak and my whole body giving in.

\*\*\*They are in the throne room and they are the only ones hearing the sound. A floating dagger is scribbling on the wall, it goes on and on until it has written a message. No visible figure is seen to be holding the dagger. And the message on the wall reads

"Are you ready let the games begin"

The dagger floats towards the Queen who is half buried in her arms, shivering like a little girl. Her

sniffs are audible ,making her silent cries not as silent .It floats again towards the King with the speed of lighting forming a very cold and powerful wind which knocks off every ornament in room.then stops an inch away from the King's throat.It starts to spin very fast ,fast,faster leaving the King with scars all over his face .Then vanishes and while noise also dies down\*\*\*

The sound is no longer audible,I slowly lift my head scanning the whole room and I do not see anything and the guards have already left.I turn again and the writing is still visible on the wall.I ran as fast as the wind could carry me.Another episode of what just happened could lead to my death.Right now am more than sure that he is coming for his revenge ,he will definitely end me,he was innocent but I ended his life out of greed ,envy and thirst for power.My sins are haunting me leading me an early grave.I have to protect all my children from this ,the princesses should leave this Kingdom first thing in the morning.They will come back when things have settled down.

## QUEEN NOXOLO

They say the vengeance of the innocent is like fire,when it starts it does not end unless the guilty have fallen.Guilty ,yes I am and I do not regret my actions ,every little thing in life comes with a sacrifice.Unfortunately those who died were part of it.My greatest fear lays with my children,I cannot stand to watch them see the sins of their mother,all I have ever did or what am yet to do is all for them.Am protecting their interested and some of mine too.

The scene in the throne room has left me with one option but to do the PACT .I want all the power and might there is.I do not want to live in constant fear.I inform Mdluli about my sudden interest in the pact and he tells me to prepare and be at his homestead in 3days.

#### IN THE THRONE ROOM

The princesses are all in tears bidding farewell to their parents .Though none between the two have knowledge of their sudden journey they all oblige to their parent's request and immediately leave .On their way to the airport,the car started scudding loosing its coarse.Four cars with black tinted windows encircled the royal cars and armedmen with balaclavas started shooting, one of the royal guards was shot and they started asking them to put their weapons down and they did.The men started searching the royal cars and took one of the princesses.Leaving the gaurds laying flat on the ground.

Princess Amahle cried hysterically for her sister and the cries fell on deaf ears as the guards had a mission to complete that was to get the princesses out of the Kingdom. None of them thought of going back because the King would have had their heads for defying his orders.

#### 3DAYS LATER QUEEN NOXOLO

My boys did the job successfully and delivered the

package in time. Am on the road to Mdluli's homestead. Like I said some sacrifices are worth it, I will cry after my achievement but right now I have the human heart and flesh needed for my PACT to be successful. I had told the King that I will journey to far away Kingdoms to search for a solution for our situation, just like that he agreed.

A black rooster has been sacrificed in my name, the dark room has been prepared, in the middle of the room a two circles have been drawn with one circle inside the other. Inside the circle there is a Pentacle (five edged star) and a black candle in the centre.

\*\*\*\*\*

She baths in blood of a black sheep, mixed with black feathers, sand from the cemetery. When the boarder of hell opens as soon as the time strikes 3am she starts doing her PACT. She is made to lay down on a table and her wrists are slit 3 times each representing the devil's code, a black cloth was used to cover her body and she started chanting the words

"I sell my soul to the devil if my price is right"

A thunderous clap echoed across the room and everything started shaking. Wind outside started howling viciously. Flashes of lightning decorating the night sky. She continued chanting and started shaking on the table like a possessed person.

On the other hand Mdluli was busy chanting spells that would give her safe passage through the doors of hell. He continued saying

\*Oombera himbera gara oombera gou\*

This continued for a while and a loud scream was



echoed across the sky and alarming every living creature. Then there was dead silence. On the table Queen NOXOLO is shaking and chanting words saying

**\*Shemhamforash!\***

Now her voice is getting louder and louder and her words getting more and more clearer saying

Powerful Satan, former Lord of the World,  
Tonight I am before you to declare and confirm my alliance with you.

I have truly taken Your Name as part of myself.

It has always been like this,

But I have lived long ignorant of my nature.

I am grateful to know who and what I am.

I am proud to be one of yours and to call myself your child

Powerful Satan, I am before you with everything I have.

I offer you my gifts and aptitudes, my talents and abilities, my skills,

And even then I have nothing to offer that has not been yours since the beginning, now I am aware of all this circumstance.

Oh, Mighty Lord of Darkness,

Give me intelligence and reason,

Guide me, to the Sinister Path.

Stay with me in everything I do. Open the Gates of Hell Magic

And teach me the Ancient Wisdom.

**Shemhamforash!**

My soul to you I give, oh great master of darkness,

For today and forever.

In return I ask for eternal power and might with this heart as an offering

Leviathan, save all the spirits with name or without name of the Depths of the Abyss that are now with me.

So shall it be in the name of our high Lord of Darkness.....T.B.C

INSERT 11

A GIFT CURSED

Ayibongwe

After leaving that bastard penthouse I drove straight to one of the coolest clubs. I got there and asked the bar man to give me shots of something strong. I couldn't get my mind of her. I love her damnit why can't she see it , the fact that she chose him after showing her their pictures pisses me off

To the barman , "Keep them coming".

A beautiful lady comes towards me and sit next to me and she says " Hello handsome , I am Harley want to get out of here so I can take care of you and make you forget ".

Had it been before I met my wife we would be talking another story. I just looked at her and threw her \$20 note, paid the barman and went straight

home.

When I got there the rascals I call brothers were playing FIFA I ignored them and went upstairs. I stopped on my track when I heard them say, "do you think he is mixing alcohol and his medication ". I let them be am worried about my wife I have to think of plan B.

I changed and went to the warehouse to make a plan with my boys.

Scar& the crew: Sho Bozza

Me: Sho madjita

I took my chair and addressed them.

Me: did the King and Queen get their parcel

Sniper: Sho Bozza we were watching them from a distance they took him to the hospital with an ambulance

Me : We need a plan to get rid of Razor he is playing in my territory

Mamba: WHAT (eyes popped out), you know Bozza what happened when we took his diamonds we promised not to terrorize his territory and he let us go.

Me: I DON'T GIVE A FUCK ABOUT HIS EMPTY THREATS AND HE IS NO LONGER LEADING THE GANG HE LEFT AND HANDED OVER THE THRONE. WHAT I WANT IS MY WIFE GOT IT. IF THERE IS ANYONE WITH A PROBLEM SAY IT (walking towards them)

Mamba : But Bozza....

I took my gun and blew his brains and say "anyone with something to say ",they all kept quiet

Me: Good you defy my orders, you will become an ancestor. Scar take care of this

Scar: Sho Bozza yami.

I walked out.

Siyabonga

After last night I am not letting her go , I know it's too soon but I fucken love her. I would kill for her. When I am making breakfast it clicks my mind that someone disrespected Razor and walked into my territory hurting my woman. I called the security guys for the CCTV footage I hope they deliver it soon. Yes my field name is Razor I was once a gang leader after graduating at University and when I wanted to commit to my business I left and left my right hand man in charge. The gang still obey me and call me for advice but I quit , so whoever hurt my cupcake better pray and start saying his last words.

I take the breakfast upstairs to my Queen yes you heard that right she is my Queen I will wife her soon. I intend to ask her about who came yesterday it better be not her uncle or he will collect the Lobola as a ghost.

I wake her up, she groans

Me: Morning. Wake up Cup cake breakfast is ready.  
(With a smirk) kissing her forehead

Lihle:( she sits)Good morning you made breakfast let me freshen up

Me: Have your breakfast I will run you a bath.

Damn she is so beautiful even in the morning. I walk to the shower as she digs in I stand by the door and watch her eat. She is so cute meaning my soccer

team will be full of heartbreakers.

Damn am I thinking about kids now I am whipped  
My phone rings taking me out of fantasy. I walk to it  
and its Linathi I curse remembering I was suppose  
to deposit her allowance and I forgot. I walk to the  
shower and answer the call

**\*Call Conversation\***

Me: Hello

Linathi: Hello baby how are you, I have been trying  
to get hold of you but you are not picking my calls.

Me: I am in the middle of something what do you  
want

Linathi: I wanted to check on you I miss you , you  
are my boyfriend.

Me: Okay I get I will deposit your allowance today

Linathi: I love you Siya why are you avoiding me.

The moment I hear those three words from her I feel  
suffocated somehow am sweating and trying to  
catch my breath. Something is wrong with me I am  
in pain my whole body is in pain am burning my  
nails are growing and my skin is transforming I  
curse fuck what is going on with me.

**Narration**

In the bathroom Siyabonga's beast is manifesting  
after hearing the right words from the wrong  
person. He is slowly transforming to the beast he  
has no control over his body. He does not know  
what is going on with him, he was never taught how  
to tame it. Meanwhile at the palace the clouds have  
turned black and people are wondering what is  
going on.

The Oracle knows what is happening . The great Mntungwa is here and he is not happy he is furious. The Oracle is calling his clan names looking at his bones appealing with him to wait till Siya is ready he knows Siya is not ready and not aware of what is going on with him so it will hurt him.

The Queen is also alert she has figured out what is going. She goes to her secret room and watches Siyabonga using her mirror. She is shocked.

LIHLELETHU

Siyabonga outdid himself this breakfast is yummy. He is a man of many talents indeed. I feel so connected to him, the chemistry cannot be denied. I feel butterflies in my stomach as I think of him. I love him yes I am in love. As I am enjoying my breakfast I start feeling uneasy its like am carrying something heavy and someone has stabbed my heart. I try standing up but I fail as I try catching my breath I suddenly remember about Siya's and my bond then I try walking to the bathroom. All of a sudden I feel someone's presence behind me. I turn only to be met by KHAYALETHU. I stop and look at him he says "Don't panick I am here to help you".

I look at him and I know I can trust him

Me: why am I feeling like this

Him: Your heart is in pain, he has a beast and it's manifesting and hurting him

Me: eyes popped out A beast how and why

Him: Young lady we don't have all day the beast is hurting my son go and help him only you can tame

it and calm him

Me: I don't know what to do

Him: follow me and do what I tell you to do.

I struggle to walk behind to the bathroom where Siya is and only to be met by a big beast with green fur and long nails. This thing right here is not my Siya he is now a beast but his face has not transformed he is groaning in pain, I can tell by his face its hurting him. I look up to Khayaletu he looks calm here I am hella scared almost shitting on myself but I have to help my man. With all the strength left in me I walk up to him praying silently it doesn't hurt me. Khayaletu nods and say, "call his clan names and tell the beast to give us time to prepare him to settle well in his master's body".

I kneel before him but I feel heavy I look up and see a dark shadow fighting with Khayaletu to get to Siya, they are talking a foreign language , throwing fire balls at each other I scream he looks at me says , "I will take care of this do what I asked you to, time is not on our side" I look at Siya groaning in pain on the floor , I gather the only strength I have left in me and say " Khumalo Mntungwa,

Mbulaz'omnyama,

Nina bakaBhej' eseNgome,

Nin' enadl'umuntu ninyenga ngendaba,

Nin' enadl' izimf'ezimbili ikhambi laphuma lilinye,

Lobengula kaMzilikazi, Mzilikazi kaMashobana,

Shobana noGasa kaZikode,

Zikode kaMkhatshwa,

Okhatshwe ngezind' izinyawo

nangezimfushanyana,

UMkhatshwa wawoZimangele, UNyama yentini

yawoZimangele

Mabaso owabas' entabeni kwadliwa ilanga  
lishona,  
BaNtungw' abancwaba,  
Zindlovu ezibantu,  
Zindlovu ezimacocombela, Nin' abakwaMawela  
owawel' iZambezi ngezikhali,  
Nin' abakwaNkomo zavul' inqaba,  
Zavul' inqaba ngezimpondo kwelaseNgome  
zahamba,  
Nin' enalukudl' umlenze kwaBulawayo,  
Mantungwa Aluhlaza, Mantungwa Amahle,  
Bantwana benkosi,  
Nin' abakwaNtokela,  
Inkubele abayihlabe ngamanxeba,  
Abakhule ngezinyawo ezimfishanyana  
nezimaqhukulwana, Inyang' abathe beth' ifil' uZulu  
kanti isiyetheswe,  
Yetheswe ngoNyakana kaMpeyana,  
UBando abalubande balushiy' uZulu,  
UNtshwintshwintshwi kaNoyanda noNdaba,  
UNkone evele ngobus' emdibini,  
Ndabezitha! Maqhaw' amakhulu, siyacela  
lingamlimazi umntwana asikho ekhaya sicelelani  
insuku ukuze sifike ekhaya silihlalise kuhle  
endaweni yenu.( Khumalo Mntungwa,  
Mbulaz'omnyama,  
Nina bakaBhej' eseNgome,  
Nin' enadl'umuntu nimyenga ngendaba,  
Nin' enadl' izimf'ezimbili ikhambi laphuma lilinye,  
Lobengula kaMzilikazi, Mzilikazi kaMashobana,  
Shobana noGasa kaZikode,  
Zikode kaMkhatshwa,  
Okhatshwe ngezind' izinyawo



nangezimfushanyana,  
UMkhatshwa wawoZimangele, UNyama yentini  
yawoZimangele  
Mabaso owabas' entabeni kwadliwa ilanga  
lishona,  
BaNtungw' abancwaba,  
Zindlovu ezibantu,  
Zindlovu ezimacocombela, Nin' abakwaMawela  
owawel' iZambezi ngezikhali,  
Nin' abakwaNkomo zavul' inqaba,  
Zavul' inqaba ngezimpondo kwelaseNgome  
zahamba,  
Nin' enalukudl' umlenze kwaBulawayo,  
Mantungwa Aluhlaza, Mantungwa Amahle,  
Bantwana benkosi,  
Nin' abakwaNtokela,  
Inkubele abayihlabe ngamanxeba,  
Abakhule ngezinyawo ezimfishanyana  
nezimaqhukulwana, Inyang' abathe beth' ifil' uZulu  
kanti isiyetheswe,  
Yetheswe ngoNyakana kaMpeyana,  
UBando abalubande balushiy' uZulu,  
UNtshwintshwintshwi kaNoyanda noNdaba,  
UNKone evele ngobus' emdibini,  
Ndabezitha! Maqhaw' amakhulu we plead before  
you humbly don't hurt the child we are not home  
give us days to get home so that we prepare you to  
settle well with him)".I look him in the eyes ,my eyes  
are changing color they are now light blue shining  
on his, I can see them on the bathroom mirrors  
behind Siya.

After I am done I feel a sharp pain in my heart, am  
sweating , Siya is slowly turning back to himself and  
he looks exhausted but the pain I am feeling is now

twice what I was feeling. I look up to Khayaletu he smiles and say, "he is coming ,the one with all your answers" after saying that he vanishes I look around its now Siya and I meaning Khayaletu defeated that dark cloud. Siya has blacked out I am also struggling to breath after a few minutes the Royal Oracle enters the room he gives me something to drink without saying anything and walks up to Siya and say to me, "we don't have much time we need to get to the Royal palace now". His medicine worked magic I am feeling better but I am still restless we carry Siyabonga to the car and head to the palace.

## A GIFT CURSED

### INSERT 12

#### MANZINI KINGDOM

Dark clouds have gathered ,every animal giving praises to Great Mntungwa .Every living creature in the Kingdom is now dead silent awaiting its arrival .On the other hand Queen Noxolo is busy making herbs and calling upon all the dark demons to stand by her,she is gathering every source of power from every conner of the underworld.Demons a celebrating creating a portal ready to cause havoc in the world of the living.Demons of Destruction,

Tricksters and even those of war. Meanwhile Lihle can feel the opposing force that is coming her way ,she feels all the darkness that is at the palace .The oracle looks at her and says " you are the light ,do what you must".Lihle started praying calling on God for protection, guidance , strength and wisdom. Calling on the wind ,earth,water and fire . Outside the the earth has started shaking ,water in the rivers have started roaring .Winds hallowing causing hurricanes ,four each representing the forces that walk with the one born of light .She starts forming marks on her cheeks and they a glowing ,two in her hands and the final one on her forehead ,that of a cross .Her eyes are already crystal blue.All this is happening whilst the Queen is watching.The light around them is already blinding her.She is trying to get to The Great Ndlangamandla but its proving more difficult .The light is burning her.Whilst the oracle takes care of Ndlangamandla ,the Light is now standing in the middles of the compound saying .Hear the wind its my breath

My bones are the trees  
The river is my blood  
The fire is my soul  
I am anointed and ordained  
He lives in me

Whirlwinds are circulating the coumpand where Ndlangamandla is ,a deep gorge in the earth has surrounded the place.The water in the gorge has now risen creating a great wall around .The one of Light is now floating in the air ,her eyes and marks are shining brightly.Her hands are spread out and fire is freely burning in her palms.

Meanwhile ,the oracle has put the vessel of the ancestors in the ancestral hut.He has put all herbs on him and around his body.Other herbs in his mouths.He coughs repeatedly whilst the oracle is singing the Mntungwa praises. A thick smoke covers the whole hut from the incense the oracle has burnt to pave a way for the vessel to journey to the land of the ancestors to get his beast.His body starts shaking and shivering,sweat is visible all over his body.Green veins are popping around his body ,he groans in pain for a short while then remains silent. In the land of the ancestors Siya standing in front of all the fallen Mntungwa ancestors each standing with its beast.Siya walks towards them and gives them the royal greetings and stands.All the beasts then kneel before him and start roaring they all do that three times.A figure stands behind him and he feels it but is hesitant to turn,he then decided to turn only to be met by a very talk beast,its height is not that of the others ,its fur is in green and white.The green is visible but not just a natural green but its green is in patterns ,patterns which are strange.Its eyes pure white ,its staring at Siya whilst he is doing the same thing.It stands for a very long time and then kneels before Siya,Siya is still in shock and one of the ancestors then said "son receive your beast and embrace it,it is you and you are it ,you are the Alpha the Great Mntungwa Great Ndlangamandla Siya then bows towards the beast and it roared in acceptance to him ,all the other beasts joined in whilst the ancestors bowed towards them.

Meanwhile The Queen is watching everything and the moment Siya and the Beast are united she

screams Noooooo and everything thing around her starts to shatter ,glasses exploding ,palace walls shaking ,thunder clapping across the sky with a loud roar.She starts changing her form and now her whole body is transforming ,long nails and and her hair turning into numerous snakes hissing ,and a third eye on her for head.

In the ancestral lands , Siya is watching everything that is yet to come in the Kingdom if he does not protect it,everything is just flashes.He sees all the ruins of the Kingdom,carcasses scattered across the earth,dry and wilted trees ,and huge hills of soil and large machinery digging in the Kingdom.The sight is not pleasant.The ancestors then say to him

"Son you are the protector, the watcher,the keeper and the peace of the Kingdom,you should guard the Kingdom jealously and never allow it to be in the hands of the wicked ,gaurd it with your blood and life WE BELIEVE IN YOU ,YOUR CHOSEN ONE WILL STAND WITH YOU KEEP HER AND DO NOT DROP HER"

Siya suddenly hears the voices from afar ,the lands a vanishing and feels the urge to close his eyes. He is now caught in a state of peace and calmness.

While the one of the light starts to feel Siya again ,but the feeling is now more different ,it mightier and stronger.It like that of a burning flame but yet calm and gentle.She slowly descended and as soon as she stands on the ground ,it suddenly gets decorated with green grass and beautiful flowers, her eyes are still glowing and the fire visible.On the wall demons have been trying to cross to the compound but the water burns them ,they a still

coming in multitudes and its to no avail .The Light is protecting its half and with the burning love visible ,no darkness seems to be conquering.

The Queen has started sending shape shifting demons ,demons which can change into any form ,demons which can penetrate any soul and emotions.Two shift into Lihles parents ,pleading to Lihle ,asking her to help them before demons devour them ,asking her to save her parents.She starts being destructed and the oracle from the compound shouted "vala amehlo nkosazana ,lalela njalo bona ngenhliziyo yakho (close your eyes ,feel and see with your heart not your physicia eyes)".

LINATHI

I have been with Siya through thick and thin,when times were rough and when the going was tough too.I do not deserve this kind of treatment from him.All he ever asked for I did with a joyful heart cause I knew he was mine for life,he has never given me a reason to doubt his love until now.How could he ,how could he think that I called him for money.OK yes I love the expensive life ,gifts, top class restaurants and the luxurious living .But he has changed ,ever since he left for his rural home he has never ever talked to me except for the first two weeks of course.He no longer picks my calls ,when ever he talks to me he is cold and quite until the conversation ends .He no longer tells me that he loves me.Can it be, Noo it can't ,it cannot happen ,Bonga can not be seeing someone else if he is kuzoba lokugedla kwamazinyo(all hell will break

loose).And who ever this whore is ,stealing my man better enjoy it while she still can.

I feel rejected and unwanted ,Bonga is my life ,at first I wanted to suck him dry and enjoy his money but he was different from the rest and I fell in love with him ,and his love tamed me .It changed me.I cannot lose him.I will go to any length to keep what is rightfully mine.Whoever this bitch is she better start running ,cause a two headed snake is coming for her head.Nxaaah( she clicks her tongue out loud)

Person: Nathi is everything okay ,you have been distant recently ,and you here all alone swearing what is eating you up

Me: its Bonga he has changed ,he is not picking my calls anymore Londi

Her: maybe he has his reasons ,maybe he is busy give him some credit

Me : but Londi this is unlike him

Her: is this his first doing it, where is he

Me : yes its his first,he went to his rural home ,he said something about his father being sick

Her: maybe he is stressed and the sickness is worsening ,do not put too much pressure on him,be there for him and don't demand too much from him ,it will strain him.

Me: my gut tells me he is cheating ,I cannot put a finger on it but I can feel it

Her : do you know his rural home

Me: he said something about KwaManzini

Her: why don't you go there,you have been together for 4years now am sure they know you at his

home.Go and support him and be with him whilst you snoop around for any traces in connection with him cheating.Girl if he is ,l will definely help you beat the whore.

Me: you are right ,let me go get my man.

## AYIBONGWE

I am sitting down in the study thinking out loud about her. I am looking at my wallpaper it is her, she looks so beautiful and innocent I want to make her happy but she is being difficult. What is it that the boy she loves has and I don't. I am a handsome youngman , have done well for myself, I am not that tall I am average, dark skined,am fit and I work out here and there and my muscles are out there.My body is decorated with tattoos all part of gangsterism,l keep my hair trimmed and short all the time.l can imagine her standing on her toes trying to reach for my mouth. As I am busy thinking about her my phone ring I answer it its Scar.

Convo

Me : Hello

Caller: \*\*\*\*\*

Me : What , when and how

Caller : \*\*\*\*\*

Me : I gave you this job because I trusted you, you better fix this and call me back with better news I don't hang up but I smash the phone against the wall. I am fuming, I am breaking everything and I end up hurting my finger , it is bleeding , how could they lose people they have been watching. It looks like they left the penthouse but where could they be. They can't go anywhere I will find them.My brother enters the study asking if I am okay I just look at him and ignore him. I leave him there and walk out



taking my car keys I drive straight to the club I need the release some tension. I get there and ask the barman to give me the regular since I am their biggest customer he knows what I want. He passes the shots to me , I start gulping them down I hope to see someone I can fool around with before my wife comes home. My last fling caught feelings and used some love potion on me and I killed her after finding out. Someone pulls a chair next to me , there she is, the same girl who was nagging last time today she looks beautiful and decent but she has nothing on my wife.

Her : Hello lover boy, do you remember me

Me: Sure you are Mandy right

Her: No! I am Harley trouble at home with wifey

I just nod

Her : tell me about it, I know how it feels to be in a house with family who treat you like a stranger she goes on and on telling me about how her father wants to control her, how he wants her to study law yet she wants to be a modeler. Why am I even listening to her I ask her if she wants to go somewhere else she agrees and we leave I pay and tip the barman. I drive straight to my hotel room, I need to release some tension and I will today.

LIHLELETHU

He is confused ,lost and in pain.Feeling what Siya feels is more than a task its slowly weighing down on me,my heart is growing more heavy ,knowing that I cannot change how he feels arouses frustration .Am suffering ,suffering from my inability to save the one I love,suffering from the pain I cannot heal,suffering from all the confusion

he is in.All this is not helping me right now,am facing demons ahead of me the same demons which want to end him.All these emotions are just making me more and more weak.We are connected and what ever is happening to him is draining my energy .My gift was never fully initiated and am not as strong .Why couldn't I atleast be blocked from his emotions,how do you fight when the same person who is your source of strength is draining you,sucking all the little energy in you out.I am fighting ,fighting hard to have my man with me .

This should end,it should end am tired of demons ,demons fighting their way in,demons shape shifting into my parents who are resting peacefully .

\*\*\*\*\*

She raises her hands in the air and claps them once a great wind with so much pressure and force echoes making the demons fly across the air and they hit the ground and form into dust and vanish.She continued doing all this but the demons were too many and she was all alone ,she then gathered her last and final strength and touched the earth and with the other hand in the air and screamed ,the scream destroys some of the demons .Whilst all the waters around the compound settle down and a thick fog covers the whole compound.Meanwhile she is standing in the middle of the compound and her eyes turn back to their original colour and she collapses on the ground.

Meanwhile in the ancestral land Siya is no longer in the presence of all his ancestors.There before him stands a person ,splitting image of Siya only

difference is his broad shoulders.He is teaching Siya on how he is supposed to tame his beast,how his beast feeds,how it functions and what awakens it.Siya is learning but he cannot fight the urge to ask who this person is .And he just blurts it out

Siya : May I know your who you are Mntungwa  
Him: You will know when the time is right but you were born out of me ,by me and with me.I live in you and you are me.My blood is your blood and from a seed I planted you were born.  
Siya: how do you mean,I mean are you my ...

Siya is cut short before he could ask any further. On the other hand NOXOLO is watching all this but cannot hear anything .She is slowly loosing it and asking herself how she did not see all the signs ,how she did not see that Siya was the Alpha when all the signs were there.She hisses and curses between her breath regretting turning Siya into a monster when she had all the chances and she will have to fight her son for power,dominance,and authority.

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 13

NARRATION

## TWO DAYS LATER

Thick fog is still covering the oracles compound. Demons on the other side are trying to penetrate but its proving to be a very big task for them. Meanwhile Siya starts coughing on the grass mat in the ancestral hut, he coughs for a while ,whilst the oracle sprinkles water mixed with herbs on him. He opens his eyes and scans the whole room and sees Lihles body right across the room. The chants from the oracle are audible .His eyes are golden brown ,he stands up and start walking to the door. The oracle on the other hand is saying " Mntungwa Ndlangamandla othunyiweyo ngamadlozi ,yizwa ukulila kwabantu bakho qondisa okwephukileyo lalisa oku hluphayo "(Mntungwa Ndlangamandla the one sent by our ancestors listen to the cries of your people, mend the broken make that which is the cause of our misery rest)

Siya turns and looks and the oracle then at Lihle and walks out .The moment he steps on the ground the fog starts getting cleared .The demons on the other hand are celebrating getting ready to feast on their prey only to be met by a fierce Ndlangamandla, he walks towards them and they all slowly open the way for him then ,he roars three times and all the demons vanish while some burst and crumble turning to dust. The Queen is un aware of the awakening of the Great Ndlangamandla. Ndlangamandla starts running towards the palace .

## QUEEN NOXOLO

Siyabonga is beginning to be huge trouble to me ,especially that girl who he is with that child of a

nobody ,she is protecting him and she is the barrier standing between me and my son she is the one who has been holding back all my plans .Siya can be easily manipulated but not with that girl around,what is she ,why is she there.I have to find a way of removing her in the way.I never thought Siya was the one ,Ndlangamandla's rebirth was to happen but never did I think it will be so soon after the death of Khayaletu .Am disturbed by a small voice greeting me ,I turn and there stands a very beautiful young lady,light in complexion,medium height ,long hair some is even on her face,she has a small waist with medium hips .She is on hills and looking very expensive .This is the kind of person I had always wanted for my son Siyabonga

Her : Am sorry ma'am ,I was led to you by the guards but I doubt am in the right place ,am looking for Bonga

Me: Bong???

Her : am sorry I mean Siyabonga Khumalo,my name is Linathi

Me : Siyabonga ,the prince of this Kingdom

Her: Siyabonga a PRI...PRI...NCE no I think its the wrong place .I will take my leave ma'am

Me :do you by chance have a picture of this Bonga,I am the queen of this Kingdom and I know most of my subjects

She walks towards me and shows me a picture of herself and my son.A smile creeps on my face. I have long waited for this day and things are going in my favour .This young lady will be my gate pass to Siya,she will be my mouth ,ears and eyes .And the

only way I will get that young girl out of my way.

### Narration

Ndlangamandla arrives at the palace and goes straight to King Nqobile study. He walks towards a book shelf and pushes five books and a sound of a lock opening is heard and takes out a necklace with thirteen beast teeth symbolising the number of fallen kings and beasts . He wears it and its eyes turn back to normal .

### SIYABONGA

I am at the palace in my Fathers study how? , I remember going to fix a bath for my woman but how and when and why am I in the palace I have no clue about it . My head is blank and I do not have a slight clue as to what transpired. I hear people laughing and the sound of cutlery clicking I walk towards the sound only to be met by a disturbing sight. Where is Lihle and how on earth did Linathi get to the palace , she is there laughing and eating with my mother. My mother of all people. My head is already spinning and nothing is making sense .

Me: Linathi!!!!!! what are you doing and why the fuck are you here

Mother: Siya my boy is that how you treat your guests now apologise to my daughter in law.

Me : (sarcastic laugh) What guests, daughter in law you two have been telling each other nonsense, Linathi I said what are you doing here and did I invite you.

Her: Bo...Bo..nga I can explain please l....

Me : Answer the simple question god damnit , did I invite you here

Her : No ,but Bonga I was...

Me: Now LEAVE....I said LEAVE

Mother: Siya what is wrong with you how can you treat your girlfriend like this is this how I raised you

Me: Mother stop it I am not talking to you , and you (pointing at Linathi) how did you get here what do you want. Go back

Linathi: Bonga I missed you , you left and never called back.

Me: You better make yourself unavailable, Mother I am going out I better not find her here.

I have a lot to protect right now and the last thing I want is for Lihle to be caught up in this mess she is my life and the thought of losing her is driving me crazy .Linathi is crazy and I know what she is capable of and Lihle is still fragile .DAMNIT HOW DID I GET HERE AND WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED WHERE WAS I.

LINATHI

Bonga will have to get used to my presence in this beautiful palace ,I do not care how much he will shout at me or whatever but I will not leave this place.Bonga is a PRINCE ,a whole PRINCE which he never told me about and thinks after all this I will leave he better be ready for what is coming .I will ride hard until he is back to his senses and he will remember the reasons why he loves me after I am done with him.He will not under any circumstance deny me a chance of being part of royalty .He will marry my ass the easy way or hard way.His mother already loves me and that just makes everything perfect .

## KING NQOBILE

I am in a thick bush ,I have been calling out everyone from my wife to my children and no one hears me .I have been here for days and nights I keep walking in circles and its tiring .The whole place looks the same and confusing.I remember making love to the Queen and thats it,what happened to me after that I do not remember ,I just woke up in these thick bushes.

### Narration

The night after the Queens initiation (selling her soul) she came back to the palace and prepared a potion which was to make the King fall into a deep slumber .The Queen made her way to the King and started making love to the King and the moment the King looked into the Queens eyes he got lost in them. The King fell into a deep sleep his beast could not help him because of the innocent blood he has spilled ,sacred blood which belonged to the ancestors. Meanwhile the palace servants have been told that the King had travelled leaving the Queen in authority.

## A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 14



## SIYABONGA

I am all alone in my thoughts, how will I fix this mess. My mother has refused Linathi to go back to the city. I am caught in this whole drama and I am the only one who can fix it. I never had any plans of letting Linathi find out who I was and where I come from. Being a Prince makes people want to be close to you or be with you for the wrong reasons. Linathi being Linathi she definitely just wants to be part of the luxury and wants the title not me. (he sighs)

When did I get here. I am wearing an odd necklace and I have no idea where it came from, I have tried removing it, cutting it and breaking it off but it has turned out useless because none of the methods I used worked. The only thing I can do is to go with it to the oracle, he will be the one to remove it. In the mean time I have to deal with Linathi, a notification appears on my phone and it turns out to be a CCTV footage. I watch it silently from the moment that son of a bastard entered the penthouse to Lihle crawling and curling herself in a corner. I feel suffocated by my own anger, how could he, how could he lay his filthy hands on her. He is a damn gangster he searches intel on people before invading their territory, how could he strike me twice when he left a wound on me that was still healing. That idiot stole my diamonds and I gave him a second chance to life but he comes back to strike me where it hurts the most. This Zikhali boy doesn't learn. This time I will not spare him he touched my anointed one and my blood is boiling, the inner me is thirsty and hungry for his blood. He tampered with what's mine and better be ready for me. I am at the balcony in my thoughts and I begin to hear heels echoing on the tiled floor, Linathi is the only person I know who likes wearing heels except for my sisters who I have

no clue where they are. And I hear her voice

Her: Bonga can we please talk ,I know I am wrong but please don't do me this way,please don't be mad at me .

Me : please leave Linathi I don't want to have this conversation with you

Her: ooh come on Bonga ,okay I know what you want how about your favourite fruit (she gives me a weird smile whilst winking)

I know what she means but I do not have time for her drama.I don't want her all I want is for her to leave and time to mastermind my plan ,I want that Zikhali boy to die slowly ,I want him to feel every pain am feeling right now and I want him to pay for every single tear Lihle cried.

Her : Bonga!!!!

Me: I give her a dead stare .Ufunani kanti angizange ngithi hamba(what do you want didn't I say leave)

Her: you are not being fair Bonga ,(she is speaking between her sniffs) Bo..nga is there someone else,are you seeing someone else.

Me: what if I am ,what are you going to do about it ,will you kill me for loving someone else who isn't you.We had our time our fun it was good and it kept me distracted but did you think I was going to wife you.That would be as good as walking on hot coals whilst I know they burn.You don't love me you love what I have Linathi you are even carried away by the fact that I am a prince ,all you want is the benefits that come with my title not me.Linathi are

you even wife material in the first place. Tell me one thing that can change my mind and make you become my wife NONE!! all you do is bribe me with sex ,yes its good but its not enough I need the full package and I was gifted with one so please LEAVE.

Her:( tears are now falling freely) Bonga so this is how you see me ,B..o..n..g..a I thought you loved me .I did everything for you but you were using me

Me: (he laughs) using you,using you ,you say tell me the money that made you and spoiled you and gave you the luxurious life whose money was it. Wasn't it mine,and you my dear gave and I paid simple.(he walks away leaving her defeated and short of words,she is now feeling rejected ,unwanted,worthless)

Siya gets in his car and drives off to the oracle house.

## QUEEN NOXOLO

Call me evil,heartless and disgraceful YES YES that is me in human form.I watched my friend snatch away what was rightfully mine and never asked me if I was okay with it when she knew I dreamt about it day and night.I listened to my husband telling me all sorts of words from being called a witch,barren to a worthless woman because I couldn't give him a male child when he was the one who was cursed by his own ancestors. I watched my mother in laws favouratism and was neglected and denied a chance to feel any love .Wasn't I human,didn't I have feelings,wasn't I bruised and didn't my heart bleed...OOH YES it bleed and bleed till it couldn't bleed anymore,I cried and cried till I realised that I

and only I could give myself what I want and I went for it ,I made it a mission.

Noxolo is my name and what I am and who I am is what they made me .They created a monster and they should be prepared to embrace the monster they made.Thier suffering and deaths will be my victory ,their pain will be my joy and thier agony will be my healing.All their generation will know about me and my wrath.I am a dragon and I breathe eternal pain .The pain of a woman a woman that has been broken,bruised ,and hurt to the soul.

## LIHLELETHU

I am walking with Siya in the most beautiful place .We are both admiring the place and watching nature .The trees swaying beautifully,birds flying in one motion, creatures of the land grazing freely in a valley ,water flowing and the fish of the river dancing gracefully in the sky blue waters.I am holding Siyas hand and now he is looking directly in my eyes.I am slowly getting lost in his eyes and suddenly he turns.He is listening attentively to only what is heard by him.He is now letting go of my hands slipping out of them slowly...I am screaming and begging for him to look my way ,I am begging him not to let go of my hands but its falling on deaf ears.

I look at the direction his eyes are fixed on and a female figure is calling him with its hands,and he is moving towards it.I cling tightly to his hand trying not to let him slip off but its to no avail.He slips out of them and starts walking towards the female ,I am

calling out for him and now crying on my knees begging him not to leave me ,begging him to concentrate on my voice,begging him to fight it off but he is now slowly fading ,fading into the unknown ,fading to where the female figure went .He leaves me all alone with my tears kneeling on the place which once upon a time was green and beautiful but now has turned to dust,all the plants have wilted,animals dead,rivers dry only the carcasses are protruding from the soil.l whail painfully .

Me:SIYA!! SIYA!! SIYABONGA!!( she sits up from the grass mat only to realise that she was dreaming,she exhales and scans the whole room )

It was all a dream but it felt so real.This cannot be a simple dream ,it should mean something, what is going to happen ,how could Siya leave ,why would he follow that figure.Am battling with my thoughts trying to figure out what the dream or vision meant.Could it be that Siya is going to be taken by someone else.I sigh heavily and stare into space.Am thinking of how much Siya means to me and am not prepared to lose him it cannot happen not when l found him,he is my happiness.

LINATHI

So he rejected me,he rejected me for someone else when l was with him for 4years.How dare he,how dare he rejects me.l am going to kill this pest that has got him swept off and l will be the one to help him mourn and comfort him till he wants me back.l will not go down without a fight.If l cannot have him no one not even this girl who has stole his heart will have him. I am Linathi and what Linathi wants

Linathi gets and as for Bonga he should enjoy the little time he has left with this girl of his before he mourns her and never sees her face ever again.(she laughs wickedly) and then says "Bonga baby how about we dance together through this,only one of us will get what they want and it surely won't be you my love".

## A GIFT CURSED INSERT 15

### LIHLELETHU

I have always asked myself why me , why was I chosen to be here but now I know if not me then who, the ancestors might have a reason for choosing me and I will not let them down. I will cry no more, I know I am fighting for a greater cause so I won't make losing so easy. I am not in this alone, everyone once fights everyone once falls but the ones that get up are the strongest. How will I learn , if I am afraid and full of fear.Nothing comes for free and it takes the determination, the courage and self belief not what people have to say. I wont go down and I will be everthing that everyone said I will never be. I am THE LIGHT, THE WIND IS MY BREATH, MY BONES ARE THE TREES,THE RIVER IS MY BLOOD AND THE FIRE IS MY SOUL.I was chosen for this mission and I will stand and fight.

Am sitting on the mat still deep in my thoughts when Siya burges in and looks at me for the longest time before kneeling before me and embracing me. That feeling comes in again. I feel the love flowing freely he didnt need to say it ,his feelings are enough for me. I feel connected and protected right here and right now with him. What ever battle that comes my way aslong and he has my hand I will fight it all and never get tired. He is all I want. What am I saying, I do not even know what love is but if what I am feeling now is love then I want it my heart yearns for it and lives in it.

Him: it is love my angel, this is love I do not know how I can explain it but it is much easier when you feel it.

Me: what do you mean my Prince.

Him: I mean the feeling is mutual I feel the same way cupcake. I think I am in love with you, I know its too soon but you don't have to answer me now take your time but follow your heart it won't lead you astray.

Me: (I look down )I know I feel the same My Prince but I am scared I don't know how to love

Him: (he hold my face and lift my chin making me face him)I dont know how to love either cupcake but i also know that I do not want to lose you please give me a chance hold my hand we will figure this out together.

Me: You will not loose me but.....

The Oracle clears his throat at the door starring at the two lover whilst smiling awkwardly. Abaphansi

bajabulile ngani zami makuhlale kunje mihla yonke(  
The ancestor are happy with you my children, may  
your love be like this all the times)

Siya let's go Lihle and they all sit down and look at  
the oracle

Oracle: lalelani ke ngani zami uhambo lwenyu  
alusoze lubelula ukuze lifike ekujabuleni kuzoba  
lokukhala ,lokulwa le zitha (listen my children your  
journey to happiness will not be an easy one ,there  
will be tears,wars and enemies along the way)

Me: yebo baba

Him: I don't understand

Oracle : Siya mayuyeke ukwala islwane sakho  
,uvelelwa yiziboniso ocabanga ukuthi liphupho  
kanti cha kwenzakal njalo wakubona.Abaphansi  
bakuvezela okuzoyenzakala uma ungavikeli isigodlo  
uLihle nguye okheriweyo ukuba ame lawe njalo abe  
lubhambo lwakho,kwamukele sana lwami njngoba  
omunye wakho sekwamukelile( Siya stop denying  
your beast ,you have been having visions which you  
think are dreams but they all happens .Your  
ancestors showed you what is to come if you do not  
defend the Kingdom and Lihle has been chosen as  
your rib to stand with you and fight by your side )

SILENCE

Oracle: isigqizo olaso entanyeni yakho usiphiwe  
ngamadlozi,inkosi eyakhothamayo yayisigqiza  
khatesi sesingesakho,leso sigqizo senzelwa ukuba  
islwane sakho sivalelwe njalo siphuma  
makubalulekile kodwa qaphela ndodana isilwane  
sakho sidla ulaka lwakho njalo siphuma uma  
uzonde kakhulu ngakho ke uma ungazonda njalo  
ufise ukubulala kungabaluleki sizukulimaza ( that



necklace on your neck you were given by your ancestors, the fallen kings worse it one after the other,that necklace was made son that your beast be caged and only to come when the need rises but be careful the beast feed on your anger and manifests when you are angry hence when you angry and wish to kill for the wrong reasons the beast will hurt you)

Him: so this beast can kill me that is what you are saying

Oracle: Nkosana uyazi ukuthi Unjani lapha esigodlweni kodwa ulenye impilo ngaphandle engenelisa ukusebenzisa isilwane sakho,ngakho ke isilwane ngesokuvikela isigodlo hatshi okunye(my prince you know how you are in the kingdom but you also have a life outside the kingdom that can use the beast for wrong reasons)

He nods quickly as if avoiding any further explanations. I feel the fear and guilt that is coming from him.What is he hiding who is Siya outside this Kingdom.

## QUEEN NOXOLO

Never have I regretted what I did back then ,they stood in the way for my plan to manifest and I had to remove them,that night ...

## FLASHBACK

That night, the Queen mother prepared the supper, we all sat down and ate .King Zwelihle excused his advisors making them leave his court before he joined the rest of us. As soon as he sat down , king Zwelihle began to talk to me

King: I will speak as a king not just a father inlaw to you, Noxolo..I.won't repeat my word again, take

your place respectively following after my word, if there be anything you don't understand from me come back directly to me not taking anything out of me.

I will not repeat myself.

Mer: but I was just..., he pointed once and I kept quite.

King :Am the King , me and my domain, nothing else and i will not be so cruel to accept any cheap word from you.

I had held a meeting without the King's permission and woman were not allowed to hold meetings back then.

He pushed the table with his feet and ordered me saying, "take these plates and clear up my table"

With my long mouth zipped I followed the orders, clearing my throat, I stood but deep down I was deranged, I sighed rolling my brown eyes. After the King and Queen mother left for bed whilst the others were gathered talking and playing games, they all laughed at me telling me I was seeking attention. I picked up my phone sneaked to the bathroom where I called Mdluli, exposing my evil heart to him, saying

"I want to deal with the King tonight kindly do this very thing without fail, I need a crocodile pancreas, sort it out tomorrow will be coming to collect it" I dropped the phone . That night I didn't sleep a wink I was busy preparing for my mission I had evil courage one that was leading to the destruction of the king. I promised myself to end everything in time. While the King was dreaming I was watching him through a mirror and I was going to kill him in his dreams .On the other hand the king had a dream of himself running all around the square of the

palace, he was getting crazy and was losing it, he was wearing nothing but rags which were full of dirt, he fell on his face down to the soil where he saw a crocodile flowing with blood from its abdomen, it came furious facing directly at him to an extent of his strength being eaten up fully, he crawled trying to make an escape but it was all in vain, a storm rose and thunder strikes from the trees as they fell one after the other. It was raining heavily and he saw a shadow of a woman a woman that was me and quickly my footsteps matched his heartbeat It was a fast move and I ended him , I continued running ,he could not see the face but he knew that was the end. A male voice spoke from nowhere , run, run, run there is no time , he fought with the ground but it was too late.

He tried to move but his feet failed him and lay still on the ground , it was too late I. I took out his heart and it was warm and , it was still beating fast in my hands.

I killed him for his hate, power, for embarrassing me and all the pain he had ever caused me. My heart was bleeding and my cries could not have been silent, my pain deserved to be heard and seen it deserved to be expressed and killing them was my pay back.

\*\*\*\*\*END\*\*\*\*\*

He never loved me and he used every single minute to embarrass me as for my husband he never stood up for me .The Queen Mother I poisoned her and made her spirit lay peacefully to rest .It was all part of my plan, they were the reason for my pain and their fall was my source of strength.As for the Kings heart it was prepared for me to eat and strengthen

me giving me courage but ever since Lihle came everything changed and it never worked like it used to so I had to sell my soul for the right price.

### SIYABONGA

So I have a beast fierce and powerful ,what is the point of it then this feels more like a curse instead of a gift.Lihle has been all over my head,I know she felt my fear and guilt, she feels me how do you lie to someone connected to you. I cannot risk Lihle knowing that I am also a gang lord though I haven't been active in the game for a long time .She will not understand and will certainly dump my ass and there is Linathi she is also someone Lihle should not find out about or else I will be doomed .I want to eliminate her without Lihle knowing about her actual existence but how ,how do I do it when my mother has found favour in her.My head is just spinning there is Lihle, Linathi, Zikhali boy and now this beast. Am so frustrated and its all written all over me.How do I fix this mess when I am one human.The only way I can get to think straight is after releasing and Lihle is not ready for it DAMN now I have to suffer with destroyer again.

Am on my way back to the palace .I arrive and everyone is now asleep ,I heard straight to the mini bar and gulp down two glasses of whisky and walk up to my room.I open the door only to find her on my bed, she is in her black lace thong my favorite and she is just ravishing, every atom in me wants what I am seeing,destroyer is throbbing in my pants and her thighs are all out ,she is licking her lips and moaning softly on the bed that alone turns me on. I cannot help it but I want to devour her till she passes out. How can she be here at exactly the same

moment I need to release DAMN I cannot help but admire what is before me, she is definitely going to be the death of me and I wish it was Lihle in front of me.....TBC

## A GIFT CURSED INSERT 16

LINATHI

I am on his bed waiting for him to make love to me. I know he will never be able to resist me. The moment he opens the door his jaws drop, his eyes are popped out. His manhood is now poking his pants. I want him, I want to feel him all over my soft skin, I want his firm hands to caress and appreciate every part of my body. Am longing for his cold lips on mine. He comes closer and closer and roughly throws me on the bed. Then looks deep into my eyes, I see it the lust, the desire, he wants me as much as I do. I have him exactly where I wanted him. Then he bites his lower lip and breaths in my ear, the warmth of his breath sends chills on my spine. I pin my legs together putting pressure on my twitching pussy. I move slowing putting more pressure on my nana and releasing allowing myself to feel the burning desire in me surface. He goes to my lips and start kissing me nicely and slowly while his tongue is seeking for extrance. I moan between the kiss while he continues kissing me deeper and deeper like he life depends on it, he let's go of my nipples

and tears my thong and starts giving each breast the attention it seeks whilst caressing the other. He sucks my nipples and I moan inbetween allowing myself to feel the things he is doing to my body. I start moving my own fingers into my nana, and its already dripping wet, I massage it in a circular motion whilst I close my eyes allowing the pleasure to sink in. He is doing me good and I can't help it, I let go of my nana and go straight for his manhood, I start massaging it and he groans with my breast in his mouth and curses between his groans. I have him where I want him and I hope the camera I planted is recording everything. He flips me over and am now on top of him. Admiring every muscle on his bed, this man here is gifted no lie. I slowly go down on him and cup his manhood and suck it slowly whilst my tongue plays around it, it is hard as a rock and veins are popping on it, every moment I sucked it I made sure to look directly in the camera whilst moaning. On the other hand he was now groaning whilst holding my head helping me move faster and faster. Within a blink of an eye he was now on top of me kissing me moving down to my stomach playing with his tongue on me. His head was now between my thighs sucking me for his dear life, with every stroke he made I met him half way, he was appreciating my nana the way I wanted him to, my moans were echoing, whilst my nails dug deep into his skin, I felt a flash of a wave all over my body and I started shaking, shaking releasing my orgasm all over his face. He slowly came towards me with his huge and buff body between me, his man hood poking my nana making it wet all over again. He looked at me and his face immediately changed. I know Bonga but what ever was between my legs was no longer the Bonga I knew. He sprung out of

the bed wore his shorts.He took one look at me and left. He left me there ready for him, he left me horny and in need. I felt fresh tears on my cheek.Bonga used me and left me. How could he , how could he make love to me and leave me hanging. His facial expression when he looked at me was that of disgust ,he looked at me like am a piece of filth.

LIHLELETHU

I have been staying with the oracle ever since we left the penthouse. Siya has been dogding me lately.I don't know what's happening but I no longer feel his emotions like I used to. Maybe its because of his beast , probably he is still trying to accept the changes in his life.Looking back I have come to realise that I do not know Siya that much ,that thought alone scares me but putting all my trust on him trusting him not to break me,not to gamble with my feelings and let alone trample on my heart(she sighs heavily before hearing a voice )

Khaya: Nkosazana

Me: Baba

Khaya: my time here is slowly coming to an end

Me: but baba ...

Khaya: its time Nkosazana lalelisisa ...I am Khayaletu Khumalo,the King is my young brother.He and his friend murdered me and left me in the bushes.They used my manhood and organs for their selfish reasons and sold the other.I have a seed that belongs to me in the Kingdom , my seed is in the wrong hands, unless that seed knows about me it will never be stable.FIND MY BONES bury me as the King I am let my seed see my grave and its life will be restored.

Me: please tell me where your bones are baba

Khaya: you always see the place in your dreams, once my seed knows about it then and only then will the Kingdom know peace again .

Me: (she turns to face Khaya ,but he has vanished)

Oracle : yini oyidingayo (what are you looking for gifted one)

Me: I am...he..he ...was ...just here( she whispers)

Oracle: mntanami(my child)

SILENCE

Oracle: ubukeka udidekile (you look confused)

Me: do you know Khaya lethu ,Khaya lethu Khumalo

Oracle: yebo ,nguyena inkosi eyakhothamayo kuqala kungakahlali uNqobile(yes ,he is the fallen King that comes first before the present King Nqobile)

Me: you say a fallen King, how do you know that he is dead

Oracle: ngiyisithunywa sabaphansi uma inkosi ingakhothama abaphansi bayakuveza kodwa isigodlo sonke sazi ukuthi wanyamalala (am a messenger from the ancestors, they show me whenever a king falls but the whole kingdom believes he disappeared )

Me: he wants his bones to be found and laid in the palace ,he says if that does not happen his seed will always be confused and the Kingdom will have no hope

Oracle: imihlolo uKhaya unengane esaphila(Khaya has a child that lives)

Me: from his words he does and we have to know who the seed is and do right by it.

SIYABONGA



FUCK FUCK what is wrong with me ,how on earth did I end up between Linathi legs.Damn Siya damn.Linathi ,I have been trying to remove her from my life.I want things to be less complicated and one thing for sure I do not want Lihle to get hurt.But here I am hurting her already. Damn Siya where was your sense of reasoning.(he sighs heavily).I need to cool off ,I make my way to the garden and sit under the night sky getting my thoughts together.

"Siya"

Me: mother what are you still doing up so late (she puts a blanket over his bare back and entertained her hand to that of her son)

Her: I saw you from the balcony and decided to join you ,I could not sleep either

Me: is everything okay

Her : I have been thinking a lot my boy and I blame myself for how you have become

Me: ma it has nothing to do with you ,am just confused

Her: what is confusing you my boy

Me: I have found my chosen one her name is Lihle, do you remember the same young maiden who was cleaning my room the one you imprisoned ,that's her.She is gifted she is the daughter of Light ( the queen shivers upon hearing that)and I have just discovered that I have a beast and this necklace(he touches it ) helps the beast to be caged and not to work for the wrong reasons

Her: so it means this beast can turn bad if tampered with

Me: yes mother, it can be blood sucking beast that kills and feasts on human blood( a smile creeps in on the queens face).I am afraid mother ,am afraid of

turning bad mother, what if I fail my ancestors. Right now tonight I did the worst thing ever and wronged Lihle in the most brutal way. The ancestors on the night of my initiation said I should not drop her because she is my sanity and the only one to tame my beast

Her: worry not child, why don't you invite Lihle to live in the palace with us that way you will always be together. I realised I was being too hard on you and mean on her, I want to get to know her so please invite her

Me: mother there is Linathi here, I do not want her to know about Linathi and I.

Her: let me take care of Linathi, you should have told me all this while Siya, don't worry your chosen one will be safe I give you my word I will take good care of her. (the Queen shares an evil smile) Come let's make you something to eat am sure you didn't eat.

Ayibongwe

Its been days since I have been with Harley we agreed we are just having fun. I took her numbers after that night, she knows I have a wife and she respect that so she won't be calling me but I will be calling her when I need her. I am in my study thinking about a master plan to bring Lihle back to the city close to where I can easily reach out to her but before that I need her to hate him. My guys say they are at the palace and I know that bastard already knows I was in his house then why hasn't he struck. If he strikes I can easily reveal his other life to Lihle and act victim crying on her shoulder . I

know my Lihle will not settle for a murderer let alone a drug lord, she is very innocent. BRING IT ON SIYABONGA KHUMALO BOOM and when she leaves I will tell him on his face that

A Germany leader Otto van Bismarck once said, "Like a good chess player I think of several moves ahead".

Checkmate Prince wokunuka a victory smile creeps on my face as I sip my whisky looking at her picture on my desk.

Me: Don't worry Wifey very soon we will be one big family. I kiss the framed picture and leave the study going to my studio at the basement.

## A GIFT CURSED INSERT 17

### Narration

Lihle is hearing a soft and gentle voice which comes and goes. She tries ignoring it thinking her thoughts are playing tricks on her but it doesn't help. Something tells her to follow the voice and she listens to her guts. As she follows she finds herself in the middle of nowhere. There is a strong wind coming from the north where the sound is from blowing the dry leaves to her direction. As she

moves towards the north the sound is getting a bit loud. It is the voice of a woman but she cannot see her. There is a beautiful crystal clear river and a waterfall at the bank of it. She keeps moving and getting closer to it. Something captures her attention the waterfall is now paving a way for her, the voice is now louder and coming from the direction of the waterfall. She follows it and enters the paved way. There is a big cave and the light shines in it giving her the echo sounds of the voice. She is now close to where the voice is coming from. She steps into the cave and comes across a human figure, its back is facing the entrance. She draws even closer to the figure trying to get the picture of it.

"Welcome child I've been waiting for you, you surely took your time to get here", it says

Lihle is now getting terrified she ask herself what does she mean. She says," who are you and where am I(stuttering)".

The lady turns and approaches her, what a weird lady Lihle says to herself. She says," Favoured and chosen one you are welcome sit so we can start we don't have much time the kingdom is in danger, by the day after tomorrow you should be ready and going home to fulfill your duty ". Lihle says "what do you mean". The lady tells her to sit , she sit on a reed mat on the cave not sure if she should sit or not.

"I am MaNxumalo I will be teaching you about your gift how to use it and control it at times and shedding light to your mission on earth it won't be an easy road you will fall but rise at the end, curse it and question it but we all don't know what we are destined for, if not you then who",she says to Lihle. There is now light shining in the cave she can see her clearly, she is beautifully adorned with royal

jewellery and a royal gown. Something captures Lihle she is wearing a cross on her neck and ubuhlalu on her wrist which is weird as they both represent different religions. She is a bit light in complexion, average in height but has crystal blue eyes like the water in the river outside. "We will start child take this (giving her a white gown and ubuhlalu like hers)".

### AYIBONGWE

I am in my studio no one knows about it apart from my therapist I once told her about it. It is more like an art gallery and its full of Lihles portraits. They are beautiful like her. I started painting her the very first day I met her. My favourite is the picture of her smiling at steers. She looks beautiful and with her innocent smile that turns me on. I start imagining her walking down the aisle walking towards me. I take the paint and start painting her in a wedding gown next to the beach. After I am done I stare at it for the longest time and smile.

Me: You are a true beauty Mrs Zikhali how does that sound babe (talking to the picture). Only if you knew how much I love you , you would stop hurting me and return the love.

A tear escapes my eye I quickly wipe it and hang the picture nicely with others. I look at the studio hurting

Me :what is it that I don't have that makes her despise me this much" I scream out loud kicking the paints on the floor ,punching the wall countless times until I see the wall soaked in blood. I step out and go to my room.

### HARLEY

I am in my office thinking hard about that night I spent with Ayibongwe. It was magical and I enjoyed every moment of it. Why am I thinking about it in fact why him of all the men out there. He mentioned his wife that day and I saw her on the wallpaper of his phone. I must say she is very beautiful but innocent and why could she be with a man like AYIBONGWE he looks like a bad guy who wouldn't go for a lady like her. What's her name again oh Lihle I remember he was calling her name while making out with me till he passed out, it really hurt me and got me thinking, I sneaked on his phone and saw her on the wallpaper. Why am I falling for him just after one night. I hope he notices me and falls in love with me during the process. That so-called wife of his has nothing on me I am very beautiful and a melanin goddess says my Instagram followers. I have a curvey body, medium breast, sexy legs, small eyes and my lashes are long naturally I don't need fake ones I always wanted to be a model but being the only daughter of the Army General of the State who is also a millionaire and has businesses all over the world it is hard chasing my dream, my dad would kill me if I do but I have been doing shoots secretly I make sure my commercial shoots don't show my face it would tarnish his image. How I hate how he controls my life in the name of being the heir to his riches. I look at his picture that I took while he was sleeping. I call my PA to cancel all my meetings for the rest of the day I need to go home, Ayibongwe is making it hard for me to think and work. I check for his number and remember he didn't give me his number but took mine. He is crazy if he thinks I will wait for his call he will be mine even if it means trapping him with a child or killing that Lihle. I call my dad asking

for his PI's number he says he wants to see me so I might as well go take them. I leave the office and drive to the Mighty Moyo mansion.

I drive in and step in the house, the maid approaches me taking off my coat and I go straight to his study. I knock and enter

Him: Come in Daddy's little girl

Me: Dad stop you know soon I will be getting married but you still call me little girl.

Him: Married or not you will always be my little girl, speaking of marriage when am I seeing my son in law I have never been introduced to any, are you sure you don't want me to arrange one millionaire for you to share all this when I am gone or maybe you are attracted to women.

Me: Whoa whoa slow down Pops am straight and I think I might have found him , can I have your PI's number

Him: I hope he is not a nobody and I will send you the PI's number don't use him for personal reasons baby, he better be worth it for you to check his background.

Me: Dad who said I want them for that you are too forward shame

Him: Respect young lady I will smack you. I called you here to talk about that Mozambiquean deal, they will be coming down to seal it I hope everything is set. I trust you not to mess this one up.

Me: (Rolling my eyes) all is set daddy don't worry we will get it.

Him: I saw that Mamoyo don't start no child of mine will show off her body for money when you are already a millionaire.

Me: I didn't say anything dad (standing up) I will take my leave Dewa, I Love you, don't forget the

number(running out).

Before I enter my car a message comes through it's my dad sending the PI's number. I will call him now and go meet him.

AYIBONGWE expect me tonight lover boy. Wifey get ready for a war. What daddy's girl wants its what she gets.

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 18

(\*NOT EDITED\*)

QUEEN NOXOLO

Siya is my next move in this game, him being wrapped around Lihle's little finger is coming to an end. All I have to do is make a portion for Siya that will make him resent Lihle and be drawn towards Linathi. Linathi is simple, all she wants is the fame, title and luxury in all these I found myself an ally. Only Lihle is standing in my way. She is just a butterfly learning to fly but her strength and courage scares me off sometimes. Nevertheless I will have to play nice to get to the target. My darling husband is peacefully tormented in his dreams, he is the least of my worries right now. I have to keep my head in the game, the throne should be mine. My



phones rings on the dressing table.

Me: NOXOLO speaking

.....

Me: What ,when ,how !!!?

.....

Me: you bunch of idiots how does a person who is induced in coma go missing under your watch

.....

Me: I am not going to listen to your excuses, I gave you strict orders to keep him under heavy medication that will make him brain dead

.....

Me: heyi wena ungazothaba kubi uthi nywe nywe yani wena usehluleka nje ukulinda idwala(don't you dare make excuses you couldn't even guard a person who is as good as dead)

.....

Me: try me and you will see me, I want that person back in that ward within 24 hours dead or not

.....

Me: if I were you I will make sure I have the body in the ward instead of worrying about money

.....

Me: better start praying or else your ancestors will be sharing their supper with you tomorrow night.(I end the call)

I am beyond furious,infact I want to scream ,how did he get out of that ward ,with whose permission .This is all a total mess .That person is my downfall.Mdluli must have answers, he must I have to see him soon.

## SIYABONGA

Everything has been one heck of a roller coaster ride to me .I can not put a finger on anything .I am a mess a walking mess and nothing seems to make sense to me lately.I feel down,hurt,drained it all feels like am locked up in a pit a pit too deep for me to see any light.It like no one sees how I feel ,what is eating me up even Lihle has been ignorant.Is she falling out of love , am I boring or she has discovered about Linathi. Damn you very stupid Siya how did you end up with Linathi when your woman has a gift( I start panicking) she probably knows already.Maybe that's why I am feeling lost ,the ancestors did say she was my sanity ( I scratching my head covering my face whilst in deep thoughts)

Things have turned south for me,how and when I got here I don't know.A strange dream has robbed my peace.I am always there in that hut ,its dark and all I hear is a deep cry of a woman ,she is begging and apologising and asking them to remove it ,she keeps crying saying it hurts .Three voices in the room tell her to push and push.The voices are encouraging but her voice slowly becomes faint with a wave of tiredness.She finally speaks softly saying "mutsho mutsho ngezangelo zakhe uKhumalo aze ekhaya". A deeper and horse voice starts singing the Khumalo totems whilst clapping in the room .A loud cry of an infant fills the room alerting its arrival whilst the sound of rain pouring on the roof and outside ground with the scent of wet soil fills the room.The deep and horse voice then goes to say " Muzukhona woManzini,Mntungwa ,Ndlangamandla wena ophakemeyo siykwamukela kwaKhumalo,Nkosana eza nezipho nenjabulo"

.Then I wake up ,what baffles me is every time in the dream am always in the dark ,I see nothing but only hear what is being said. The last time I had the same dream over and over was when I was being led to Lihle but this time am in the dark always and I see nothing ,no light no figures moving just voices .It all confuses me and am just like an infant standing in the middle of no where hoping that someone will see me and help me get home where I am safe .(I inhale for the longest time and exhales ,then a voice calls out )

"Bonga"(its her ,am tired of her presence now and she has the worst timing on earth.To think I used to love her and enjoy her presence and all her meaningless jokes.Why didn't I see her for her back then ,was I that lonely )

Her: Bonga are you okay

Me: what do you want

Her : just thought you could use some company ,you seem to be too drawn in your thoughts and it doesn't seem like they are the good kind

Me: how is that your business Linathi

Her: am trying to help ,you might not love me anymore Bonga but I still know you.Yes I have accepted that you no longer want me but am just being a caring human being here cut me some slack

Me:(I just looked at her defeated and cupped my face into my hands.She is just something else,she doing exactly what I want Lihle to be doing but am all alone with an ex )

Her: its okay Bonga ,I get the message I will leave

Me: NOO!! I...I..I mean you can stay she looks at me for the longest time before sitting down

Her: but Bonga why( has voice has changed and her sad face revealed,am clueless but I ask anyways)

Me: why what Linathi

Her: why did you chose to destroy us,why did you chose her ,why did you break my heart this way,I thought you loved me ,what happened Bonga

Me: Linathi please don't do this

Her: I deserve to know dont you thinks so(she was right I had to be clean with her ,it was about time )

Me: What we had was never going to last.Linathi you are not wife material,and I am a prince I can not have a wife like you again I have principles that I follow which go with my role in the Kingdom which I cannot go against

Her: you played me Siya!!

Me: Linathi I never wanted it to be revealed this way I am sorry

Her: sorry? ,sorry? ( she laughs) sorry won't help me PRINCE SIYSBONGA KHUMALO!!

Me: Linathi l...( she cuts me off)

Her: LETS SEE WHO WILL HAVE YOU BETWEEN ME AND THAT LIHLE OF YOURS .I ALREADY PLANTED A SEED OF DESTRUCTION ONE THAT WILL DESTROY YOUR WHOLE WORLD SIYABONGA. IF I WERE YOU I WOULD WATCH MY STEP ALL THE TIME.YOU STEPPED ON A COBRA AND ITS ABOUT TO BITE .

Me:( I know she is just saying all this out of anger.This sounded more of a threat than a warning.I laugh Linathi is just heartbroken she will get over it and find another MONEY MILKING MACHINE)

NARRATION

Lihle adorned and sitted in the cave listening carefully to MaNxumalo taking note of each and every word coming out of her mouth.

"Child you are blessed and gifted ,chosen,ordained and redeemed.Nothing can be against you or fight you aslong as you stand with the TRUTH,THE WAY AND THE LIGHT and also with your ancestors"

"THE TRUTH ,THE WAY AND THE LIGHT chose you He is GOD,you were created by GOD ,he designed you so you are not a mistake,his son died for you just so you could be FORGIVEN ,he picked you to be his own so you a CHOSEN,he redeemed you so you are WANTED,he showed you grace so you can LOVE ,you are him and he is you" " He has not given you the spirit of fear but that of love ,power and a sound mind ,FEAR not child you are not alone for he is always with you,He is your shephard trust in him ,he will lead you to green pastures,he will lead you beside the still waters and in the path of righteousness,even though you walk through the valley of the shadow of death FEAR no evil for he will protect you" "My child you walk not by sight but by faith and the pureness in you,do what is right all the time and never be double minded for a double minded person is never straight"

Meanwhile Lihle is nodding and capturing each and every word and teaching from MaNxumalo with her soul .She is appreciating every word as it comes and embedding it in the deepest part of her heart.She is allowing each and every word purify her as she listens to the words that will build her and prepare her for her unknown mission.On the other hand MaNxumalo goes on to say"My child do not forget

my teachings but keep my commands in your heart. You are not only the daughter of the light but you were chosen by the ancestors for a greater cause. Never forget who you are and where you come from, the world around you is life, life from those who are guarding and you and standing with you. They are the ones who speak to you and provide healing to you, there is a balance between the MAKER and the ancestors, the maker provides whilst the ancestors guide with the knowledge from the maker."

## A GIFT CURSED

### INSERT 19

#### NARRATION

"The ancestors are also a part of you my child. They are the ones who walk with you and stand with you."  
MaNxumalo said.

"The maker is the one that provides everything and ancestors are living spirits that will come to help and guide you when the need rises. Take note chosen one just as good and evil exists there are also bad and good spirits and the bad spirits only come with one mission to destroy" "There are bad spirits that come in an appealing form may be good looking or a splitting image of those close to your heart, whenever you feel heaviness or when you experience blurred vision that should alert you of their presence"

Lihle continued to listen attentively to all the teachings. MaNxumalo showed her different herbs and how they are sourced. Each and every herb and what it treats. She showed her every little thing needed for her mission and covered as much ground as she could. She then said "My child it's not all the times that you will be able to stand, you are gifted yes but that does not make you immortal. Let alone made of metal, you will feel, you will cry, you will feel pain and you will lose other battles. But through the creator always know that his grace is sufficient in you and his power in you is made through your weakness. Therefore delight in insults, hardships, weaknesses, persecutions and difficulties for when you are weak his strength is revealed."

"Now listen carefully your mission will not be easy but this is the foundation for your true mission, the evil in the palace should be removed, before it causes more damage and taint the sacred palace, it is just but a vessel that knows nothing, it is just but a puppet"

"The true evil will come it will come when you are at your happiest, it will destroy like a veld fire and leave no stone unturned "

"The evil was born and raised in the palace, it seeks revenge in the most brutal way and only you, only you will be able to sense it, no one in the royal house will see it coming for it is one of their own"

"One of their own, how do you mean" Lihle said

"Child this is the least of your worries, your chosen one needs help and you are the only way to light and truth only you can open his eyes and remove him from his misery"

"All you see is not what it seems, an illusion stands

before everyone's eye but only you can see beyond if you will. The King should be your first step, he will lead you to the truth"

"Truth is like medicine, no one wants to consume it but it's the only way to peace. Never trust anyone or bring anyone into your circle no matter how much they are willing to help, trust only you and you alone"

"Never forget my teachings, pray and seek for the ancestor's guidance all the time, take this (she gives her a necklace with a small cross) wear it and fulfill your mission. By the time you step on the human world they will be waiting for you. The true evil knows about this journey you took and it is waiting for its time to manifest. I will always be with you, never grow tired no matter how hard it gets"

MaNxumalo prepares Lihle and makes her bath in the river, she makes her chew a herb and its bitterness is revealed all over her face. She anoints her and draws a cross on her forehead, palms and on her feet and holds her hands looking deep in her eyes. She stares at her for the longest time then let's go. She then makes a ball of fire with her hands and gives it to Lihle. MaNxumalo walks towards the river and steps in the water then kneels and starts praying and praying.

Meanwhile the river water started separating creating a path in the middle of it which led to a cave that was inside the water she prayed and prayed whilst LIHLE was still holding the ball of fire until the cave entrance became visible. She stood up and led the way through the cave until the human world was now visible then she said "as soon as you step on that land, speak your wishes upon



that ball in your hands and let it go,the moment you let it go proceed to the oracles house ,talk to no one,say no word and do not under any circumstance turn and look back,the oracle is waiting for you now go child"

Lihle stepped out of the cave and her feet made contact with the human world ,she did as MaNxumalo instructed and moved towards the oracles house.

LINATHI

I must have the Queen on my side ,she should support me and love me until I get what I want.I knock on her door and she allows me in.

Me: sawubona ma

Her : Linathi how may I help you

Me: the real question here is how can we help each other(she looks at me for the longest time and then asks me to sit down,that's a good sign I have caught her attention)

Her: talk

Me: I am the suitable candidate for your son,and only me

Her: ( she laughs ) you seem confident young lady

Me: confident is an understatement,I want Bonga and you my Queen will help me get him

Her: why would I help you

Me: cause only I can help you defeat Lihle and remove her from the picture

Her: ( she looks at me and I show no emotion or expression ,I keep my face straight to show that I mean business)how?

Me: this is how,(I show her the video,her eyes pop

out she will have to deal with it ,seeing him between my legs )

Her: WHAT!! you disrespectful child what is the meaning of this

Me:(with a straight face ,sit down!) For a queen you really not as wise as I thought you were,just imagine how Lihle will feel if she sees this video?(I raise my eyebrows)

Her:and all you want is Siya only

Me:yes.... oh and my title as the princess of Manzini

Her: you getting to excited young lady stay in your lane will take the deal.May I have the video

Me: not so fast Queen I will hold on to this(I am almost at the the door before I turn)if I were you I wouldnt do it ,that thought will kill you ,you are not as powerful as you think.I would advise you to play nicely.

I walk out of her room the happiest woman.I smell my victory ,this is just the beginning by the time am done no one will disrespect or judge a book by its cover .I fish out my phone from my pocket and dial his number and he picks up on the first ring.

CONVO

Me: the first step is in motion now ,she has agreed

.....

Me: trust me I left no traces ,she won't see it coming

.....

Me: I will get what I want and no one will stop me aslong as I have you by my side I have nothing to fear even the royal family has nothing on me,besides the queen is on my side now

.....

Me: (I laugh) we both going to get what we want,she

is just a pest standing in front of a gaint ,she is just but nothing

.....

Me: I will play my cards well ,they won't know who I am, am the city girl remember am the harmless bulldog, am everyone's puppet only if they knew

.....

Me: I have to go now keep well Mkhulu(I hang up)

### NARRATION

Lihle arrives at the oracles compound,the oracle is standing opposite her in the middle of the compound there are bowls.of water,soil,fire and the fourth bowl had nothing .Lihle stood before the oracle and started chanting ,the items in the bowls started forming into small whirlwinds,and in the empty bowl a whirl wind was also formed.Meanwhile clouds gathered across the sky and heavy rains started pouring.On the other hand the oracle is busy calling out saying "THE DAUGHTER OF LIGHT HAS BEEN BORN ,PREPARE YOU EVIL SOULS FOR SHE WHO IS BLESSED HAS RESURRECTED"

Meanwhile Lihles eyes have turned crystal blue and she is now kneeling before all the items in the bowls she lifts her head and looked at the sky and said" let your will be done,I WILL IF YOU WILL CREATOR lead me and protect me in this journey" and stood up and continued into the ancestral hut and burnt incense while clapping and chanting calling on all her ancestors and also the Khumalos.She asked for their guidance and protection,leaving the incense burning overnight aand slept in the hut awaiting for the arrival of the Prince.

## QUEEN NOXOLO

I have to acknowledge her smartness, she is a beauty with brains. She is all part of my plan and am more delighted that she offered herself in a silver platter. It's like she read my mind, she has made everything easy for me. Am about to hit two birds with one stone. Am making a portion for Siya, the portion will come in handy when the need to release the beast in him comes. It's about to happen just a matter of time and terror will rain. Lihle should come prepared because she is about to face her doom day. Am startled by voice...

"Mother! Mother!"

Me: Siyabonga why are you shouting

Him: am sorry mother am in a rush, am going to get Lihle

Me: she agreed to stay with us?

Him: yes mother and I cannot sit and chat am... (he runs out before I capture the rest of his words).

## A GIFT CURSED

### INSERT 20

## SIYABONGA

I am about the oracle's house. Am trying to gather all my thoughts together it's difficult but I have to do it for my woman. She has been through a lot. All I want

is her happiness and having my mother accept her was a challenge but am hoping this will help build us up. Linathi is out of the way now. I park my car and breathe in and out before going into the house. Am about to knock and I hear her sweet voice  
Her: Siya (I smile like a retard, her voice is melody to me)

Me: my love

Her: Mntungwa am ready to go now

Me: (I stir at her for the longest time am looking for that spark I saw the first day I looked at her. She is just calm and quite its already worrying me now am busy battling with my heart and mind. Should I or shouldnt I tell her. But what if she already knows) Let's bid fairwell to the oracle first

Her: he has already wished me well

Me: OKAY let's

Right now I do not even have a clue how my eyes are functioning. My brain is not concentrating on anything else except Lihle. I fear a lot. I can lose anything but not her she is my sanity. She cannot know about that silly mistake.

LIHLELETHU

The Palace ? Of all the places why should this mission start at the Palace (I sigh heavily). I cannot talk to Siya unless and until he confesses. He has displayed his guilt already and I feel how afraid and concerned he is. I keep wondering what could he have done. Why can't this gift show me, I already feel burdened can't there be something that is simple in my life. Its all riddles, parables, missions and evil. Ever since I entered his car I have been staring outside watching trees, counting them whilst feeling all his

emotions in silence.the car is nearing towards the palace gate ,I feel my blood flowing faster,the hairs on my neck have sprung up,there is a sudden heaviness in my heart. This only means one thing I have stepped in a lion's den.The car parks and as soon as we get out of the car,there stands a beautiful young lady smiling brightly I can't help but notice her beauty and Siya is not paying attention to her.I look at him and back at her thinking maybe its another ghost but she beats me to it

Her: don't just stand thee please come give me a hug(she hugs me warmly mind you she is still smiling )

Me: hello I am.

Her:Lihle its a pleasure ,finally I am meeting the famous Lihle.Your name is always on his lips (pointing towards Siyas direction,am beginning to feel pity for her ,won't her mouth hurt from that smile)

Me: its a pleasure to meet you too.You are....(am returning the smile ,Siya suddenly grabs my arm pulling me into the palace ,then I turn my head signaling her to say her name)

Her: Linathi but you can call me Nathi am Prince Siyabonga's first wife( I stand still in shock and my eyes are already burning and she walks towards me)

Me: did you say fir..first W...I...F..E?( I cannot contain myself any longer the anger in me is already piling up.I look at him straight in his eyes)

Her: yes first wife ( she then covers her mouth in shock)please tell me you knew .I..I..I mean I didn't know that he never told you am so sorry please forgive me(her is already kneeling on the ground but Siyas expression was unreadable)

Me: please no need to apologise

Him: are you going to stand here and entertain her or what( he speaks between his teeth and his chest is moving up and down slowly and his veins popped out visibly showing his anger,I follow him into thr palace with my tail between my legs like a dog)  
Am now in the palace lounge in the presence of evil.She is standing tall with so much pride looking directly at us as we walk towards her.She is displaying the most fake smile on her face.I have always been against her since the day she decided to throw me in a cell for standing my ground.She opens her arms for me and all I see around her is a dark smoke like object hovering around her.I move back and acknowledge her welcome from afar.

Her: I know why you denying me a hug from you

Me: you do

Her: please I acted out of emotions back then ,am sorry for how I treated you.I do not like people who are courageous and disrespect me in front of other servants.I know I was wrong and it was not right to give such a punishment and I regret it deeply.I know it will take time for you to forgive me but I was wondering if you could give me another chance .I would like to right my wrongs and now we have a greater task you are my daughter too my son have found a home in you.So please Lihle forgive me and give me another chance as your mother.

Me: I forgive you ma'am

Her: please call me mother or ma

Me: Ma ,thank you so much for welcoming me into your home.

QUEEN NOXOLO

Me: Lihle my child this will be your room ,once again welcome to our home

Her: thank you so much ma

Me: by the way Lihle you should be prepared

Her: prepared for.

Me: what's coming your way ,if you thought that I would allow a nobody like you date my son then you should be dreaming .Siyabonga is prince and you are nothing .You better be strong my dear.little fly because I am going to be your worst nightmare and I will make you life hell until you decide to leave this palace .Its either the easy way or the hard way but either way you must leave so dear daughter you better choose wisely before you die like your parents

Her: die like my par....

Me: ooh they were just useless beings that needed to be removed for the right price of course

Her: (sniffing)if you have any hand in their death ,I swear I will...

Me: (I laugh) you will what child ,you are a child in an anaconda's territory ,careful you might be swallowed better watch your space

Her: you are so EVIL

Me: thank you for the compliment ,so I have been told.Please prepare for dinner darling and once again WELCOME TO HELL(I laugh loudly as I leave the room)

Have I been waiting for this moment,YES YES YES so eagerly .Let's see what you bringing on the table daughter of LIGHT

LINATHI

I have been knocking on her door for the longest



time but am getting no response. She better not with Bonga or else I will put aside my good act and burn her to death. I decide to let myself in and there she is curled up on top of the bed only her sniffs are audible. Wow is she crying, this is going to be simpler than I thought. She is not as strong as I thought she was.

Me: Lihle( am busy patting her on the shoulder)

SILENCE

Me: Lihle please do not ignore me, please talk to me

Her: Nathi

Me: dinner is ready please come and eat we cannot leave a guest to eat alone can we. Come now( she looks at me) Are you crying

Her: No No No am ...something got in my eyes but its nothing. Let me wash my face and join you

Me: are you sure

Her : yes I will join you soon

Me: please don't be late

How can she be this weak, she is crying just be a use the said all those words. I couldn't hold myself I had to eavesdrops on their conversation. WELL WELL SIYABONGA seems like this one won't be staying long.

A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 21

LIHLELETHU

HELP!HELP! please .I keep hearing those words.Am in the palace dining hall and only the echo of that voice is all I hear it keeps getting louder and louder as I walk towards the throne room.I enter and there stands the King in rags ,he is covered in dirt,he starts crying and begging .He is on his knees pleading.I look exactly where his eyes are glued and only a dark figure stands before him.It disappears when I touch his shoulder .He looks and me then starts pleading again

Him: help help me please I never meant to hurt him it was all out of greed please

Me: who are you talking about

Him: can't you see him ,he is standing beside you(he is pointing at nothing but crying historically)

Me: I cannot see him baba please who is he

Him: he said he will not forgive me unless I confess please help and she doesn't want me to confess she has silenced me

Me: who are you talking about ,where are you ,where can I find you

Him: am in the palace she hid me find me ,I am ready to confess Please

Me: where

Him: I am in...(that dark figure comes and pulls him again whilst he cries for help ,scratching the floor trying to grab on anything that will keep him from being taken.I try to give him a hand but he slips out of it and it pulls him)

Am now panting sitted on the bed covered in sweat ,the pillow my head was on is soaking wet.My heart is racing on the other hand am trying to catch my breath but its all proving to be a mission.I scan the room and there stands a dark figure near the

curtain I can feel that its watching me and its eyes are piercing through my skin. My heart starts to grow heavy and my speech starts to fail me .I close my eyes and start praying in my heart ,my speech can fail me but my heart will speak for me. When I open my eyes its no longer there .I sit in that same position for the rest of the night. Battling with my thoughts trying to figure out what the dream meant on the other hand wondering what could have been happening.

### SIYABONGA

Linathi has started playing with fire ,she is all over Lihle and that just makes me more scared. She will blurt everything out and it will ruin everything .I pick my phone up and walk towards the balcony calling Sginya.

Convo

Sginya: Sho Razor

Me: let's initiate the plan

Sginya: tonight

Me: tonight ,make it nice ,swift and clean .I don't even want it to seem as if there was anyone who visited infact you were never there

Sginya: Invisible

Me: invisible, I want to find my gift in the safehouse. This one has stepped on the tail of a tiger

Sginya: consider it done boss

Me: am starving and I have to feed ,the party is on tonight LETS DANCE( I drop the call)

A knock echoes across the room and she let's herself in. There she stands my beautiful angel .How do I make this go away how do I solve this without

hurting this beautiful soul.

Her: Siya

Me: my love

Her: I do not think am worthy of that name anymore  
Siyabonga

Me: what do you

Her: you no longer consider me as yours,when is the  
last time you spent time with me.Is it because I am  
inexperienced because am pure

Me: No( fuck she is blaming herself for  
everything,she is taking the blame when am the  
wrong one.I do not wish to see her in such a  
state.Damn what have you done Siyabonga)

Her: then what ,you no longer talk to me,you avoid  
me,you always in fear ,what are you afraid of .Did I  
wrong you

Me: its not you Lihle please am the wrong one here

Her: wrong one,what did you do

Me: Lihle I ....I...I...I can't say it okay please

Her: okay. when were you going to tell me

Me: it just happened ,I.was depressed confused and I  
needed to release and that was the only way

Her: only way you say,when did this happen!( she is  
already shouting)

Me: when you were at the oracles place ,the day he  
explained about my beast

Her: Siyabonga(that comes out as a whisper)

Me:(am already on my knees)please Lihle don't  
leave me I love you I cannot live without you .Lihle  
you are my sanity.if you leave me that will be the  
end of me.it was an act of weakness

Her: SIYABONGA KHUMALO YOU CALL TAKING A  
WIFE AN ACT OF WEAKNESS ARE YOU THAT  
IMPATIENT

Me: (I lift my head and stir at her and blink twice)  
ooh you talking about her

Her: yes !!

Me: am not married to her she was just fooling you  
,she is my mother's guest

Her: I thought you just said...

Me: yes I know but I thought you had said something  
else

Her: she looks at me and scans my whole body and  
leaves.

I cannot believe I almost blurted the whole truth  
out.Damnit this is just too difficult I cannot be living  
this life .She will find out sooner than I thought and  
I.have to act fast .

LINATHI

Am in the kitchen making breakfast and she walks  
in looking soo beautiful .The fact that she is so  
perfect makes me want to finish her sooner than  
later.I.cannot be playing the nice girl for a long time  
.Her presence suffocates me and smiling at her  
makes me feel so awful.

Her: good morning

Me: good morning ,you look so down are you well

Her: am fine just couldn't sleep through the night

Me: it must be the new environment ,you will get  
used to it ( I offer her a cup of coffee ,she hesitates  
taking it )

Her: thank you

Me: I see you think I.will hurt you ,I can drink it first  
so that you can see am harmless as a fly( stretching  
my hand towards the cup)

Her: noooo its okay

Me: am sorry if am making you uncomfortable

Her: its okay I like your company ,you the only one who seems less weird here

Me: (I laugh) weird you say ,don't worry yourself about this place,Infact what you see is not what it is dear.

Her: I guess you right

We still in the kitchen and suddenly there are gunshots outside.Lihle and I are now under the kitchen table.The gunshots proceed for a long while .The main door opens and am already clinging to Lihle. She is the daughter of Light she will protect me today .Then we hear a familiar voice calling out for Lihle.

"Lihle! Lihle! Lihle!"

AYIBONGWE

Thinking of her has been driving me crazy.The more I want her the more difficult it becomes for me to cope.She is my pill and her absance just makes things more complicated.Am standing near the pool my brothers are busy lecturing me about Lihle but its all useless.Am addicted to this girl.Infact how can someone tell me to live without a heart.How do I breathe, how do I survive,its all impossible.

Ayabonga: Bongwe!

Me: yin ngawe kanti umbiza ngani uyintombazana( what's your problem why you calling me like you are a girl)

Ayabonga: ungazongiphaphela wena ( stop being

too forward )

Me: ufunani kanti(what do you want)

Ayabonga: did you hear what I said

Me: you were talking to me? If it involved you lecturing me about Lihle am glad I didn't listen

Ayabonga: you see what I meant now you see

Ayanda: when was the last time you took your medication

Ayabonga: and your doctor

Me: lingazongiphaphela lina( you both overstepping your boundaries)

Them: voetsek wena

Me: hlukanani nami(leave me alone)

Ayabonga: mfethu this is no longer love its an obsession,let her go and find another girl

Ayanda: mfanakithi there are many fish in the sea to choose from why this one

Me: I want this one and akula omunye qha( there is no one else)

Ayabonga: isn't she with someone

Me : not for long ,Razor will be out of the way soon

Them: RAZOR!!!

Ayabonga: Am out of here uyinja wena awazi ukubonga,mawufi soon ngizokukhala ngijabula(you are a piece of trash ,you are so ungrateful ,you will die soon and I will cry rejoicing)

Ayanda: Bongwe!

Me: hlukana nami landela umfowenu( leave me alone follow your brother)

My phone rings in my pocket and I answer it,am expecting good news and it better be good

Convo

Me: you better have good news

Scar: mission accomplished

Me: good boy

Scar: the whole palace is decorated with dead bodies and we left the message as you instructed

Me: sho boy ( I hang up)

A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 22

SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM

He is pacing up and down wondering if the boys did a clean job. He is getting more nervous looking at the time. He doesn't want the shoot to be traced back to him. His phone rings in his pocket. He answers it and put it on loudspeaker

Conversation

Caller: Boss the job is done, we got the lady

Him: I hope you did a clean job we don't want anything that will trace this back to us, where is she

Caller: She is here with us

Him:Keep driving I will meet you at the junction that seperate the Kingdom and the City road.

Caller: Sure Boss

He hangs up the call taking his car keys driving out to the junction. He gets there and wait for them to arrive with the girl.....There they are approaching him with a white van.

He steps out of the car and walk towards them



Guy 1: Boss your parcel is at the back of the van she is unconscious but the drug will wear off in an hour.

Him: I hope no one was following you and you did a clean job

Guys 2: Yes boss we did a clean job but we had to kill some guards that were giving us a hard time

Him: How many bodies

Guys 1: I think 6 bodies to 7

Guys 2: But it was clean we did not mess up

He is pacing up and down thinking about the shoot, will it be traced back to him, no it won't because they are saying they did a clean job. He looks at them sighing and asks them to drive after him to the warehouse. They all get into their cars and drive to the place. They stop at a secluded place and drive into a beautiful place it doesn't even look like a warehouse you would swear it is a State house. It is white and clean. Nothing looks suspicious. They stop and he goes to their van and looks at her. She is lying unconscious, her hands and legs are tied, her mouth is taped and she is blindfolded. He looks at one of the guys and asks him to carry her inside he walks in the front and opens the door for them. He instructs them to tie her up in a chair that is in the middle of the room. He goes out to change and comes back. They all look at him

Guy 1: Boss should we wake her up

Him: Not now we will wait till the drug wears off I want to surprise her

Guy 2: But boss it will take an hour

Him: I will wait, for now call the other guys and all of you meet me in the basement in 30 minutes. We have to prepare for a war just in case this comes back to us. Rather safe than sorry.

Guy 2: Sure Boss, I will do just that.

Him: Good I want you all to go to this war alone, I will lead it undercover nommatter what happens you don't say my name. What's the rule for snitching

Them: YOU SNITCH, YOU DIE.

Him: Good.

HARLEY

I am in my office working on the Mozambiquean deal. It is keeping me busy I have to make my father proud. I also have to finish early so that I can go for a commercial shoot. The deal is going well and I am handling everything well. Dad is going to be very proud of me. I realise it is knocking off time I have overworked myself, I check the time it is almost time for my shoot. I call my PA to arrange the files for tomorrow's meeting. Dad is going to be there at the meeting I have to nail it and seal it. I leave her arranging the files. A text comes through as I am driving to the shoot it is Dad's PI. He is asking me to meet him today at Carne Casa, he has news for me. He has been checking this Lihle girl and Ayibongwe. I quickly turn and drive to meet him I have 45 minutes before the shoot I will get there in time and I know they will wait for me after all I am the best candidate for this shoot I have no competition. I get to Carne Casa and look around, there he is I walk up to him with a smirk on my face. I grab a chair opposite him

Me: Mlungisi Skhosana, what do you have for me

Him: Straight to business whoa I like that, your father did say you were gonna give me a hard time(laughing)

Me: (with a straight face) I don't have all day I am rushing somewhere

He passes me an envelope I take it and put it in my

bag .

Him: All the information you need is here in this envelope deposit my money now

Me: Doesnt my father pay you enough

Him: I am your father's PI not yours this is an outside job( passing me his banking details and leave)

I stand up after him, shaking my head

Me: What an arrogant bastard( walking after him)

He is not that bad but its not about him today but my Ayibongwe

Speaking of Ayi I have to pay him a visit in his office tomorrow after my meeting I need to relax and I miss him.

## QUEEN NOXOLO

I still remember that day like it was yesterday. Her mother and father were the palace loyal servants. They wanted to speak against me and I had to make them meet their maker.

(FLASHBACK)

Mandla: Mkami we can't do this to our Queen, Noxolo is out of his mind. What kind of a friend is she, the Queen's life is in danger we have to do something

Okuhle: Don't tell the King yet we have to take our daughter to my brother Sizwe, she threatened me with our daughter that is why I had agreed to her plan.

Mandla: You are right we don't have much time we have to do it today. She was just scaring you she knows our daughter is a special child she can't touch her

Okuhle: That will not stop her, that woman is evil in

so many ways she can even take my daughter away from me just to hurt me for going against her

Mandla: Have you called your brother

Okuhle: Yes I did he is coming to take her tonight. I have packed all her things, the trust fund that you have been setting for her has a lot of money to take her to school and start a business after she is done with her university level in case anything happens to us. I trust him to take care of our daughter the same way my parents did with him after my aunt died. He won't have access to it unless and until she turns 18 and not have a suitor to marry her.

Mandla: Okay my love let us get back to work I have meeting with the King, after work go home and prepare her I will come and bid farewell to her.

Okuhle: Kulungile Ngcobo, but I am scared I have this weird feeling about today

Mandla: Don't worry as long as our daughter is safe, the ancestors will protect her I believe in them.

I have heard enough I said to myself so these two are planning on rating me out to the King and Queen they won't leave to tell the tale. I have to kill them before they ruin everything for me. So Okuhle is Sizwe's sister meaning I will always have my eye on the child and use her powers in my favor because Sizwe is my boyfriend. I have to call Sizwe tonight. I have called my guys to wait for Okuhle and Mandla at their home so that they eliminate them.

(END OF FLASHBACK)

I am sitting in my room thinking about a way to eliminate this Lihle girl because she is proving to be a threat. If she gets Siya and they have a child I will have to give up my throne which I have worked hard for. I cannot afford to loose all that. I have to visit the underworld today for Siya's portion. Sizwe

has to be found and die too he is now a threat to my kingdom.

(Gunshots)

What is going on, who is shooting I look outside the window the guards are down. As I walk down the stairs, the gunshots are gone. Who are they and what do they want I hope it's not Sizwe.

A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 23

SIZWE

I have tolled and wondered in the wilderness for days now. Bushes are now my bed, the living creatures are now my friends. Let alone a stone is now my pillow. I snuggle myself in the comfort of harsh cold frost every night. There is no longer any difference between me and a wild pig (I sigh heavily). They did say every dog has its day. My sins have finally caught up with me. Noxolo my sweet Noxolo how did she turn to be so heartless and cold, vicious and so cunning. It's true nothing lasts long. I am now suffering for love, suffering for choosing the one my heart wanted. Is love truly blind? YOU FALL IN LOVE that makes sense now cause you literally FALL and when you do no one will catch you or be there to pick you up. Now my heart and my feelings for a beautiful woman have cost me my life. I watched her slaughter them like live goats ready to be roasted. She fed their flesh to

the dogs and I never said anything. Her screams still haunt me, they take me back to that night. She begged and begged but it all fell on deaf ears (I sigh) THE THINGS I DID FOR LOVE. I neglected my own sister and watched her die, I for one even helped carry her intestines. Am a murderer, a cold blooded murderer.

Fear, greed and compromise, three things in my world that have led me to my grave. Fear of being being less and criticised. Being looked down upon and being nothing in the society. Greed, hunger and thirst for riches. Riches which were the blood and sweat of another. My own laziness and the need to receive over and over and never working hard for it. Compromise, compromising for love, being a puppet for love. I could have wrote my wrongs through Lihle but love made me blind, I couldn't see all the lies she told that were right in front of me. She is now out for my blood, she wants to silence me.

#### NARRATION

Sizwe is sitting leaning against a tree compelled in his thoughts. Regret and guilt is written all over his face, tears are now streaming on his cheeks while mosquitoes and bugs feast on his bare flesh. The winds start blowing more and more violently snapping him out of his thoughts. He crouches bringing his knees close to his face and circling his arms around his legs. His head is now between his hands. There is a soft whisper SIZWE SIZWE followed by coldness that makes even the intestines shiver.

"SIZWE SIZWE"

He lifts his head only to be met by a devastating sight. There she stands Okuhle, cuts and potions of

skin that were removed on her face .Her clothes all dripping in fresh blood.Jaws and half of her front teeth are visible.Her sniffs are audible .Meanwhile Sizwe is already on his knees ,in a pleading state .His hands are together.His tears are now a running waterfall.

Okuhle: how could you (she is now letting her tears flow freely)

Sizwe:Oku..oku okuhle l ...l..

Okuhle: (she raises her hand and looks at him) you were my family and you threw me away,you stabbed me on the softest spot,what was my offence.

Sizwe: my reasons are stupid,it was all for love .I now regret it because she is out for my blood

Okuhle: you made your bed of roses now lay on it.But you are yet to suffer .Confess and your wages will be less

Sizwe: confess okay okay (stammering)..Okuhle l sold your .....

Okuhle: Sizwe l know what you did ,my daughter is suffering because of you.A whole kingdom is in tears because of.You shall know no peace unless you speak. You will suffer in this wilderness, your death will only come after your confession.( she disappears leaving him on his knees)

## QUEEN NOXOLO

Sizwe is playing with fire ,how could he send his people to kill my people.I have to fix this before it gets out of hand.I pick my phone and start dialing Mdluli's number ,it rings two times before he picks up

Convo

Me: l need your help

.....

Me: what do you mean am fighting a losing battle

.....

Me: she is just nothing

.....

Me: she is not the threat? ,what do you mean

.....

Me: Mdluli ! Mdluli ! he hang up on me .How could he .What,Lihle is not a threat,then who?

### ZIKHALI CONSTRUCTION

The board room is set for the meeting and the delegates enter one after the other.

"Let's get down to business"

Simphiwe: how much is our cut

Ayabonga: 40% that's what we offering

Them: 40%

Ayabonga: yes ,we a being more generous .Matter of fact we are the ones who have the resources to dig ,we are the same people who discovered the diamonds and at the same time it is our idea.The only thing you are bringing on the table is your Princeship which by the way we don't need .We can go straight to the King with the contract.So what say?

Simphiwe: its 40% of what ,the money or the mine

Ayabonga: Money nothing more nothing less and no negotiations ,take it or leave it

They whisper amongst themselves for a couple of minutes.Turning their heads,looking at the Zikhali brothers and then back amongst themselves.They argue here and there .The noise finally dies down.

Simphiwe: we will take it

Ayabonga:(smiling) you chose well



Simpfiwe: so DEAL

Ayabonga: DEAL( they shake hands)When are we expecting the signed contract

Simpfiwe: in two months ,consider it done.

ORACLE

Her future is bleak .This is just the beginning and being hindered from helping her makes everything difficult.I have been getting countless visits from Velaphi .He constant visits only mean one thing.He is now after a particular soul.

Velaphi: yeka ukucabanga ngani angisuyena unkosikazi wakho Vusumuzi( stop thinking about me am not your wife)

Me: ufunani lapha ( what are you doing here )

Him: kanti angisenayo imvumo yokubona umfowethu( dont I have the right to see my brother anymore)

Me: ukuvakatsha kwakho kuphelekezwelewa yinkinga( your visits are usually accompanied by problems)

Him: ungazongiphatha okwesitha sing abantu abanye( do not treat me like an enemy whilst we are brothers)

Me : ufunani thetha( what do you want ,speak)

Him: ngifuna lo obusisiweyo ngabaphansi lomdali( I want the blessed child)

Me: ngoba( for what)

Him: ngizomenza Owami ( I will make her one of my own)

Me: ngeke kwenzekelokho(that cannot happen)

Him: usemnyameni khuleka kwabaphansi bakuvezele okufihliweyo( you are in the dark ,pray to your ancestors so that they may reveal what is

hidden)

Me: uqonda ukuthini( what do you mean)

Him: masibambane ,sisonke silamandla mfowethu ngoba ingxenye olwela kuyo iyokuwa.( let's unite together we are strong the side you are fighting for will fall).

## A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 24

## LINATHI

I should really give this one to Mkhulu was it even necessary.He turned the palace grounds into a kill zone just to get me.He knows my fear for guns.The moment one of the goons pointed his gun at me I felt dizzy ,weak and that was lights out for me.I feel a sudden coldness ,my eyes are heavy and my clothes soaking wet.I open my eyes slowly only to find myself surrounded by darkness.

"Am sure you had pleasant dreams beautiful one"

Me: who is there

Voice: your worst nightmare

Me: okay can you untie me already ,I do not have time for games .Where is Mkhulu

Voice: does this look like your grandfather's house

Me: ( I swallow hard) then where am I

Voice: kahle kahle who is tied on a chair between you and I

SILENCE

Voice: I thought as much

Me: ( Mkhulu is extreme sometimes,was all this necessary to begin with. He should be here by now I have to be at the palace or else the mission won't be completed) May I talk to your boss

Voice: Young lady if I were you I will be more afraid than relaxed .You sitting on a death chair and my boss doesn't take that chair lightly .Chances of you leaving that chair alive are 0

Me: who is your boss

Him: I am

Me: (my eyes pop out, stammering)  
ho..w...how..ho.w did you

Him: save your words princess,pay day has come

Me: what do you ( a hot slap registers on my face)

Him: I will do the talking ,so you thought you could outsmart me .I got eyes at the back of my head sweetheart.I can smell an enemy from afar

Me: you were just...

Him:am a chameleon honey .

Me: what do you want from me

Him: simple .Your time has come and your ancestors are calling you already.

Me: ( this person in front of me was nothing close to the guy who used to beg me to ride him harder,the guy who used to ask for another round after another.His eyes are pure black and veins have popped around them.This thing whatever it is can kill me,I have to think fast before it ends me) you cannot kill me

Him: since when did you become immortal

Me: kill me and she sees the video

Him: what video

Me: ( laughing) you not the only one who has a brain.When you were going between my thighs busy satisfying yourself I was on my own mission.You thought I was just gonna let you go like that .

Him: What the FUCK( I have him exactly where I need him now)

Me: the tables have turned haven't they ( I laugh) who knew your weakness was all in the name of a girl

Him: Shut up shut up you whore

Me: if I were you I would be more nicer and shouting will not help you either

Him: boys! Shoot her now!! You lying bitch( he is pacing up and down before me)

Me: I do not play games am way too smart for that  
SILENCE

He walks out of the room and I finally breath.I must play my cards carefully with whatever that thing is cause it cannot be BONGA.

QUEEN NOXOLO

In the name of our high Lucifer

In the name of Satan,who rules the world and is the King of Earth,

I command all the Forces of Darkness to grant me all their infernal powers,

In the name of our high Lucifer

In the name of Satan ,Lord of the Earth ,King of the world,

I command the Forces of Darkness to pour their  
infernal power on me.

Open the Gate of Hell wide open

And come out of Abyss and to receive me as your  
brother and friend

Grant me the Indulgences of which I speak

I have taken your name to be part of me  
I live like the beasts of the field rejoicing in the  
carnal life

I favour the righteous and curse the rotten  
For all the gods of the Underworld,

I order that what I say must happen  
Come out and express your selves  
by responding to my wishes .

NARRATED

NOXOLO is in her secret room wearing a black  
tunic. Before her there are black candles, an inverted  
pentagram (image of Baphomet), a table and a black  
table cloth, a carpet of the same colour, a dagger and  
a bell. She prepares the altar and starts ringing the  
bell and does it whilst reciting her words to the  
gods of the under world. She turns to the south and  
says SATAN, to the east LUCIFER, to the north  
BELIAL then to the west LEVIATHAN.

She starts gathering portions placing them before  
her. She mixes the portions and adds a black

further. She cuts her palm allowing the blood to drip inside the bowl with the mixed portions. She continues stirring the portion for a short while. She then goes on to meditate before it call all of the gods of the underworld. The portion before her starts to boil while some of it spills on the floor. On the other hand an inverted pentagram is being drawn on her forehead ,blood is now dripping on her face while she continues to meditate.

Noxolo then takes a pure white sheet and writes Siyabonga's name on it using blood. Once she is done she then starts reciting her oath of allegiance saying

Before the Almighty god Satan in the presence of all the demons of hell who are the true gods, I Noxolo renounce any past loyalties. I proclaim Satan as my father and and promise to recognise and honour him. in everything he does, without any reservation ,wishing in return his assistance to achieve this goal correctly.

On the other hand she is applying the spilt portion on the dagger anointing it preparing for her mission to release the Great Ndlangamandla.

SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM

Guy 1: Boss our cut

Him: here ( throwing a huge black bag before them)

Guy 2: (raising his thumb up) yizo boss man

Him: there is more ,I want you to leave her damaged ,have your way with her .All I want is to find her breathing only

Guy 3: yabona wena uyinja ye game. Uyazi ukusphatha kahle. Usipha nama desserts after imission (rubbing his together whilst licking his

lower lip)

Him: any questions

Them: No boss/ nja yegame/ big guy

Him: (walking towards the door) no one should know about our deal .I do not know you and you do not know me.No one should know you double agents even if you are held at gun point.YOU DIE FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN

Them: Amen

## NARRATED

They start debating on who has to go to her first .They do their rock paper scissor game and none of them is satisfied with the outcome.They all walk towards the closed door.They stand before her and look at each other smiling.Her thighs are out in the open ,her hands tied behind her back ,she is blinded folded and her mouth covered in dark tape whilst laying down on the cold floor.

The guys start massaging her thighs,whilst the other one is biting her thighs and the other touching her breasts and tearing her dress off.Tears flow on her face ,she trys fighting off the guys but she gets a hot slap on her face.Her thighs are now pinned down by one on the guys and the other has put his leg on her shoulders pushing her down harder in the floor.Her silent cries have filled the room,she is slowly giving in, fighting has become useless and she is now listening to every sound they a making violating her body...TBC

## SOMEWHERE IN TANZANIA

Wake up wake up "

She has been tossing and turning on her bed for

hours now.Her screams were echoing across the hallway alerting the guards .

Gaurd : my princess calm down its just a night made

Her: it cannot be a nightmare something is wrong

Gaurd: how do you mean

Her: my family is in danger ,the whole Kingdom was on fire

Gaurd : am sure its just a nightmare

Her: what if its the same person who took my sister who is after my family.This is not just a nightmare the ancestors are showing me something

Gaurd: here( giving her a glass of water) calm down first and we will solve after that

Her: we should go back

Gaurd: my princess your father got you out of the kingdom for a reason,let's not defy his orders.l am only human l need to have a family too if l go back with you your father will have my head

Her: am sorry for my selfishness ,am just worried these dreams are making everything more difficult .

Gaurd: it will pass my princess

Her: l hope so,l am okay now you may be excused.

A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 25



## SIYABONGA

Am furious ,frustrated and afraid,why didn't I tell her the truth.I always think for her and hide behind it instead of telling her the truth about the night with Linathi.I am still in the same room she left me in after our argument which almost made me confess. But suddenly fear, regret all flash down on me ,I begin to think of Lihle ,I imagine her in danger and erase the bad thought from my mind as I fail to understand my own mind.The fear comes back now with a heavy force leaving my heart beating fast ,it is then followed by a train of emotions,that evoke tears ,making my heart heavy and weak.I am still in the same position trying to figure out what could be happening to me and hear "Gunshots Gunshots Gunshots"

## NARRATED

The fear and heaviness and tears Siya has been fighting all this while are Lihles feelings.The gunshots echoing across the palace quickly alert the beast in Siya.Its starts fighting to come out and protect its chosen one.Its instability makes the process more difficult.Its vision is now blurry and the whole room looks like its spinning to it.It kneels down panting allowing the heart of its vessel to connect to it's own.It fights hard and harder to come out .On Siyas body ,veins are now popped out,hairs covering his entire upper body,his shirt now torn showing the fur on the arms and his whole back.Blood oozing from his nose ,streaming down to his lips and then to the floor.The beast inside him is still fights to manifest fully.Siya then holds his

ears and groans in pain. Blood starts to flow from his ears to his fingers and down his arms. He groans and groans in pain. Veins have popped out around his eyes and the eyes are now shiny black. Reaviling the full manifestation of Ndlangamandla. Meanwhile, Ndlangamandla stands up from the floor with his black cold eyes scanning the entire room. His heavy heels vibrating on the concrete floor. He jumps towards the door leaving the wooden door pieces scattered on the tiled floor and jumps again towards the open space between the lounge and kitchen door. He crouches with his eyes closed sniffing catching Lihles scent. He quickly turns towards the kitchen door and finds Linathi is on the floor half dead. He moves towards her and pushes her with his hand revealing her face. He touches her hand to see if she is still alive. Once his hand meets hers voices of different people are echoe in his ears, everything plays like a record in his ears. Words saying "Lihle must die or else she is a threat to our victory" catch his attention. Ndlangamandla to eberything then lifts Linathi up on his shoulder and runs out of the palace facing towards the bush. He stands in the middle of the dusty road next to the bush and sniffs around once again searching for her scent but all he gathers is scent from the kraal to the damp soilon the river bank. He runs with the speed of a cheetah until he gets to the warehouse owned by Siyabonga.

On the other hand, Siya's crew is getting ready for the mission they were ordered to embark on. They get alarmed by a hairy being that has just got in the warehouse carrying a lady on its shoulders. They all stand in at once and point their weapons at Ndlangamandla. He slowly puts Linathi down and crouches on the floor as a symbol of peace and

reaviling how good his visit is .All the guys look at each other and start talking instead

Gunner: heyiwena Satan uyawazi uvololo.Yabona lento( patting his gun) ingathi phooo( imitating gun sound) uzophatha ubucopho njengamanje( you satand do you know a gun.You see this thing once its fires you will carry your own brain)

Flames: kusukela ekuqaleni wavela waveza ukuthi awukho wedwa.Kangela lento(shifting Gunner's head towards the beast) uma uyikhangele ilande inegotiation( from the beginning you revealed your stupidity. Look at this thing ,does it look like its up for any negotiations)

Wave: kahle kahle why licabanga libuyela emuva ngengempanga nje.Lento iyopha emakhaleni it simply means sizoba yiluch nje( why do you think using reverse mode like bold that has just developed and started growing)

Smokes: amadlozi aza ngendlela ezitshiyene ( standing up from a table walking towards beast clapping) babomkhulu yimina ingane yakho thetha ngimamele( ancestors come in different ways ,our forefather its me your son speak am listening )

Ghost: Smokes utshaye amangaki today amablunt mfethu.Obabamkhulu bakwakho banje( pointing at beast) (Smokes how many blunts of weed did you smoke today. Do your forefathers look like this)

Gunner: uyazin Smokes ( slapping his head) udlala udlepha njengo mangoye ,angifuni ukubika ama thumbu kwenyu suka lapho wena doti(you know what Smokes, you playing dirty like a cat,I don't want to be the one who will announce your death to your family,you piece of shit)

Wave: seliqedile ukudlala kumbe lifuna ukuba yilunch ( are you done playing or you want to be

lunch)

Them: ( looking at Waves)

Wave : okay bafethu makunyiwe ,izinja lempukane zangini zize zazi ukuthi uyazi ukugiya( okay brothers let's dance until all your dogs and flies praise you)

On the other hand Ndlangamandla is slowly allowing Siya to take over his body .The moment the guys turn back to beast on the floor.Siya stands up ,his eyes are still black with veins popping out but his whole body is back to its normal size.His flesh is now clear and only his tattoos are visible.There is now a balance between him.and Ndlangamandla.

Siya: liphambene( with a deep and vibrant voice)( are you crazy)

Them: (SILENCE)

Siya : do you take anything serious

Ghost : yazin boss besisa form.istrategy (boss we were still forming a strategy)

Siya: ngikhanya ngiyisidwedwe kuwena( do I look stupid to you)

Ghost: (SILENT)

Siya: tie her up on THE CHAIR .Wave deal with her I want her eyes to be wide awake when I come back

Wave: sho boss( yes boss)

Smokes: eish kanti no kugiya boss ,uyazi bozza how blood makes me feel.So ngavele ngatshaya ayi six( raising four fingers) for nothing ,nex ,ngitsho anything just nex( so we no longer dancing,you know how blood makes me feel boss. And I smokes six blunts for nothing)

Siya: ( he gives him the deadliest look)

Smokes: sho bozza ngiyakuthola( yes boss I

understand)

Gunner: yazi uwranga ngani uqansa intaba uboss man uzokudla uyibonile leyonto kade iphambi kwethu.Iyokugrinder usale uyimince ( you know you speak bullshit as if you sitting on your grandmother's toilet. Boss man will eat you ,did you see that thing it will grind all your flesh until you turn into mince)

Smoke: then siyidle phela(Gunner shakes his head in defeat leaving)( then we eat it right)

## LIHLELETHU

Am in the kitchen with Linathi having a small conversation getting to know her. I get alarmed by gunshots. Linathi suggests that we hide under the table.Fear sneaks in and my heart begins to race.I close my eyes tightly trying to be calm and gather enough strength to use my gift but the darkness around the palace makes it hard for my gift to function. While I am still concentrating I hear my name being called ,I ignore the call and concentrate more and this time I hear a faint scream from Linathi and heavy thud on the floor. I do not open my eyes to see whatever that could have fallen.It becomes more difficult for me to concentrate ,am thinking of numerous things,my conversation with Siyabonga,my fear enveloping me and worry especially for Linathi's safety .I do not even find time to open my eyes .I feel a heavy presence in front of me.I suddenly feel something covering my eyes and another my mouth.I try opening my eyes but I am met by darkness.I begin to fight with my arms and legs but they quickly tie them.I feel both of them, one tying my hands behind me whilst the

other tying my legs. I try screaming but my voice fails me .My tears stream down my cheeks while they carry me.They throw me into a very cold place.The whole place is freezing and the coldness shoots through my skin like daggers and arrows.The cold place starts moving and the voices have all faded ,I feel no presence.I can feel that I am all alone.I try moving using my butt but I fall on my face .I begin to think of everything from the beginning allowing myself to feel the pain,allowing my heart to ache.Ache for all the rejection I faced ,ache for all I have lost ,ache for the ones I have lost ,ache for those I have trusted thinking they will protect me but they sold me.My tears my pain ,my tears telling the story on their own a story that is know only by me .I let my heart ache for the gift ,a gift which is infact a curse ,a gift which has brought more pain ,emptiness and heart ache to an already shattered heart .A gift which has deserted me leaving the wild world to do what they please .I begin to think of Siya .Will he notice my absence .Will he need me ,will he come for me.

## NARRATED

As soon as the van stopped Lihle is picked up from the back of the van and thrown inside a dark room.She has cried until her tears have run dry.Her heavy heart has made praying difficult for her .All that is left within her is a ray of hope.Hope that she will be found.She is laying on the cold floor listening to the faint voices in the other room.She fails to make out who the voices belong to and what they are talking about .The door opens in the room.she is in ,she listens carefully and....

## SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM

The guys are playing rock paper scissors the other guy won. He looks at her licking his lips seductively the others can't wait. She is still blindfolded but she can hear what they are saying. She can't beg them to stop as they taped her mouth. One of the guys unties her legs and remove her clothes looking at her thighs seductively. He unbuckles his belt and open her legs wider, she tries kicking him but he is too strong. She tries locking her legs but they gang up on her the other two guys hold her legs down and seperate them, she says a silent prayer hoping they would change their minds. He gets in between her legs, her silent screams fall on deaf ears. He reaches the entrance and rubs it against her dry sacred place and pushes himself in, she flinches as the pain reports across her whole body. The thought of a stranger taking her innocence which she always wanted to give to the right guy crashing down on her. He tries harder until he penetrates her. Blood has now covered her yellow thighs. He thrust harder forcefully, with every thrust she flinches in pain, he penetrates her deeper and deeper. He is groaning on top of her. He thrust harder and harder until he comes inside her . He then stands up and holds her legs giving the other a chance to penetrate her too, he again thrust harder and harder closing his eyes and groaning on top of her. When the third guy enters her she has already given up on fighting . She is bleeding ,blood is now flowing on its own from her sacred place like an open tap. The blind fold was now wet with tears. The three all left her to gather their breaths, and all her tears were visible. Tears of

a woman violated. Tears which were her words ,her words left unspoken,words that were not heard. Her pleas and cries. When they had caught their breaths all three of them made her lay on her side .The first guy bringing her head between his legs removing the tape on her mouth making her open her mouth to allow him to penetrate her mouth and please himself ,the second guy opening her legs and holding on to her tied hands and penetrating her from behind whilst the third guy devoured her sacred place like hungry lion feasting on its prey.All of them pleasing themselves with her body,doing away with her innocence leaving her broken ,beaten and bruised.Leaving a scar,a wound that can never heal. When they were done she had passed out and lost it all and allowed darkness to overshadow her . The ancestors, God and Siya had failed her.

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 26

PRINCESS AMAHLE

When we left the Kingdom my parents were so jumpy and keen to make us leave. Why they wanted us to leave is only known to them. It was so unfortunate that I reached the destination alone. I



have not made peace with my sisters abduction. Day and night I ask myself if she is alive, am giving myself assurance that she is still alive but deep down I know that was the last day. I will never see Amkela again. Maybe that is what our parents were protecting us from what ever got her. The dreams I have been having are definitely warning me against something but what? I am in Tanzania and far from home(I sigh heavily).I am not even allowed to make calls the guard always says, "the King's orders". One thing I have learnt is I should never ever ignore my intuition. Something is telling me that there is nothing good going on back at home. Something is dragging me back home I try to fight it, try to ignore it but as days and nights pass by my thoughts ponders upon it and the more I think of it the more I want to go there. But how? How do I do it without putting these guards in danger. A King's word is the law and if they go home with me my father will surely behead them. I guess I have to take the risk, I have made up my mind, its time I go back and I have to be home in two days time. I walk towards the guards to notify them

Me: greetings

Them:(they bow) princess/your highness

Me : I would like to go back home please

Gaurd 1: But my Princess the King will..

Me: he will do nothing because you are not going back with me

SILENCE

Me: I will leave money for you and you will have to start afresh here. None of you have families back home, staying here will do you good

Gaurd2: b..u..t..my princess it is not safe what if

something happens to you

Me: my blood will be on my hands not yours. I have made up my mind I am going back home none of you will stop me.

## QUEEN NOXOLO

Preparing the portion took time but it was successful. Being in the secret room helped me see what transpired in the palace, from when when Lihle was kidnapped and Linathi being taken by Ndlangamandla. Well I have to applaud to whoever took Lihle. Lihle is out of the way now. The reason why Siya took Linathi are still unknown to me. I am up on my feet visiting the families of the deceased guards passing my condolences and representing the royal family. My phone rings and I pick it up without reading the contact name.

Convo

Me: Noxolo speaking

.....

Me:Mdluli

.....

Me: what are you talking about

.....

Me: your granddaughter? Missing ? And Siyabonga is connected to it? How ?

.....

Me: you have a granddaughter, am sorry but you are not making sense

.....

Me: is that a threat? .How should I find her when I do not even know her

.....

Me: what do you mean by you will talk if she doesn't come back in one piece ( the phone beeps)

(The call ended)

After the visits I go back to the palace. The servants serve my lunch in the garden. I walk towards the garden, settle down and start digging in thinking about my call with Mdluli.

NARRATED

While Noxolo was still eating in the garden three figures stood before her. She sensed them but continued eating instead .The three figures stood and watched her in silence. On the other hand Noxolo paid no attention to the figures until they started speaking

"The smile of a victorious warrior,  
She looks like an everyday hero,  
She is the blessed child, the child of the ancestors,  
What you see is not what you get.  
Woe to the one that causes harm to her when she is down and when she is up.  
Her revenge and fury knows no bounds".

Noxolo turned and saw her best friend standing before her adorned in white besides her stood two beautiful girls also in white. Then they all disappeared .

NARRATED



hand whistles, shouts and claps and some stomping their feet acknowledging the praises from their ring leader. He stops and speak again

Scar: I said "SERPENTS SERPENTS"

Them:" WHERE MONEY IS , THATS WHERE WE GO. IF MONEY CALLS WE ANSWER".

Scar: And what about Loyalty

Them: LOYALTY ONLY EXISTS IN OUR CIRCLE. THE ONLY FAMILY WE KNOW IS THAT OF THE SERPENT AND A BOSS IS ANYONE WHO PAYS.

They all stand at ease and leave the circle, carrying the bags towards the tables in the hall. Together they settle down preparing to share the money.They share the money equally and each and every one of them starts to count their own share. One of them talks

Killer: How are we going to deal with the Psycho

Scar: what he doesn't know will not kill him

Mbanjwa: the girl we kidnapped for the boss is the same girl whose pictures are scattered all over his house

Grenade: I thought I was crazy when I saw her.

Sticks: its her, but the Psycho is not supposed to find out or else we are all dead. He was not named psycho for no reason. Infact he is a real definition of his name

Scar: he won't suspect us, we have been working under him for a long time now infact we have to deliver the news of her kidnapping to him first so that he will thing we are always watching out for him

Grenade: I won't lie, I still want a piece of that girl. She was heaven God knows when was the last time I had a virgin( touching his pants)

Killer: you still thinking with that dick of yours I see. Get out!

(Everyone laughs)

Mbanjwa: next time Sticks and I won't stay outside watching intruders. We missed out on fresh meat.( they laugh again)

Scar: Okay Sticks and Grenade you will go back to the kingdom tomorrow, just to see if the damage was done properly and if no one saw us. Get the word and destroy any evidence that can trace everything back to us. When you come back we will deliver the news of her kidnap to Psycho.

Killer: and the rest of us will work on a strategy on how to make sure Psycho stays in the dark about the kidnapers

MDLULI

My granddaughter's abduction has taken a toll on me. She cannot die for my selfish reasons. I shouldn't have used her on my missions. She is my precious jewel and nothing should happen to her. I spent years planning this and now that it is finally in motion it affects my jewel. Something has to be done to that Prince. I am forced to keep Noxolo so that she can give the beast the blood portion. She better cooperate or else all her secrets will manifest one after the other. After all raising the dead cannot be difficult. I am a cameloan with the fangs of a cobra, no one will ever see me coming until I strike. I destroy where I bite. I am walking down the road from my home thinking of the way forward. A car

stops in front of me and the owner lowers his window down and speaks

Him: sabona baba, igama ngu Siyabonga(hello father,my name is Siyabonga)

Me: hawu uyinkosana yalapha ndodana(you are the prince of this Kingdom)

Him: yebo baba .Bengithanda ukwazi ukuthi ubaba ngingamceda ngihambise lapho ayakhona (yes father.I would like to know how I may be of help and give you a ride)

Me: ngiyabonga jaha Abaphansi bakubusise( I enter the car and he continues driving)( thank you young man ,may the ancestors bless you)

Me: ndodana angazi kumbe sengikuhambela phambili kodwa ngibona ukhathazekile kakhulu. Ulahlekelwe ngomthandayo udidekile ngoba uhambe lengxenywe yakho.(I don't mean to be forward but I see you are in distress .you lost the one you love )

Him: ( looks at me for the longest time )ungabe uboniswa yini baba loba uyaceda abantu( are you a seer and do you help people)

Me: yebo Nkosana ngisebenza lemithi njalo ngiyelapha( yes my prince I work with herbs and I also heal)

Him: okubonayo liqiniso baba, inhliziyo yami ikhathazekile njalo ikhanda lami lididekile angisazi nje ukuba ngenzeni(what you saw is the truth,my heart knows no peace and my head is spinning .I do not know what to do)

Me: ngikubona ulesipho Nkosana( I see you have a gift)

Him:masingathethi ngakho baba. Yisipho ngebizo nje( let's not talk about it.it just but a gift)

Me: ngingakusiza mntanami uma ungivumela( I might help you if you allow me )

Him: njani baba( how)

Me: ngingakutholela omdingayo lapho akhona ngemithi ( I may find the one you looking for through my bones and herbs)

Him: baba ngingakubonga ngingaqedi .Ngingathola inombolo zakho ( I will thank you continuously for the gesture.May I have your number)

Me: yebo ngu 078 645\*\*\*\*.Ngitshiye lapha mntanami(its \*\*\*\*\*.Please leae me here my child)

Him: kulungile ,ngiyabonga baba u..(thank you Mr...)

Me: Mdluli ndodadana( its Mdluli my son)

Him: eMdluli( he pulls over and drops me)

LINATHI

Me: why are you keeping me here. You have no reason to keep me here

Smokes: and then uphaphelani ke Barbie doll who asked you to speak

Me: fuck off wena

Smokes: lalela ke I am not your friend you will choose words wisely nxa ukhuluma lami Futsek ( listen here....when you talking to me)

Me: how dare you speak to the future Queen like this. I will banish you from this Kingdom when I get married to Siyabonga.

Smokes: Kube ulenyama I was going to say nayi ingulube inginonela its a pity ungani uphethwe lufuba ( the other guys laugh)(if you had meat....here is a pig getting fat infront of me....its like you caught TB)



Me: At least I am beautiful, you have never had a pretty girl friend like me.

Smokes: if she were to be like you I was gonna dump her ass. Uyanukisa thula( you stinking shut up)

Me: uthi....(he cuts me short)( you saying )

Smokes: Usukhuluma kakhulu wena skeleton this is not your hotel (putting a cloth in my mouth).( you talking too much you...)

I don't know where I got the courage to answer him back I was shitty scared.

HARLEY

We got the contract and dad is happy for me, he even bought me my dream car AUDI R8 V10 latest model, red in color which is my favorite as a gift for sealing the deal. The business is doing well and very soon we will be the top in this business our only competition is the AA<sup>3</sup> Zikhali logistics and construction company. I am on my way to the Saloon driving my new car I wanna pay Ayibongwe a visit later. I pull over at the saloon and enter. I step in and meet my friend Kim inside she owns the saloon. She stands up and give me mother of hugs.

Her: Its been long friend and wow whose ride is that (she is already outside touching it)

Me: Girl you better come back in here and do your magic in my head I got a shark that has to swallow me. And yes that is my car Daddy dearest got it delivered for me this morning.

Her: You mean the old man got you this baby ( coming inside)

Me: Yes girl, before I forget you and I are going Victoria falls for a weekend friecation.

Her: What honey OMG I can't wait dear Lord only

you know when was the last time we went out together. We need to go shopping.

She is a drama queen this one, other customers are looking at us. I snuggle her

Me: (sitting down) yes shopping it is and lunch all on me.

Her: I will never say no to that

Me: You don't have a choice baby. After our trip I have a shoot for the Drum magazine I have always wanted this my dream is finally coming true.

Her: What about dad and the company

Me: I will make an excuse I can't loose this deal. Not now not ever

Her: You have been my friend all I want is for you to be happy. I will always have your back.

Me : Thank you so much Clozzy.

Her: Stop moving hey we don't want your hairstyle to look like the ones of the 80s sit up straight am almost done

Me: Okay (we both burst into laughter)My man will cry and beg me to stay when he sees me girl

Her: Who is he, you sound serious about him its been long girl

Me: Will fill you in on our lunch date after shopping he is to die for

Her: I can't wait to see the guy who got your heart. We even thought you were now Lesbian

Me:(standing up from the chair) you sound like Dad now

She laughs

Me: thanks girl I look gorgeous God you are a darling, what would I do without you (kissing her cheek n hugging her).

Her: Pay my money girl and go get your shark my

jelly fish.

I remove my card and pay

Me: thanks girl I walk out to my car

Her:(shouting behind me) call me with details. Love you girl

Me: me more

I unlock my car and blow her a kiss then drive off

A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 27

AT THE PALACE

Siyabonga has just arrived at the palace and parked his car .He walks in to the lounge and finds the Queen /his mother starrng into space .He stands there looking at her and the Queen does not notice him.He then speaks.

Siya: Mother are you okay(hugging her)

Queen: oh Siya when did you get here .I didn't hear you drive in

Siya : I just arrived mother and I have been standing there(pointing at the stairs leading to the bedrooms) for a while

Queen: I didn't notice you

Siya: how could you see me when you were deep in thoughts.I asked a question that still demands an answer

Queen: what question( she looks at Siya blankly waiting for him to speak)

Siya: Now this shows you are really not okay .What can be troubling my mother .Please talk to me

Queen: Its nothing my child .Kodwa you also one of the people that ran into my thoughts everyday.

Siya: you be thinking about the Kingdom My Queen

Queen: (she laughs) that is pure blackmail when you do that I know you would be trying to brush off the topic. I am a concerned mother my boy. Ever since you came from the city a lot has happened .Above all you have been blessed with the beast the Great Mntungwa .That is a very heavy task you have been given.How do you cope with all this whilst your beast is unstable

Siya: ( he quickly turns and looks at his mother for the longest time ) Mother how did you know that my beast was unstable.No one knows about that.

Queen: ( stammering ) I ..I ..I mean Siya you see its..it.it was written all over you my boy and you always in distress and you told me that same night when you were in the garden .You explained everything.

Siya: I know what I said that night mother.I remember my words very well I said I had found my chosen one that her name was Lihle, I told you that she was the same girl you imprisoned and that she was the daughter of Light. I told you about the necklace and how it cages the beast.Then I explained how the beast can change if tampered with whilst explaining that Lihle is my sanity.So how on earth did you know that my beast is unstable( shouting

whilst his veins are now popped out)

Queen: Siya I can explain(stammering) Son l...l...l.... I just put two and two together and used my reasoning. Siya I am a mother and I can read between the lines of my son's words. I have been married into this family for long and never have I heard what you explained that night .That's how I found out

Siya: mother you would have never heard cause beats were for the Khumalo men and only the Khumalo men know about how they operate including the oracle of course.( with a raised eyebrow) something is fishy here .

Queen: what are you insinuating Siyabonga Muzukhona Khumalo!!!!

Siya: what did you say ..wait I have heard that name before (scratching his head whilst thinking). Why did you call me Muzukhona mother.Who is Muzukhona?

Queen : it was just a slip of the tongue.And I ...l...was angry you are accusing me of things I do not know of and just because I am a mother who is concerned about her child .I am now suffering for being a mother.Your own mother Siyabonga. Is it wrong to care for you.( speaking between her tears)

Siya: mother I am sorry .Please do not cry I did not mean what I said .I am just frustrated my Queen (on his knees ) please forgive your son.

Queen: ( crying) I will stop being a concerned mother

Siya: no please .I need you please do not stop mother ngiyacela I made a mistake.Okay how about I make you your favourite meal as an apology .

Queen: (quickly)no I will cook for you and you better eat .Its been long you last ate what I prepared for

you.Go ,go and freshen up .  
Siya:( with a questioning look)okay

Siyabonga leaves his mother and walks straight to his room.He sits down on his bed once he enters the room and start thinking about the conversation he just had with his mother.Something doesnt make sense to him.His mother just called him by the same name he heard in his dream of a child being delivered. He struggles to understand why he was called by that name by his own mother.What could his mother know that he was never told.He realises that there is more to this name than meets the eye and the fact that his mother stammered when he asked makes everything obvious.He makes a mental note to visit Mdluli who offered to help him find Lihle and then the oracle seeking answers for the dream and Muzukhona name.

On the other hand ,the Queen makes the meal she promised to Siya quickly.She has sent all the kitchen servants out .She dishes out the food once she is done preparing it.The Queen then fishes out a small bottle with red liquid from the cupboard and pours the liquid in Siyabonga's stew and pours the rest inside his juice.She mixes the stew then stirs the juice with a spoon and covers the food and disposes the bottle.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM

Mdluli walks into the room where Lihle is.She is laying down and her dress is in rags .Blood covering

her thighs. Her eyes are pale and red and no glimpse of life is seen in her.

Mdluli: well well well who knew that the so called daughter of light could be humbled. Aren't you supposed to be mighty and all glorious and courageous. I see you were harshly humbled .

Lihle: (she raises her head and looks at Mdluli then lays down again)

Mdluli: words failing you princess. Maybe this will cheer you up your Prince is looking for you but unfortunately he ran straight to an anaconda for help and that anaconda will surely enjoy devouring him and leaving him in this very state you are in.

SILENCE

Mdluli : (pulls a chair from the far corner of the room. Dusts it up before sitting) I am Mdluli but that is only my human surname . Let me be kind enough to introduce myself. I am Lucifer the fallen angel, the Great Dark Lord of the Underworld. Ruler of Hell and Earth . Greatest Tormenter on Earth and the well known god of Mischief. Demons and all creatures of the darkness bow at my feet. It a pleasure being in your presence

Lihle: ( she gathers herself together and sits up. She flinches in pain and finally drags her lower body towards the wall and uses it to support her upper body while she sits leaning against it before she speaks) So you feel proud of what you did and you think you have conquered

Mdluli: ooh she can speak . Not a problem. Proud yes I am , as you can see but conquered not yet my princess I haven't started this was just a taste of what is yet to come and of what I can do.

Lihle: ( with a weak voice) you see this ( touching her body) this is only flesh you may destroy my flesh

and feed it to the crows and animals but never can you touch my soul. It is written you tried doing away with Job but his soul still belonged to the creator so is mine. My flesh is just dust and can be trampled on countless times but what stands is my soul. Never will your darkness envelope my pure soul. You are dark and am light, light always overpowers darkness through my God the Father the Maker who strengthens me I can do all things. And my faith will never be shaken by you or any creature or tribulations. You may hurt me because I feel but never ever will you taint my soul.

Mdluli: ( shouting whilst closing his ears) shut up ,shut up!!! . You are nothing you have no one .You are now damaged and your precious prince has found a home in Linathi .No one loves you because your life comes with burdens .No one will look your way or help you now for you are damaged.You call that father of yours the Maker and adore him.What has he done for you, why didn't he protect you when you were being kidnapped, why didn't he protect you when you were being raped.Why did he give you that gift if you cannot protect yourself. You are useless and broken and no one will ever ever love you because you are damaged goods.

Lihle:( tears flow freely on her face and her cries echoe in the room)( stammering). I...I ..am the daughter of Light and my MAKER loves me he will never forsake me

Mdluli: Let's see your MAKER rescuing you. Maybe I will believe that "foresake" thing you are talking about. By the way that Prince will never find you, ( laughing ) you better give up because I will make sure he never finds you after all you are his sanity. Imagine his beast without its sanity. It will definitely



lend him in the mental asylum .

Mdluli stands up from the chair and makes his way to the door.He turns back before he exits and says

Mdluli: child you still have a choice .Join me and I will take all this away and make your life golden. You will revenge on anyone who ever hurt you. You will see your parents whenever and you will always get what you want at any cost. Think about it. If you join me I won't temper with that beast your prince has and everything will be 50/50 (He exits the room and locks the door.)

Lihle sits in the same position thinking about how everything is turning out. She begins to wonder if Mdluli is the true evil MaNxumalo was talking about. What Mdluli said about her begins to worry her and again she wonders if all this is worth fighting for or she could just join Mdluli and leave all the burdens behind her.

\*\*\*\*\*

AYIBONGWE

Something is driving me crazy.That prince must have attacked or threatened me by now but he is quite.Why is he quite,maybe he is strategising his plan .He should have acted atleast. I know he knows I visited his penthouse and with the way he is well connected he surely knows that I caused that blood bath in his palace.His silence frustrates me I should have been holding Lihle by now .Someone knocks on my office door and I allow the person in.

Me: what the fuck do you want. I am not in the mood to be entertaining anyone now .

Harley: come on babe its me .I came all the way to visit you

Me: and did I ask you to?

Harley: whoah slow down tiger. What's wrong( she walks seductively towards me but its a turn off)

Me: can you please leave I am not in the mood for these kind of games .

Harley: come on babe let me calm you down. You can release all the steam on me ,I do not mind( she bites her lower lip and sits on my desk.Under normal circumstances I would be hard by now but now this is annoying me to the core)

Me: Harley please just leave okay .I will call you I am not in the right state of mind .

Harley: shhhhhh( she puts her finger on my lips) let me take care of you just watch.

Me: Ha..Har..Harley stop ,just stop ...HARLEY!! ( I breath in and out controlling my anger) Get out

Harley: but babe I...( I cut her off)

Me: I said get out

Harley: I am not going anywhere Ayibongwe just get that in your head nje simple

Me: damn woman you are stubborn .Let's do it like this choose, its either the easy way or the hard way  
SILENCE

I take her bag on the office couch and drag her out.She is busy fighting me but I pay no attention to her.She starts screaming attracting eyes from the workers but like wise I do not pay attention to her tantrums.I drag all the way to the parking lot and leave her there busy wiping her crocodile tears .

## A GIFT CURSED

### INSERT 28

#### AT THE PALACE

Siyabonga is sitting in the dining room waiting for his mother to serve him the food. He is busy on his phone whilst he waits. On the other hand the bottle that contained the portion which Noxolo put in Siya's food which he had disposed of has now appeared next to Siya on the table. The bottle is next to Siya, but containing the little droplets of the portion that were left in it. Siya does not realise anything as he is glued to the phone.

Meanwhile the Queen appears from the kitchen with the brightest smile walking towards her son. She gets closer and closer to the table. When she lays her eyes on the table she gets the shock of her life. She drops the whole tray of food and starts shaking uncontrollably. Siya gets alarmed by the plates making a shatter on the floor and jumps. He realises the plates on the floor. The Queen is still standing frozen trying to understand how the portion bottle got on the table. As soon as she realises that she might grab Siya's attention she crouches on the floor and starts picking up the glasses. Siya invades by saying

Siya: ( holding Noxolo's shaking hands) mother please leave it, let me

Queen: but I..

Siya: no you will hurt yourself I will take care of it

please( Siya picks up the glasses on the floor carefully)

On the other hand Noxolo has already stood up. She is slowly walking backwards towards the table .She makes her movements as silent as possible avoiding catching Siyas attention.Her back is facing the table whilst her hands wonder on the table searching for the bottle.She is side eyeing the bottle whilst reaching for it .

Meanwhile a blur image forms besides Siya.Khayaletu stands there stirring at Noxolo whilst shaking his head.He watchs her then looks at Siya with eyes full of pity then speaks

Khaya: Noxolo Noxolo wenzani( the queen turns and gets the shock of her life. She screams and knocks over the bottle on the table with her finger)

Siya quickly gets up from the floor and charges towards his mother with great concern written all over his face.He turns to see the sound made by something falling on the table and his eyes land on the small bottle with traces of red droplets in it .He walks towards the table and picks it .He opens it and sniffs the substance and throws it back on the table covering his nose.

Siya: mother yin le

Queen: ( word fail her as she keeps seeing Khaya's ghost standing beside Siya)

Khaya: Noxolo speak or else I will tell him the truth

Queen:( stuttering) S..i.y..a do you see him (pointing behind Siya where Khaya is standing)

Siya: (looking behind him) see who .Mother what are you talking about. I asked you what this is

Queen: I also don't know whose bottle is that .Maybe one of the servants left it there( Khaya charges towards her and slaps her hard on the cheek ,she

screams)

Siya: (confused) mother what is wrong( he is already holding her hands)

Khaya: Speak now!!

Queen: (She looks at Siya and back at Khaya and starts pleading) please do not make me talk please ,I am sorry for what I did ,it was out of greed please

Siya: mother mother (shaking her )/who are you pleading with( his eyes run across the whole room.searching)

Queen:( khaya disappears) mmh what are you saying ( she quickly stands up and looks at Siya)

Siya: you were pleading ( looking at the same direction the queen was looking at) I don't know who you were talking to but...

Queen: its nothing Siya never mind it

Siya: (still confused) Okay .What about this ( lifting the bottle) what do you have to say.What is this

Queen: uummmh that's just a concoction the oracle gave me I.was having bad headaches.(snatching it from Siya)

Siya: ( with a raised eye bro) headaches

Queen: please excuse me . And tell the servants to pick that up( she quickly walks out)

Mean while Siya calls the servants and assigns them to pick the broken plates. He walks towards the chest of drawers in the lounge and picks his car keys and heads out driving straight to the oracles place. On the other hand Noxolo quickly walks into her room , locks herself in and breaths out as she sits on the bed.She starts thinking of how the day has been like and how many times she has almost spilt the bean and how Khaya's appearance threatens

her plans

\*\*\*\*\*

## AT THE ORACLE'S HOUSE

The oracle notices Siyas car as he drive into his compound. He stands up from the tree shed he has been seated in which has all his freshly picked herbs scattered in.He walks towards Siya and speaks to him

Oracle: Nkosana( my prince)

Siya: Baba( sir)

Oracle: woza ngapha ngasendlini ungixelele oze ngakho(come into the hut and tell me why you are here)( they both enter hut and sit )

Siya:( going straight to the point) baba who is Muzukhona( sir who is Muzukhona)

Oracle: lelo ligama elizilayo lapha esigodlweni. Liphakeme kakhulu njalo alikhulunywa nguye wonke umuntu( that is a sacred name in this kingdom and its a name of authority that cannot be said by anyone)

Siya: ngiyakuzwa baba kodwa bengingathanda nxa ungangiphendula( I hear you sir but I would love it if you answer me)

Oracle: ngingakakuphenduli ,ulizwe kuphi lelo gama Nkosana( before I ask ,where did you hear that name my prince)

Siya: umama ongizalayo ungibize ngokuthi Siyabonga Muzukhona Khumalo. Yingakho ngibuza ukuthi ngubani umuzukhona. Njalo angiqali ukulizwa lelo gama( my mother called me by it ,that's why I am asking who Muzukhona is. And its

not my first time hearing this name)

Oracle: uqonda ukuthini nxa usithi awuqali kulizwa( what do you mean its not your first time)

Siya: ngilamalanga engakengahlutshwa liphupho. Kulelo phupho bengisizwa amazwi awabesifazana abathathu omunye bekungathi uyabeletha kodwa kumnzimela .Besekuthiwa methe ngezangelo zakhe .Ukuba lobaba owetha izangelo zako Khumalo yikhona ngusizwa izwi lengane ekakhalayo.

Besekuthiwa le yinkosana yakwa Khumalo ,u Muzukhona esimphiweyo isipho sesigodlo( I have had days where I dreamt the same dream.in the dream I heard three female voices ,one was giving birth but it seemed hard for her. That's when it was said the child should be called by its clan names. A male sites the Khumalo clan names that's when I.heard the child's cry.and then they said this is the khumalo prince uMuzukhona ,a gift to the kingdom from the ancestors)

Oracle: indaba le inzima sana lwami kodwa ke isikhathi asikafiki ukuthi ngikwazise konke ngendlela amadlozi afuna ngayo ( this is a difficult story but the time has not come yet for you to know the truth)

Siya: ( wiping his face in frustration)kodwa baba ngize ngidinga impendulo( but sir I came to seek answers)

Oracle: yebo Mntanami uze ngalokho kodwa isikhathi asikakwani( yes my son I know but the time has not come yet)

Siya: ngiyezwa baba. Mayelana ngezipho abantwana abakwaKhumalo abalazo .Abesifazane bakwaKhumalo bayazi ngazo yini lokuthi zisebenza njani( I understand sir. About the beasts gifted to the Khumalos princes ,do the Khumalo women know

about them)

Oracle: hatshi Mntanami. Abazi lutho abakwaziyo yikhuthi kulezipho nje qha( no my son they do not know anything .all they know is that they have beasts only)

Siya: ngiyabonga( thank you)

Oracle: Nkosana amadlozi akwenyu athi ngikwazise ukuba uqhaphela.Kulengozi esidlalela kucwadelana lawe .( my son your ancestors are warning you about a danger that is near you and hovering around)

Siya: ingozi enjani baba( what kind of danger)

Oracle: akucacisiswanga Nkosana kodwa engingakutsho yikuthi hlala uhlakaniphile kodwa ukunene njengejuba( its not clear my prince but be alert at all times )

Siya: ngiyezwa baba( I hear you sir)

Oracle: ( with a smile)njalo isigodlo sethekelelwe lamhlanje .Hamba uyobona abezi ( the kingdom has visitors go and see them)

Siya: abezi( visitors)

Oracle: hamba Nkosana angeke ngikhulume konke( go my prince ,I won't say everything)

Siya leaves the hut with more questions than answers.He trys to brush it off but it just keeps coming back. He hesitates getting in his car but he finally does and drives off.

\*\*\*\*\*

SIMPHIWE

Siyanda ,Sivuyile and I drive through the palace gate



. We all decided to surprise the family though our main mission is to make the king sign the contract that will allow the Zikhali and us to dig diamonds in the Kingdom. We all enter the palace and we are met by an empty house .

Siyanda: where is everyone

Sivuyile: Hello( shouting )

Me: mother ! Dad!

Mother walks down the stairs slowly.Her face is full of worry which makes me worry instantly

Me: mother ( I rush towards her and hug her)

Queen: my boys you are home( hugging each every one of us) Come sit down

Me: mother what's wrong

Queen: what do you mean my first

Me: you are weak and all pale and worried too

.What's going on

Siyanda : where is everyone

Queen: one question at a time please. Your father travelled to other Kingdoms he is looking for solutions to what has been happening in the Kingdom. And I am not worried ,the paleness its because I am.not feeling quite well my whole body aches

Sivuyile: what about the girls

Queen: we sent them.out of the could try. We were afraid for them and we thought sending them to Tanzania was the only safest route to take

Me: kahle kahle how did all this happen and we were never told

Sivuyile: Where is Siya

Queen: We did not want to worry you and Siyabonga is in his room if not he went out am sure

Me: mother you have red marks on your cheek(

holding it .She flinches in pain) this is not a mark its  
a hand print

Siyanda: don't tell me Siya is beating you

Queen: no no no its just nothing please. You must be  
tired let me prepare you something to eat whilst  
you freshen up

Me: but moth...(she cuts me off)

Queen : don't be stubborn now my first go

They all leave their mother and heard straight to  
their respective bedrooms.

A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 29

(NOT EDITED)

3 DAYS LATER

AT SIYABONGA'S WAREHOUSE

Siyabonga is sitted in the warehouse battling with  
his thoughts.He is trying to figure out why all things  
are turning south in his life . He ponders upon the  
reasons why his brothers gave him nasty attitudes  
when he welcomed them. Everything was just bitter  
about them as if bad blood existed between them.  
After their treatment that same night he left for the  
warehouse and has been sleeping there ever since.

All he ever does is order food and keep strategising his plan and connecting the dots and finding possible suspects who could have kidnapped Lihle. Everything is weighing down on him but his main objective is to find his chosen one. He thinks of how the ancestors warned him not to drop her and protect her at any cost and how everything will shatter including him losing his sanity if he doesn't find Lihle.

Meanwhile all his boys are gathered in the meeting room waiting for his arrival and his orders. Some have come to report what they have heard in the streets after their expedition. Siya walks in the room looking like the exact clone of a hobbo. He is dressed in the same clothes he was in three days ago. He is a total mess, confusion and frustration is written all over his face. As soon as the boys see him they all stop fidgeting and concentrate on Siya who was sitting down opposite the whole crew.

Siya: Talk

Gunner: there is a word on the street about a shipment that was made last night to Zambia.

Approximately 45 ladies were exported there. (Siyas jaws tighten with his eyes turning blood shot red)

Siya: (scanning each and every guy in the room) I want to hear all the feedbacks before I say anything.

Ghost: we were not capable of finding the list of the girl's names that were exported. But the word has been spread in the streets and we are waiting for intel.

Flames: Razor boss two days ago there is a trade that was made between the MAFIA CREW and the CROWS, it was a girl and she was sold for approximately 5 million

Smokes: (laughing)/damn she must be hot. Imali

yonke leyo just for ivelvet cake nje( all that money for a woman)

Gunner: ( slapping him) uyanya son does this look like the time to play

Siya: is that all

Them: shot

Siya: (with a straight face) Ghost be invisible as usual . Collect all the information about the shipment. Who is responsible for it and to whom all the girls are going to. Find out who the Lady the Crows received . I want all that information within 48hrs.

Ghost : shot boss man

Siya: Flames and Gunner trace all the deals we have made this month. Find any possible loopholes from our regulars. Check their steps and find anything suspicious . All our enemies and any possibilities on them knowing about Lihle.

Them: Sho man/Razor

Siya: Smokes , track all my cars and gadgets and check any invaders. Alert the underground team on a possible upcoming mission . Tell them its code red

.

Smoke: Abashwe boss

Siya: Wave!( he is scanning the whole room) where the fuck is Wave . ( clicking his tongue) none of you better be snitching or thinking of betraying me or else .

Meanwhile ,Wave runs into the warehouse. His upper body is wet and sweat is dripping from his forehead to his chest . He is busy shouting Siyas name walking towards the whole crew who are now looking at him including an angry Siya who is ready to rip his throat off .

Wave: Hade Boss ungafi I was gathering news .I might have a lead

Siya: you might?. Zwana wena don't come here with assumptions I want answers

Wave: Here is what I gathered. The Serpents had a mission 3 days ago outside the city. The mission was successful and there was a blood bath. Again on that same day just after the first intersection into the city they delivered an unknown delivery to some guy. Who the guy is no one knows but the delivery was made in a butcher van.

Siya: Serpents ?

Wave : its the same gang that works for the guy who stole your diamonds and you let him go

Siya: Fuck ,fuck ,fuck . Why the fuck didn't I think of that psycho. Smokes do you remember the CCTV footage of the penthouse you sent me . Do you have the copy let me see it .

Smokes: ( he starts typing in his computer ) found it ( the whole crew watches the footage . Siya is already breathing heavily and all his veins are now scattered decorating his face)

Siya: ( he turns to the whole crew) find this son of a bitch and bring him here I will not spare him tonight. He better be ready to meet his ancestors.

Smokes send the Smiling Assassins( an underground sniper force controlled by Siyabonga) to the Serpents now. I want all of them in his shithole tonight in one piece . The inner me is thirsty for blood and blood shall it have .

Smokes: ( laughing) abashwe here comes the party of the month.Razor boss save me the dance

Siya: ( laughing) Smokes you are insane .Keep your eyes open ,make sure the family comes home in one piece

Smokes: ( with a serious face) you can count on me. Siya thinks of how much he has been silent watching everything taking a toll in front of his eyes. He thinks of his mother's behaviour making a mental note to send guys to trace his mothers movements . He also thinks of how relaxed he has been about everything that has finally led to Lihle being kidnapped. Meanwhile he thinks of Linathi who is locked up in the warehouse's interrogation room. He stands up from his seat and alerts Smokes and walks to the room.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM

Lihle is sitted in a corner . She weak and hungry and still in pain. She starts to think of what MaNxumalo said to her about how her journey will will be tough and draining. She remember that she is chosen and ordained by the MAKER. She gathers all her strength folding her legs and moving from the wall which had become her source of support for the past days. She crawls towards the middle of the room. She kneels down and starts to pray saying

Lihle: My FATHER ,THE MAKER MY CREATOR . My sins are sacttered like the stars in the sky and the sand in the river. My relatives rejected me and threw me to the wolves saying I should carry my problems and go farway. My soul is tired ,my heart yearns for its creator who understands and loves it. Come God , come into my life and lead it . I have searched and searched for one like you. You are the giver of life and the one who changes the heart of

man ,you can do miracles with my life. I want to be closer to your heart ,everything I am is because of you Father. I give you all of me tonight. Father in the name of your holy son ,I desire to be like Jesus who prayed for us to be one. I desire to serve ,to give . I desire to love others with more than my words. I give you my all cause everything that I have is all a gift even this life that I have. Use me and lead me to your heart. Lead to the path of righteousness and let your Will be done. You are that the man whose love never fails,you are the man who never goes back on his word. There is no one like you father. HERE I AM , I AM READY FOR YOU, SEND ME MY MAKER. MY LIFE IN YOUR HANDS I DELIVER .

She stops praying and allows her tears to flow down her cheeks whilst giving her heart to her Maker.Meanwhile beside her on either sides stands an angel with light shining upon it. Its feet and head cannot be seen for the glory on the Lord upon it is too much for the eyes to behold. On the other side stands MaNxumalo who has her eyes fixed on Lihle ,she is holding her right shoulder .Her lips are moving but her words are inaudible.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MDLULI'S HOMESTEAD

Mdluli is in his secret room watching Lihle from his all seeing mirror which is in a triangular shape . On each corner there is a pentagram drawn in blood . He is busy laughing at Lihle whilst shaking his head saying

Mdluli: you are too weak my princess. All the power lays in you but you are too weak . There is nothing

you will do with such a small spark in you. You are broken,scared and doubtful. That alone is dangerous ,I can use it to turn you against yourself. Even your father the maker says it in his word that a double minded person is never straight. Are you straight dear one.( laughing )

## A GIFT CURSED INSERT 30

MDLULI

I have been sitting here in my hut watching Lihle in my pot. She looks broken beyond repair I hope she never gets up and recover. I hope the rape damaged her enough for her to curse her gift and join hands with me. I heard her praying but I could not hear everything because the moment she mentioned God of Abraham something struck me. See I am not just any traditional healer I am a Satanist. In our world there are stages. You start as a devil worshipper the more you make Lucifer proud the more you gain power and move to the other stage. I joined after my wife and son were killed in that Kingdom so that I could exact my revenge. It is a pity that my granddaughter grew up without parents but I made sure she was well taken care of. When she was older she asked me about her parents I told her everything from the threats by the King Muzukhona Khumalo the first Siyabonga's grandfather. I was the



one who helped them when they had problems with their beast and out of greed I started tormenting the beast so that they become unstable and I will suggest taking over the throne as the late Khayaletu was still young to succeed. My brother Vusumuzi had a gift too. He found out and sold me out then Muzukhona hunted me down when he couldn't find me he killed my wife, son and his wife. Linathi was just a year old and 9 months. I vowed to exact revenge on them. I have been trying for the past 21 years now I have to finish what I started. Lihle's powers will help me destroy them bit by bit. I sent Linathi to go and be close to Siyabonga in the city and my granddaughter succeeded, now she is missing, I have to find her even if it means trading this good for nothing Lihle. Yes I am the one who kidnapped Lihlelethu and got her raped.

#### NARRATION

Mdluli just woke up from the ground after being struck by the presence of pure people and angels. He looks at his pot and it's broken he curses. He drives to the warehouse where he kept Lihle in a hurry.

#### LIHLELETHU

MaNxumalo was patting my shoulder at the same time flinching in pain. My guardian angel Elena was standing there crying after that MaNxumalo and the angels disappeared I felt as if a heavy weight has been lifted off my shoulder. I just went down on my knees and asked God to heal me emotionally and thanked him for healing me physically. I decided that I will just ignore the emotional pain and go save Siyabonga and the kingdom. After that I will leave

and start my life afresh somewhere else because I am so done with Siyabonga and I am saving him the humiliation of being with an uncomplete woman. After the prayer I called the clan names of my ancestor thanking them for opening my eyes and ears. I thought they failed me but everything now makes sense for one to be strong they all have to go through somethings. I just have to accept my fate. I limped trying to stand and finally got my balance. As I was trying to walk to the door it opened and the monster came in. To say I was scared was an understatement but I kept a straight face. He came towards me as soon as I looked him in the eyes he looked away and gave mother of all slaps.

Him: how dare you summon your people in my territory.

Me: (holding my cheek) My people wh..aaa..tt do you mean Sir.

Him: You backchatting me now I see they fixed you but I am afraid they didn't return your womanhood did they? (With a smirk on his face)

Me: you will not get away with this (shaking)

Him: I already did Nkazana. Let me tell you a story you did not ask. See you are an obstacle in my way of revenge. Your gift is stopping me from acquiring what I want which is justice for my family. My wife, son and daughter in law died in the hands of someone in that Kingdom and my granddaughter grew up an opharn. You know how being an opharn is right. Then I promised her we will get her parents justice. I don't break promises I make to her. She is my everything and you stood in her way by snatching the Prince I had to teach you a lesson that will break him so that he will go look for comfort in

my granddaughter's hands but no he changed everything when he kidnapped her and tortured her.(he was furious )

Me: Who is your granddaughter and who killed your family I might be able to help you. The way you are going on about is wrong

"Bum.....bum" gunshots

He shot the roof in rage and came to me holding a gun and lifted my chin with it

Him: my daughter is Linathi, did I refresh your memory( that shocked me)

Me: so Linathi does not love Siya he went there for revenge. You are very selfish you used an innocent child now she is in danger because of you. JESUS CHRIST (Holding my mouth)

Him: (a slap covered my other cheek leaving weird sounds in my ear ) how dare you call that name in here. You dont listen Nkazana.

His eyes were full of rage and hurt. I guess he really loves his granddaughter but he also confirmed my suspicions he is not a believer of God but a Satanist I tried my luck confirming again

Me: I am sorry but why do you hate Jesus, do you know he is the reason you are here today. He left his fathers kingdom and came to earth. He died for your sins. Give him a chance.....I saw something a black shadow with horns enter him and move towards me

Him: HEY YOU WE DON'T CALL THIS NAME HERE THE ONLY NAME WE CALL IS LUCIFER GOT IT. (It was loud and it startled me) the shadow left him.

I decided to stop with questions what I wanted is what I got. The weapon to win one of my battles I had got it, the journey will be long. I need to pray more.

He came very close Him: this is what we will do

today we gonna record a video of you and send to the Prince and ask him to release Linathi if he wants you alive.

Me: please Sir(crying)

Him: Boys ( he was calling his goons)

Me: please don't hurt me again give me a phone I will just tell him to let Linathi go he will listen to me.

Please (crying)

Him: I don't take orders from you, boys bring me the electric chair and my mask then set the camera.

A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 31

(Not Edited)

AYIBONGWE

I am waiting for the guys in my office at the warehouse. I am nervous they said they have bad news I hope Siyabonga is dead that is the only good news I can expect. Scar comes in

Scar: Bozza

Me: What bad news do you have

Scar: the lady got kidnapped at the palace and it looks like its been days

Me: WHAT HOW CAN SHE GET KIDNAPPED WHEN I TOLD YOU TO WATCH OVER HER. WHAT WERE

YOUR GUYS DOING. HUH

Scar: I don't know boss how it happened.

Me: FIND HER NOW I GIVE YOU LESS THAN 30HOURS TO BRING ME A LEAD. MY WIFE CAN'T DISAPPEAR AND WHERE IS THAT BOYFRIEND OF HIS. DAMN SCAR I AM DISAPPOINTED IN YOU MXM GET OUT OF HERE NOW AND COME BACK WITH A LEAD.

He leaves and I am pacing up and down trying to figure out what is going on. A call comes through and it is an UNKNOWN NUMBER

Caller: YOU SON OF A BITCH ,HOW MANY DEATH WISHES DO YOU HAVE. YOU TOOK MY DIAMONDS I LET YOU GO. YOU CAME AND HARRASED MY GIRL IN MY OWN HOME I DIDN'T BOTHER YOU. NOW YOU TOOK MY GIRL FROM MY PALACE. BOY YOU ARE PLAYING WITH FIRE. IF YOU KNOW WHATS GOOD FOR YOU , YOU WILL HAVE MY GIRL DELIVERED TO MY HOME IN LESS THAN AN HOUR .

Me: whooaaa Razor hold your horses. I didn't take the lady I just got the news of her kidnapping now(Calm voice)

Him: AM I SUPPOSED TO BUY THAT STORY. BRING WHATS MINE AND WE WILL TAKE IT FROM THERE.

Me: list.....tu...tu...tu...tu....tu.(the call ends) (The son of a bitch dropped the call. I smash the phone on the wall in rage). How dare he accuses me of kidnapping my wife. How come he doesn't have a lead. Razor doesn't fail unless Lihle is his weakness.

Me: (talking alone)I need to find her before he does . I cannot help but think of the shock that was visible on Scars face when I talked of them finding my woman. I no longer trust these guys .The way they were acting today was rather strange. They were all

jumpy and clingy. They were talking less. What are they hiding from me . Do they know about Lihle where abouts or they are just as freaked out as I am.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SIYABONGA'S WAREHOUSE

Ayibongwe has to pay for making my woman cry ,manhanddling whats mine and kidnapping her was the final blow. The guys are trying to locate Lihle while am on my way to deal with Linathi. The inner me needs a starter and its unfortunate that Linathi is in the picture. I enter the room where Linathi is , she lifts her head and looks at me

Her:(pleading) Bonga please let me go

Me: Not until you tell me the truth, where is Lihle.

Her: I don't know( sniffing)

Me: for the second time where is Lihle

Her: please believe me I don't know.

Me: Believe you( laughing) I would be very stupid to believe a snake. You parade yourself as an Angel but I know who you are and your capabilities. And you know what will happen if I get angry.

Her: please Bonga

Me: Your pleading is annoying Linathi I dont have the whole day ,you think am bluffing ( he walks towards a table with different sharp tools on it he takes the sharpest tool which is small and light called the burner.)

His forehead is now sweaty and his heavy breaths echoing in the room signifying his rage, the beast is trying to come out but he can not let it kill her before knowinh Lihles location. He puts his big

razor on the burner. Linathi is already a crying mess. Siyas phone rings and an MMS flashes on the screen.

He received a video of Lihle on an electric chair. The man on the video is wearing a mask, he can not see him and the video ends with Lihle crying. A call comes through on his phone. And he picks it

Siya : Hello who are you

Caller: I take it you got my message let Linathi go or Princess here will die look at her she is pale and weak. I can feel her pain and she is weak.( all this while Mdluli has his mouth covered so that Siya would not pick the similarity of his voice)

Siya signals Smokes to track the call, he nods and ask him to drag the call

Siya: Who are you, don't hurt her. Your beef is with me. I will let her go if you promise you don't hurt her more

Caller: you are in no position to make demands.

Siya: okay

Caller : you don't have time just 14 hours my daughter should be home safe and your lady admitted at a hospital. I will send the address. He cuts the call.

Smokes signals that he might have got something. He keeps clicking the numerous buttons on the computer key board . Siya is impatiently waiting for him to say something .

Siya :did u get it I don't trust this person he might be fooling me let's go get Lihle.

Smokes: it will take long tracing this call it's a burner phone but they left loopholes. I can crack them give me time

Siya: Time are you fucken kidding me. Time is not what I have

Smokes : boss your impatience is not making things easy either .

Meanwhile on the table with numerous computers that Smokes has been working on . A beeping sound alarms them,a red light is now flashing. Smokes looks at the screen on his right showing maps and tags on his fellow man and realises that the man's map has been tampered with. The cars all ended up in the wrong location. He starts scratching his head and wiping off the sweat in his face.

Smokes: hayi bo kanti ngiyanyelwa nje

Siya: whatever you saying better not be accompanied by bad news or else I will go insane  
Smokes.

Smokes: boss the maps for the guys have been tampered with . they are all in the wrong place

Siya: Fuck fuck fuck( all his frustration is written all over his face )

Siya walks out of the warehouse into the open space at the back . His breathing rate has escalated . All he feels is Lihles weakness. He holds his head and kneels on the grass and cries pulling off the grass. All the emotions hit him hard ,fear, confusion,frustration,loneliness. He is feeling all the emotions . Lihle's emotions and his own . He cries harder and the shouts on top of his voice with the cold harsh night wind striking him

Siya: WHY ! WHY ! I SAID WHHHHHYYYY! YOU CHOSE ME TO PROTECT HER TO LOVE HER AND



STAND WITH HER. YOU MADE ME HER PILLAR AND  
L GAVE HER MY HEART IN RETURN. WHY ARE  
DOING THIS TO ME. YOU GAVE ME A BEAST ,BUT  
YET UNSTABLE. WHY DOES EVERYTHING HAVE TO  
BE COMPLICATED. HOW DO I PROTECT HER WHEN  
MY GIFT IS UNSTABLE. HOW DO L STAND WITH  
HER WHEN L NEVER GET A CHANCE TO BE WITH  
HER. WHEN IS ALL THIS GOING TO END. WE ARE  
HUMANS WE FEEL . YOU CALL YOURSELVES  
ANCESTORS OMNTUNGWA. SHOW YOURSELF ,I  
WANT TO SEE THE FACE OF COWARDS WHO HIDE  
BEHIND BEASTS FAILING TO PROTECT THEIR OWN.  
I NEED HER. L WANT HER ,I FEEL HER . BUT MY  
VISION IS BLOCKED. HOW DO L FIND MY HEART.  
PLEASE HELP ME BRING HER HOME. SHE IS MY  
HOME. SHE IS MY LIFE MY SANITY . SHE IS THE  
ONE WHO YOU CHOSE TO TAME ME. ALLOW THE  
NDLANGAMANDLA IN ME TO SEEK AND PROTECT  
ITS OWN TONIGHT.

Siya continues to cry pleading with his ancestors. All the guards in the warehouse are watching him. They are all shocked to see their boss at his weakest. Siya then stands up and looks into the night sky and says his final words

Siya: NDLANGAMANDLA! NDLANGAMANDLA!  
NDLANGAMANDLA!

Meanwhile the night sky clears leaving the moon in the open. The light from the moon shines directly upon Siya who is now changing form to a huge creature. His whole body bulky and now 6 feet tall. His whole body hairy. His loud breaths are audible. He is hearing ever little thing from the voices in the

warehouse, car horns 10km from the warehouse, the ticking ants in the soil to the aeroplane sound . His vision now blue,seeing every movemt made by a muscle in the body. He stands tall and sniffs into the cold air catching Lihles scent coming from the North West. He runs towards the direction and.....

## A GIFT CURSED INSERT 32

### SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM

The Serpants drive into Mdluli's hide out after being sent by Ayibongwe to go and look for Lihle. They are all panicking like headless chickens . They enter the hideout and follow the voice they are hearing which is Mdluli's . They find Mdluli on a phone call and they all watch him moving about whilst threatening the other person on the call. They all wait impatiently fidgeting and whispering among themselves in the room. All this while Mdluli is watching them but concentrating on the call.

Mdluli drops the phone after talking to Siya. He starts pacing up and down thinking of the best way possible he could strike . He looks at the Serpants and sees the fear written all over their faces . He walks towards them and looks at each and every

one of them .He leaves them and walks into one of the rooms and starts assembling a number of different concoctions . He mixes them together in a small bucket and adds water . He calls his boys and tells them to put all their weapons on top of the black cloth that has been spread on the floor. They all lay down their weapons. Mdluli start to sprinkle all of them with his concocotion. He also sprinkles the bullets they were going to use and made each and everyone one of them drink the concoction. He chants a gibberish language for a while ,whilst all his men were standing before him with the guns and other weapons infront of them. He stops chanting and looks at them then tells them to pick their weapons.

Mdluli: (looking at the Serpants) why are your hearts beating out of your chests

Them:( looking at each other)

Mdluli: am talking to the Serpants,the rest of you can leave( the other guys leave )

Scar: our other boss is about to find out

Mdluli: find out what . Talk

Scar:( looking down) Ngamla the girl we kidnapped for you is the girl that the other boss likes

Mdluli: manje ngingena ngaphi lapho

Scar: he doesn't know that we are double agents and he asked us to look for her

Mdluli:( with an irritated tone) again ngingena ngaphi lapho

Scar: boss man he is a psycho. We would like to ask for your protection against him. And we can keep tabs on him for you to know if he will be planning anything against you. We can work as your spies.

Mdluli: (smiling) I like that and all you get is my

protection nothing else right.

Scar: kugrend boss. But he is coming after her

Mdluli: ngizombona after . You should prepare for what's coming ,its a single man who has the strength of a thousand. Those guns will help you weaken him. Get ready he is nearing I can feel his presence

The guys walk out . They do their formation and everyone stands in their assigned positions. On the other hand Mdluli waits impatiently for Ndlangamandla's arrival. He feels the great force within and around him coming towards the hideout. He starts to feel sharp pains around his whole body as if he is being pierced. Lihle's presence in the opposite room make things even more difficult for him. He starts to feel his body overheating,in pain as if he is in a pool of fire. On the other hand, the beast is running and running with the speed of a cheetah. It stops as soon as it reaches the hideout. It is heavily panting whilst scanning the whole territory. It closes its eyes trying to connect with its chosen one. When it catches Lihles faint heartbeat it quickly opens its eyes and looks around the whole territory. It sees all the men surrounding the place from those on top of the roof,others surrounding the building. It then extends its vision and sees where Lihle is being kept in which a the number of guys are surrounding the room with one guy in the same building with Lihle. The beasts then moves slowly towards the fence and jumps over. As soon as the guys see it they start firing and bullets fly across the grounds .Siya moves swiftly towards the man slicing each mans throat with his nails. One of the bullets hits him and he pays no attention to it and hunts his prey. The other

guys without guns attack him . He rips off their throat with his bare hands leaving a trail of bodies on the ground. He runs towards the hideout door going towards Lihle's direction. On the other hand ,Siya's presence in the hideout makes Mdluli run for his life. He leaves Lihle in the hideout as he feels the greatness around Siya .

\*\*\*\*\*

## AT SIYABONGA'S WAREHOUSE

Smokes is glued on the computer ,barking directions to the Smiling Assassins whose coordinates were tempered with. On the other hand he is busy pressing Siya's tracker code on the computer to know his whereabouts. As soon as he gets them he sends the coordinates to the Smiling Assassins whose mission had failed after finding the Serpents hideout clear. Smokes calls the commander

Convo

Smokes: Razor needs you be on his tail now

.....

Smokes: you will be getting the coordinates any minute

.....

Smokes: destroy, demolish and decorate. Leave no man standing

.....

Smokes: I am out . ( he hangs up)

On the other hand the the Smiling Assassins change their course and drive towards Mdluli's hideout

while their commander tells the details of their new mission which is to destroy everything. Upon their arrival the sound of bullets and guns alerts their arrival in the territory. Mdluli's man fail to see where the bullets are coming from only the man falling one after the other as the Assassins move closer and closer to the hideout entrance.

Whilst inside the hideout Siya gets into the room where Lihle is kept. He finds Lihle weak and weary. Her face is pale whilst her clothes are all dirty and stained in blood. She is on the floor and her breathing is faint. Siya walks towards her and carries her and moves out .He finds his man waiting for him at the hideout entrance. They all run towards him ,one of them take Lihle from him. Siya starts to feel tired and weak ,that was lights out for him and he collapsed on the ground.

On the other hand his man run towards him . He starts to breath uncontrollably on the ground with black veins popping all over his body starting from the bullet hole . They carry him into the car and drive straight to the warehouse .

\*\*\*\*\*

AYIBONGWE

These boys can't be trusted I am starting to doubt them. When I asked Scar that he has 30hours he was shocked and shaking I hope they did not double cross me. I take my other phone(smashed that one on the wall) and call my old friend that I once worked with. I know he will find Lihle in less than 24hours. He is the best, he left the game and went to Australia to start a family I need him.

He picks up on the 3rd ring her wife answers

Him: Sho its been long I know you what do you want.

Me: You are crazy, yes I need help my wife got kidnapped and my crew is acting weird I don't trust anyone.

Him: WIFE and how come I wasn't invited at the wedding.

Me: I will explain everything on our next call get me my wife man I am loosing my mind

Him: Send her picture and last location I will call you back after 20 hours. I got you boy

Me: Shoo mfethu I am counting on you. Thanks my man

He drops the calls. I sigh in relief I need to prepare to go get my wife. I am still finishing my plans and I here an unusual sound in the office. I slowly reach out for my gun under the table and I suddenly feel a cold object at the back of my head. I then try to load the gun and he pushes the gun harder on my head

Him: I wouldn't do that if I were you

Me: ( letting go of the gun) only a coward says that

Him:( laughing) move bastard. Put your hands on your head and move them slowly down to your waist . Touch nothing and do it slowly

Me: ( I do as he says and he hand cuffs me) who sent you

Him: do I look like one of the snitches who worked for you

Me: snitches

Him: for a gangster you such an amateur. MOVE!!

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 33

NOT EDITED

AT SIYABONGA WAREHOUSE

Four black jeeps with tinted windows wheel in through the front gate. All of Siyas boys are already standing at the entrance waiting for the Assassins .On the other hand Waves in the mini hospital inside the warehouse Waves is waiting for the guys to bring in Siya and Lihle. The two are carried straight to the mini hospital and Waves starts by examining Lihle who looks pale and lifeless . He does all the necessary examinations and puts an oxygen mask on her to stabilise her.

Meanwhile on the other bed Siya is breathing heavily .He is shaking and sweating profusely groaning in pain. Waves rushes to him and examines him preaprig to operate him. The veins on Siya's stomach near the bullet hole had now spread out towards his upper body nearing to the chest,everything was now covered in black veins . Siya kept groaning in pain while Waves removed the bullet from his belly.Waves took out the small scissors and carefully searched for the bullet which was met by Siya's groans as it moves inside the



wound. Waves manages to remove the bullet and started cleaning the wound then sewing the raw flesh together in place.

On the other hand Siya's breathing was now faint while a weak Siya gathered himself up from the bed with his last strength and touched Waves hand for support. He looked at him for the longest time accuquring all the strength in his body to speak

Siya: tell me she is okay( flinching in pain)

Waves: Razor mfethu eish

Siya: Waves talk

Waves:( looking down) she was raped mfethu, she suffered multiple injuries in her womb and one of her ovaries burst. Which means she will depend on one to have children. And I called in a female doctor for further examination on her

Siya: ( with tears streaming down) Tell her I love her when she wakes up. Take care of her no matter what. I am counting on you .

Siya started having seizures on the bed whilst the machines connected to his body beeped uncontrollably. Siya slowly layed down on the bed with visible tears in his eyes ,he closed his eyes allowing darkness to overshadow him. Tears flowed out from his eyes splashing on the bed he was laying on. The machines beeped for a while and then went dead silent. Waves moved closer to his body and checked the machines and switched them off.

The rest of the boys came in running and stood still like frozen statues as they watched Waves covering Siyas body with a sheet. They all looked at each other hoping someone would wake them from their visible nightmare .

\*\*\*\*\*

LIHLELETHU

NARRATED

Lihle is still laying unconscious on the bed in the mini hospital in Siyas ware house. She is in her own world where she is standing in the middle of nowhere only seeing a figure before her .

Lihle: Siya ! Siya ! (walking towards the person whose back is facing her direction. His buff body and visible tattoos show that its Siya but he is not answering me )

Lihle:( touching his shoulder ,whilst turning him around) Siya! Siya! ( numerous emotions are visible on his face)

Siya:( with a sad tone) Lihle

Me: You came for me ,l thought l was going to die

Siya: (crying ) l am sorry ,l was late

Me: (crying and stammering) Siya they ....they...they

Siya: l am sorry my love . l was so blind ,l never realised when all those scavengers were coming for you . l concentrated on the wrong things and forgot my priority which is you. I never opened up and told you the truth which consumed you and left you broken. I am sorry l came late ,l am sorry l wasn't there for you. Now l am drifting into the dark paying for my sins . l love you Lihle and l am sorry that l won't be able to undo what has been done. I will always be there by your side . l care for you and l got you

Lihle:( looking at Siya walking away) Siya l can't

lose you please where are you going

Siya: I have meaning to leave all those nights cause I never deserved someone as pure as you, I was weak and I gave up countless times but you held me. You still here but I know that your heart is getting cold am holding tight but its getting real now you better off without me. I love you but I cannot stay. You are better off without me .( he starts to walk away disappearing into empty space)

Lihle: ( crying hysterically) I can't lose you please . Siya please . I can't lose you please don't leave me all alone here . Siya you all I have

Siya: Before I met you I never knew what it was like; to look at someone and smile for no reason. that cute face of yours that adorable touch of yours the beautiful voice. My life rocked because of you. It was filled with laughter, fun and so much excitement, felt great , you completely gave evidence to the purpose of relation which is not to have someone who may be with you completely but to have someone with whom you can share your incompleteness completely and you were that person. You gave me something no one ever gave me and that was your love ,its warm and comforting. It made me feel again it melted my stone cold self and made me live again . I don't regret loving you but one thing that haunts me is me being your source of pain. I can do anything for you even if it means sacrificing my happiness and joy so that you may be happy . You are my joy but if I have to let go as to protect you from myself I won't think twice before doing it . Thats how much you mean to me cause you all I have and my very own world is you. I love you and am sorry I have to leave .

Lihle: My love ,my pillar ,my strength. Never did I

think I would find an angel like you . I never knew that angels could be found in the form of human. You came into my life and everything changed ,when ever I felt like giving up you always reminded me of where I was going and how important my journey was. I would have never made it without you. You came and made sense in my senseless world. I never thought I would reach this far. I don't want us to end but am a broken soul living a painful and hurtful life that no one sees or even believes .when ever I tell my story people think I make it up but my heart only knows the pain and how broken I am ...am broken to the soul ...the people I was supposed to have as my family and my only world are the ones who are my enemies ...I don't know how love feels like....but one thing I know is that my love for you is pure ...behind all this completed person you see is the most pure love ever ...since I never been loved I instead loved you the way I wish to be loved and made you feel the kind of love I want to feel ...I might be broken but the love you felt the very first time ...that's me deep down ...that's Lihlelethu...I might be complicated but that's me ...I don't want to lose you because you the one person I have given my heart and my all to even if I am not good at showing it ...but I love you it comes from within. Please do not leave me.

Siya: (waving) bye Lihle always stay strong and never allow anything or anyone to break your spirit.

Meanwhile, Lihle keeps tossing and turning in the bed calling out for Siya's name . It alarms the absent minded Wave in the room who is lost in his thoughts. He looks at Lihle and back at Siya's body and is left defeated.

\*\*\*\*\*

## IN THE PALACE

Noxolo and her three sons are sitting having a heated conversation about the contract which the young man are trying to make their mother sign without reading in place of their father . Mdluli walks in covered in dust and dirt and stands before them. A servant tries to announce him but he gives her a deadly look and she walks out with her tail between her legs.

Mdluli:Noxolo!( they all turn startled by the roaring voice across the room)

Queen: ( stammering ) Mdl.. Mdluli..what are you doing here

Mdluli: is that how the royal family welcomes their guest

Siyanda: a guest like you( with a disgusted look)

Mdluli: boy I would revise my expressions if I were you. You might be looking at your biological father right now

Simphiwe: father wamasimba

Mdluli:( looking at Noxolo) they don't know me .

Queen: Mdluli please

Sivuyile: what are you talking about baba

Mdluli: ( at Sivuyile) now that is respect there my son. Its so unfortunate that you still in the dark . Your mother has not told you yet whose seeds you are . I mean I might be your father too. Noxolo are they mine? ( with a weird smile)

Queen: ( panicking) what do you want Mdluli!

Mdluli: first don't raise your voice at me. Secondly

tell that useless son of yours to realise my grandchild or else allhell will break loose( looking at the boys ) even your sons here will hate you with passion. After all they are not his.

Queen: I will do something about it

Mdluli: do something? That is not enough . You have two days or else you will be dancing another tune puppet( he walks out leaving Noxolo frozen in the middle of the dinning room)

Siyanda: how about you start talking and we will do the listening

Simpihiwe: did Siya cause all this. You are being blackmailed by someone now

Siyanda: ma tell us and we will deal with that useless brat

Queen: I need some air(walking out)

Sivuyile: (shouting)mom what are you hiding( with a straight face)

Siyanda: what would mom do she is harmless

Sivuyile: even a snake is harmless until it bites and the poison consumes you

Simpihiwe: what are you insinuating

Sivuyile: you all are blind . Mom is our mother but that does not mean she doesn't do bad. She is a Queen after all. Did you see how scared she was when that dirty man walked in her. Should I also count the moment he started talking about us being possibly his sons. She panicked!! Our dearest mother is hiding something and I am going to find out and Siya is part of it too.

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 34

AYIBONGWE

I am in a room and all the lights are flashing me ,with the light piercing through my eyes. The heat from the lights is making me sweat. I am failing to see anything beyond my feet. The light is too bright that I cannot even see the faces that are talking. Heavy footsteps scratch the floors and it makes it difficult for me to hear where the footsteps are coming from. Suddenly all the lights are turned off leaving one dim light in front of me. One of Razors man walk up to me ,its only then I realise that Razor had sent his men on me. Three of them stand before me and with only one of them seated on the chair before me. He smokes and finish before talking .

Smokes: you do know you foolish right

Me: uqonda ukuthini

Smokes: exactly what I meant

Me: ( with an annoyed look) lalela la ntwana ,me being a prisoner doesn't mean you should grow wings

Smokes: I already have the wings . And guess what am the Angel of Death . Junior Satan its a pleasure to meet you too bastard

Me:( clicking his tongue) uyaphapha(You are forward)

Smokes: am not here to play games . What kind of

poison did you use

Me: do I look like a snake to you

Smokes: what do you think you are, you betrayed a man who spared your damn life. Went after his girl too. Doesn't that sound like a snake to you ?

Me: if she doesn't have a ring on her finger it means she is still on the market .

Smokes: you are sick you son of a bitch. Do you even love her

Me: I worship the ground she walks on

Smokes: and thats how you worship it by assaulting her and sending your man to violate her

Me: I had to do ...( with eyes popped out) did you say violate

Smokes: fokof wena ngikhanya ngani ngiligqwetha lakho Mina(do I look like your lawyer)

Me: ULihle wadlwengulwa?( Lihle was raped)

Smokes: voetsek wena . Wathumela imigodoyi yakho . You thought you were going to be her saviour . Usungu Jesu wena. UJesu omnyama so( pointing at him)

(you sent your dogs to rape her. You are now Jesus. Black Jesus)

Me: (stuttering) Li..Lihle is she okay

Smokes: uyazin okungibambileyo ukuthi ngikucobodise nje yinto eyodwa njeh. Kodwa akutsho ukuthi sungangibuza imibuzo . I do the asking and you do the answering siyezwana(you should be grareful something is holding me from killing you. But that doesn't give you the right to ask questions. Are we clear)

Me: I would never send men to rape her . I fucken love her she is my jewel.



Smokes: your boys were there guarding her when  
Razor got there explain that

Me: what boys.

Smokes: yeka ukungenza islima wena. The Serpents  
were the ones guarding Lihle ( am not stupid)

Me: Those Snitches . ( clenching his jaws) I knew  
there snitching . They went for my woman . Fuck  
fuck fuck

Smokes: (clapping) nice show mfethu what an  
episode . Suqedile okay you may answer my  
question now.(...brother...are you done)

Me: I can never...

Smokes: damn right you can. You fucken betrayed  
the man who spared your life so why not

Me: mfethu...(brother)

Smokes: am not your brother let's clear that first .  
okay qubeka ke Satan ,Jesus wannabe(...you may  
continue ...)

Me: I love Lihle and I can never hurt her . She is....

Smokes: nothing to you and wena you are crazy .  
Should I say bipolar, multiple personalities to be  
precise. You are capable of anything.

Ungazonginyela

Me: (with a deep voice) don't you DARE interrupt me  
when am talking

Smokes: or what , are you gonna poison me or kill  
me too

Me: you won't like it

Smokes: I will rip that throat off and open that  
stomach of yours and roast the intestines and feed  
them to your thieves . Angithi unguJesu wena.Now  
talk ( ...isn't it you Jesus..)

Me: I do not know anything .

\*\*\*\*\*

MDLULI

NARRATED

Mdluli walks out of the palace frustrated, heavily panting in anger. He is wondering how Ndlangamandla manifested in Siya when he wasn't stable. The absence of his grandchild who he had promised to protect with his life is still eating him up. Meanwhile the footstep of a person walking behind him alarm him and he turns before he reaches the car he had used.

Mdluli: (with his back against the person) what do you want and why are you following me

Sivuyile: I was wondering if you could help me baba

Mdluli: you haven't answered my question boy

Sivuyile: I am Sivuyile and I need your help baba

Mdluli: ( turning facing him) you are here for answers that will weigh heavily on you boy . This is not for small boys like you especially ones who aren't even born of the Khumalo men

Sivuyile: I don't understand

Mdluli : like I said its too heavy for you. Go home and be the little boy you are and stay out of spiritual battles

Sivuyile: spiritual battles

Mdluli: boy you are just a lost soul . One I am not interested yet to be part of my Kingdom .

Sivuyile: I just wanted to know what you meant when you said you could be our biological father

Mdluli: how many times does a chameleon change

colour boy

Sivuyile: more than once baba

Mdluli: does a cobra give you warning when its about to bite

Sivuyile: chaa

Mdluli: that's the true definition of what gave birth to you .

Sivuyile: you mean my mother is ...

Mdluli: I gave you the starting point. Its up to you if you want to run the race or turn back boy . But if you are going to run it your heart should be stone cold

Sivuyile: why are you telling me this . What if you are just trying to make me turn against my mother

Mdluli: you are seeking answers to what you already know Nkosana. The truth is heavy for you but among all of you ,you are the wisest . I knew you before birth and I know how you were conceived .

Sivuyile: my mother ,how... how do you know her

Mdluli: she is one of my subjects

Sivuyile: and what are you supposed to be ,a King ?

Mdluli: even Kings fear me . ( with a roaring voice) I AM YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE BOY. Go home and advice your mother to bring what's mine and I will spare all your lives

Sivuyile: is that a threat

Mdluli: I can make you die a thousand deaths before the actual one. Its not a threat its a warning .When I come I will come like a thief you will only see the damage when am gone( he walks away enters the car and the driver drives off)

The car leaves the smoke of dust which lands on Sivuyile . Who coughs and sneezes uncontrollably

whilst clicking his tongue.

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 35

LINATHI

NARRATED

In the cells Linathi is seated on the chair, watching the ceiling . She wonders why Siya has not released her after threatening him. She knows deep down the plan worked but why she is still being kept is not clear to her.

Ghost :( in a sarcastic tone) still day dreaming your majesty.

Linathi: (exhausted) when am I leaving. Can I talk to Bonga

Ghost: (in a low tone) he won't be of any use to you now and we . I mean you and I are going to play a game.

Linathi: what game

Ghost : look at me (smirking) we going to have fun . I promise I won't disappoint

Ghost walks towards the chair Linathi is seated on and calls for the two guards standing outside. The

both walk in carrying a stretcher . Linathi stands up immediately and runs towards the door and which she finds locked. She clings to the door handle tightly and starts screaming. The two guards both walk towards her . They grab her pulling her towards the stretcher with Ghost watching in amusement. Linathi falls on the floor escaping the guards' grip and crawls fast back to the door and tries to reach it but the men both pull her by her legs . She tries to kick them off but she fails and they continue pulling her on the concrete floor with her but exposed . They put her on the stretcher and pin her down whilst they strap the belts on her. The more she screams the more satisfied Ghost gets. When they are done strapping her the man lift up the stretcher and head to the slaughter house as instructed by Ghost.

The guys struggle to maintain Linathi whilst Ghost leads the way they slow down. As soon they enter the slaughter room Linathi sees a smiling Ghost sharpening his tools. The men lay her on top of the steel table. She weeps silently watching Ghost wearing gloves and an apron picking up his tools walking towards her . She watches him slicing a portion of flesh on her thighs . She screams but it all falls on deaf ears . Meanwhile Wave stands from a distance with his kits waiting to work on LINATHI who they want to watch everything being done to her. She shivers and shacks in pain. Ghost pours methylated spirit on the wound watching a sweating and crying Linathi. He then presses a button below the table which moves the table to stand vertically and slides a lower plate which her body is on leaving her back in the open. He starts to whip her with a chain until her back and clothes are ripped . White flesh appears on her back. He pours

methyated spirit on it and Linathi groans of pain echo across the whole room.

He leaves her and walks towards a fire with burning coals and puts a metal bar in it . He approaches her face and starts talking to her.

Ghost : well well mighty you were and fallen you are. You have no reason to blackmail a dead man do you

Linathi: ( faint voice) dead

Ghost: sorry for your loss your majesty but Siyabonga is dead ( evil laugh) now this is for playing with the wrong people. You should never even dream of Lihle . Think of her and see your death

SILENCE (Sniffs are audible )

Ghost: if Lihle shades a tear you will be the first to loose your life .

He walks towards the burning coals and removes the metal bar in the coals which is now bright red. He carries it towards Linathi. On the metal bar a mark (X) is curved on it . Ghost slowly brings it closer to Linathi's cheek and burns her with it. She whails and cries until she is left weak from all the pain. As soon as he removes it the mark is left of her cheek ,fresh still dripping with blood.

Ghost: and this mark will stand as a reminder when you decide to harm Lihle again look at yourself in the mirror

Linathi: ( stammering) l...l...( words fail her and she loses all her strength and collapses)

Ghost: Waves you can treat her . I will have the boys deliver her to the palace.

Waves: dont you think you went too far  
Ghost: far did you fucken say far. ( pointing at her )  
this is the same bitch that made Razor live in  
shadows, she is the same bitch who. Wants to hurt  
the same person he asked us to protect and this very  
bitch is the one who was threatening to ruin his life .  
Wake up Waves ,this is a war its not a game . Be  
prepared because this is only the beginning . The  
death of Siyabonga will not go in vain aslong I  
breathe and I am still the right hand man .  
Waves: hade bozza bengibuza nje just that ...  
Ghost : ngiyakuzwa mfethu but we had to do what  
had to be done. ( he walks out leaving Waves  
treating Linathi's wounds preventing them from  
being infected)

\*\*\*\*\*

TWO DAYS LATER

IN SIYABONGA'S WAREHOUSE

Ghost has multiplied the security and has taken over  
everything. He has assembled all the men to discuss  
the way forward and how to deal with Psycho.  
Finding means to make him talk about the poison he  
used on Siya. They all get startled by the loud  
thunder that claps outside the warehouse .  
Lightning flashes across the whole room followed by  
a deaf silence. All the men look at each other then  
Flames stands up from the chair he was sitted on  
and peeps through the window. What he sees his  
eyes were never prepared for . He sees whirl winds  
around the whole compound which are slowly  
making all the cars outside shake.  
Meanwhile in the mini hospital MaNxumalo stands

between Siya and Lihle's beds . She touches Lihle's mouth opening it a little and her whole spirit enters Lihle. Lihle's body slowly raises from the bed whilst surrounded by a stream of different coloured light above her . Her body slowly lands back on the bed. Her eyes open,which are now pure white like pearls . She stands from the bed and walks towards Siyas body. She touches the body then moves back again. She lifts one of her hand sending the exit door flying across the hall way leaving the guards standing by the door way startled . She then lifts both her hands and Siyas body begins to rise from the bed . A stream of wind surroundes Siyas body making it float from the bed to the open space in the mini hospital. The stream of coloured light starts to glow again around Siya. The guards in the door both look inside the room and get frightened by the sight of a woman with white eyes and a floating body surrounded by light. They all run towards the room where Ghost and the rest of the men are strategising their plans. Meanwhile she walks out of the room going outside and then stands near the whirlwinds. On the other hand ,the guards enter the room with the other men panting as if they hand their lungs in their hands . Everyone in the looks at them and all they manage to do is point outside . Everyone in the room stands quickly gathering thier guns and they all run outside only to be met by the most unbelievable sight. There stands Lihle with a floating Siya in front of her ,whirlwinds are surrounding the whole compound whilst light directly shines upon Siya. Lihles eye colour makes everything more unbelievable.All the other guards run and stand behind Siyas crew.



Smokes: (laughing) amasimba lawa lingadlali ngami asiqaleni phansi . You didn't tell me we had a magician in the house ( this is bullshit ,dont play around infact let's start again )

Flames: Hayi Smokes Mani

Smokes: ( shaking his head) Razor was dating umthakathi all this while thina sisokola ngama mission whilst he had such a weapon. Nxah maarn kayife leyanja( ...a witch ...we laboured with missions...nxah let that dog die)

Waves: ( looking at Smokes) you sure have the wrong timing

Smokes: Hayi hlukanani lami . Razor is selfish nyew nyew protect Lihle ,protect into enje do you see what I am see . Phela she is stronger than any of us( leave me alone.....)

Ghost: (shouting) Smokes !!!

Smokes: wait wait mfethu angikaqedi Mina. Is she even a girl . Phela kufana lokuthi sithwele izigodo( looking at his gun then throwing it away) akula difference she still gonna kill us phela and that gun is a toy to her . (raising his hands) kulungile ntando makuyibaba yakho(brother I haven't finished...its the same as carrying sticks).

Gunner:( laughing) even on your death day you still stupid. Its Kulungile baba makuyintando yakho wena satan ( its okay father if its your will)

Meanwhile Lihle is listening to everything the men are saying and watching them making useless arguments . She finally speaks.

Lihle/MaNxu: ( with a deep roaring voice alarming the guys) you have to follow me . He needs to be taken to the oracle

Smokes: mana sis sesingadlala ngokunye follow you where. Wena hamba and leave Razor behind( wait sister we can play with other things ...you can go ....)  
Lihle/Manxu: I was not asking I was telling you. (She raises her other hand sending one of the guards flying across the compound) Landelani ( follow me)  
Ghost: (stammering) we will follow you lead the way

Lihle raises both her hands whilst walking toward the compound gate . All the whirlwinds move towards her formingva one huge whirlwind which was covered by white thick smoke. A penetrating light and the stream of lights shines inside the whirlwind whilst it envelopes Siya and Lihle in it. The whirl wind moves swiftly causing a heavy earthquake in the ground moving out of the compound. The rest of Siyas men all enter their cars with the other guards with them heavily armed and follow the whirlwind.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ORACLE'S HOUSE

"Vuka! Vuka!" The oracle stands up quickly from the grass mat he is seated on . He scans the whole compound and sees nothing. He immediately stands tall and looks again and sees blurry images in front of him.

Oracle: sivezeni litsho ukuthi lingobani ( show yourselves)

Six figures stand in front of him. Three of the Khumalo ancestors stand in front of him adorned in their traditional attires . Each with his beast beside

him . One of them being the late Khayaalethu. The eldest of the ancestors speaks

Ancestor: Vusumuzi lungiselela inkosana iyeza( prepare the prince is coming)

Oracle: yiphi inkosana Mntungwa( which prince)

Ancestor: indlalifa yakwaKhumalo ezelwe yodwa. Ilimele idinga usizo uMaNxumalo uza nayo( the only heir to the Khumalo ,the lone prince. He is hurt he needs help MaNxumalo is coming with him)

Oracle: MaNxumalo?

Ancestor: Vusumuzi lungisa indlu yamadlozi .

Sizokuvezela indlela okumele uyincede ngayo.

Shesha isizafika ( prepare the ancestral hut. We will show you how you are supposed to heal him. Hurry he is about to arrive)

The oracle ,prepares the room quickly awaiting for the prince. He asks no more and does as he is told. Upon preparing he starts to feel the ground shaking and thunder and lighting shining brightly across the sky. A strong wind blowing heavily. He prepares it quickly and walks out to stand before the gate awaiting the princes arrival . On the other hand the ancestors with their beasts all stand beside him looking forward where a white cloud like whirlwind is approaching moving towards their direction followed by numerous black jeeps.

A GIFT CURSED

## INSERT 36

### AT THE ORACLE'S HOUSE

Lihle enters the compound with Siya and walks straight to the ancestral hut. The oracle starts burning incense moving around Siya's body. The Khumalo ancestors are present in the room and none of them is talking . They are all watching Siya but nothing is happening. His body is still and the poison has now moved all around his body. There is no sign of breathing or any movement . Lihle watches in silence ,before the oracle and the Khumalo could say anything . Khaya lethu looks at Lihle then nods his head. Lihle looks at Siya then back at Khaya and walks out of the hut.

The oracle mixes herbs and makes Siya drink them but he body fails to respond to any of the remedies the oracle keeps preparing. A tense atmosphere has generated in the hut and no one is speaking. The oracle then decides to cut the silence

Oracle: BoMntungwa inkosana sikhotheme so kwamele ibekwe ,sokuzanyiwe wonke amacinga kodwa kwehlule( Mntungwa the prince is dead we have to let him rest,we tried all remedies but our trials were fatal)

Ancestor: lalela ulalelisise akukho Nkosana yakwaKhumalo efayo uma isilwane sakhe sisaphila phakathi kwayo( listen and listen carefully there is not khumalo prince that dies when its beast still lives in it)

Oracle: liqonda ukuthini( what do you mean)

Ancestor: inkosana ayikhothamanga . (pointing at Siya) lo umntwana uzidla amaphaphu . Uzibeka icala lokuphathwa kabi kwesipho sakhe. Uwethukile njalo ulokwesaba . Uzobona engasafanele ukuyivikela( the prince is not dead,this child is feeling guilty. He finds himself responsible for Lihle's misfortune. He ia shocked and scared, he thinks he is no longer worthy to protect her)

Oracle: kodwa baba umzimba wayo uyaqanda nje( but his body is cold)

Ancestor: ilahlekile ezweni labafileyo labaphilayo. Umoya wakhe uphakathi laphakathi. Okufiswa yinhliziyi akufani lokufiswa yingqondo. ( he is lost between the land of the dead and the living . what his heart wants is not what the head wants)

Oracle: ngizomvusa njani ( how will I wake him up)

Ancestor: Abazali bayo inkosana bazoyikhupha kulingozi kunye lalo owayikhethelwayo. Wena uzomqinisa hatshi ukumvusa. Uyeza okufanele amvuse ( his parents will wake him and remove him from this danger. And you will strengthen him not wake him . the one to wake him is coming)

SILENCE

Meanwhile Khaya walks towards Siyas body and stands before his head . He looks at him.for a while before kneeling before him. As soon as he kneels before him he puts his forehead on Siya's and whispers in his ear. He repeats the same procedure for a while then finally stands up .

\*\*\*\*\*

AT THE PALACE

Guards standing before the gate get alarmed by a girl walking towards the palace leaving a trail of fire behind her whilst two small whirlwinds stand on either side of her. Guarding her. She reaches the palace gates and looks at both guards. The sight of her white eyes send shivers down their spine. She lifts up one of her hands and opens the gates which are pushed by a strong wind then steps into the palace. Her long hair is floating in the air in strands of fire. She walks towards the palace door leaving the two whirlwinds at the gate. She walks into the palace straight into the dining hall where she finds Noxolo and her sons. She stands in the middle of the room in which she is now a pillar of fire. Her face is visible but her whole body is covered in flames. She looks at Noxolo then back at her sons and walks away. She walks towards the palace passage leading to the underground cells.

Meanwhile Noxolo stands frightened and dumbfounded at the sight of Lihle. She realises what Lihle is doing and what she came for and runs to block her way. Lihle looks at her and smiles before touching her. The state and fire around Lihle being that of a pure one causes great torture to the Queen resulting in her screaming in agony. As the fire torments her, Noxolo sees all the bad deeds she has done and all the blood she has spilt. The fire kept weakening her and consuming her. The consuming fire burnt her resulting in Noxolo showing her true form, the side which Lihle was holding had already changed to the demon Noxolo was. On the other hand Noxolo's three sons had crouched in a corner bundled up like grass.

Lihle let's go when Noxolo was weak and walked

past her leaving a collapsing Noxolo on the floor. She walks towards the passage that leads to the underground prison. She glides to the prison cells until she reaches the last cell. The fire around her lights up the dark prison. She touches the gate of the cell and enters . There was King Nqobile laying flat on the floors. Cockroaches and rats crawling on top of him. His royal clothes dusty and ragged. His flesh showing rat bites up to his face . Lihle raised one of her hands and blew on it creating a large flame on the Kings body which made the crawling creatures leave his body.Lihle then walked towards his body and breathed a small ball of fire into his mouth.

The King started coughing and shaking then his body stopped moving for a while. He then opened his eyes slowly. His vision was blurry which made him close his eyes again and he rubbed them but the soles on his face and hands rubbing against each other came with so much pain. He opened his eyes for the second time where he met a Lihle surrounded by fire. King Nqobile jumped on his feet with his eyes popped out and staggered at a corner with his swollen legs . He tried to open his mouth and talk but failed.

Meanwhile Lihle watched him frightened and failing to speak. On the floor where she was she looked around the prison cell and touched the floor. Water droplets came from every corner and gathered together before her forming a huge water droplet which Lihle cupped in her hands. She moved towards King Nqobile with it and looked at him.King Nqobile froze and clung closely to the wall looking at Lihle blinking continuously. Lihle gave him an assuring look and nodded with her head

spreading out her arms towards the King reaching his face. The King moved his head looking on the other side trying to move away from the flames on Lihle. She then spoke

Lihle/MaNxu: drink I will not hurt you . I came to free you . Your torment is not in my hands ( the King hesitated then drank the water whilst looking at Lihle's white eyes)

King: where am I

Lihle/ MaNxu: this was your home

King: home? How

Lihle/ MaNxum: you hold the truth to freeing the lone prince .Therefore you shall come with me .

King: what lone prince

Lihle/MaNxu:(ignoring him) follow me

King Nqobile staggered following Lihle out of the underground prison. Meanwhile the three sons watched in shock as their father followed the pillar of fire. Sivuyile looked and stared at Lihle while also following her as she left the palace gates with his father. King Nqobile looked back and saw his sons at the door and turned to look forward where his eyes were met by a multitude of people running away from the lady in fire with two whirlwinds beside her.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BACK AT THE PALACE

The three sons are still in the lounge shock, confusion and fear is written all over their



faces. None of them is attending to Noxolo who is still on the floor where Lihle left her weak. Sivuyile is pacing up and down whilst the other two brothers are seated .

Simphiwe: Can you please stop doing that its irritating

Siyanda: leave him am sure that how he is processing everything

Simphiwe : its annoying

SILENCE

Sivuyile: I told you that your mother was two faced infact she is a devil in human form

Simphiwe: stop it SIVUYILE am tired of your drama . If you want to hate on our mother just say it and stop pinning bullshit on her .

Sivuyile: wait am I the only one who saw her running towards that lady or pillar of fire what ever that was. Who the heck does that ,your mother is a woman she is supposed to be scared. Even you as mighty as you think you are you were tongue tied when that thing walked in her

Simphiwe: shut up shut up you do not know anything you just being a child . She is a mother and she was doing what all mother do protect her children

Sivuyile:( scanning his brother's body) so you call yourself a child ( with a raised eyebrow)

Siyanda : wena (pointing at Sivuyile) shut up and as for you elder brother you have been too absorbed in mother's shadow . I don't blame you . you are the favourite son after all . But explain why your mother did what she did and after that that thing walked out with father who was covered in soles. Your same mother said he travelled . So father

travelled to the underground palace prison right or you knew?

Simpfiwe:( looking down) l..l...

Siyanda: Exactly I thought as much. What you see is not what you get brother. That woman we call mother ...(shaking his head)

During the whole conversation and arguments the brothers were having Noxolo was slowly waking up. A little part of her shoulder where Lihle was holding is exposed by her skin is still silky smooth though her face is saying otherwise.

Queen: Is WHAT. Go on finish your statement . Sons rebelling on their mother. Well boys you better think twice cause I am the only family you got. And you see that man who was in prison . I kept him.there to protect you and give you a chance at good life but you brats are ungrateful .

Sivuyile: you call locking up our father protecting us . PROTECTING US FROM WHAT!!

Queen: hayi wena watch your mouth uyezwa. You are just enjoying the benefits but you are the devils son to begin with.

Sivuyile: ( in a low tone) devils what. What do you mean

Queen: None of you are Nqobile's sons . You are just enjoying his wealth and living a fake life. ( she walks away)

All the three stare at each other. Sivuyile walks out of the house and drives off. Whilst the other two sit still and frozen processing their mother's words.

\*\*\*\*\*

SIZWE

## NARRATED

Okuhle appears before Sizwe who is asleep on the dry leaves under a tree. Ever since Okuhle's visit he had been moving in circles in the forest failing to find a way out. Bones are now protruding from his flesh. He is a true definition of hunger and a living skeleton. He is skinny and his clothes are dirty and dusty. Only a few undernourished strands of hair are on his head.

Okuhle: Sizwe Sizwe

Sizwe: ( springs up from the ground alarmed)

Okuhle

Okuhle: its time now ,you have to go back . You have to confess now

Sizwe: (crying) please please I will confess I will . I do not know the way out . I will repent

Okuhle: your confession will bring you rest .( pointing towards a thick bush) take that route and look for the oracle Manzini Kingdom

Sizwe: oracle (stammering) okay okay

Okuhle: tell my daughter the truth . Only the truth will set you free Sizwe ( disappearing)

## A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 37

## AT THE ORACLE'S HOUSE

Siyas man are gathered at the oracles gate . They are arguing as usual whilst Ghost is all quite analysing thier talks .They are strategising a plan to enter the compound but the calabashes are are at the gate and another hanging directly above the gate is giving them double thoughts.

Flames: why did we allow that girl to take him in the first place. We are a bunch of cowards we all failing to enter a simple home

Gunner: what's simple about this place. Are you blind ,okay let me be your eyes THE PLACE HAS CALABASHES AROUND IT . You feel mighty ngena ke ngamla and we will follow

Flames: they might be there to frightene us only

Smokes: ufisa ukuba ngumsindisi vula indlela Jesu sizokulandela kodwa ngithi hamba juba uzophenduka ungama chicken cuts( you want to be a saviour, lead the way Jesus and we will follow but I am saying go bird you will come back as chicken cuts)

Gunner: Smokes suqalile manje ( you have started)

Smokes: hlukana lami wena . Wena (pointing at Flames) usenza izlima nje .( leave me alone. You are treating us like idiots)

Gunner: hlukana lentandane yenkosi Smokes( leave God's orphan)

Smokes: yiphi intandane. Umfo lapha nguJesu uzokwena izimanga. Nguye abakhuluma ngaye ma bethi" even though I walk to the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil" . uEVIL mncane kabi kuye . infact le yinja yegame. Uzosinyathelisa amagama angcwele. Phela those things pha zismall kuye angithi Flames ( which orphan. Our brother is

Jesus and he will do miracles. He is the one they talk about when they say.....evil is small compared to him. This is the real man . he will lead us to holy places)

Gunner: ( laughing) yazini l give up

Flames: (with his jaws clenched) Smokes hlukana nami( leave me alone )

Ghost: Sawubona baba

They all turn to look at Ghost's direction who is facing the oracle. The oracle is adorned in tradition clothes with beads on his feet and hands. His hands are tinted in white . He has a long bearer and carries a walking stick with a beast curved on it. On his forehead a mark of waves is drawn whilst below his eye a white line.

Smokes: kahle kahle manini (scanning the oracle) hayi mfethu ioutfit yakho ngusangano. So amadlozi aligqokisa kanje ,yini le (pointing at the oracle) ingani uyispoko nje( wait wait no brother your outfit is rubbish. So ancestors make you dress this way. What this ,you look like a ghost

Gunner: (cracking in laughter) here comes bullshit

Smokes: (laughing) bra oracle you deserve an award hayi mfethu wena you graduated ngempela. Lokhu ngumsangano straight( you graduated straight and this is rubbish)

Ghost: Smokes!

Smokes: hayi wena umjita ingani lithunzi lomufi . Kule freedom of speech kanti sokumele ngizibambe manje. Ubra oracle ukhuluma lamadlozi kasodlozi infact ngumuyi( no man the guy looks like the shadow of death. He talks to ancestors that does not make him an ancestor he is a corpse)

Oracle: bantwana bami ngilibona likhathazekile ngomunye wenyu. Lingixolele kodwa lilegazi ezandleni yakho lingeke lingene kodwa uzo sila. Lingahamba ( my children I see you are worried about one of your own. You have to forgive me but your hands have blood and you cannot enter the compound . you can go)

Ghost : asingeke sihambe baba sicela ukumlinda( we cannot leave can we wait)

Oracle: kulungile( he walks back into the compound)

Smokes: eeh bra ancestor eish bra oracle (the oracle turns ) kodwa mfethu iqiniso ioutfit yakho kayinhle kayimbi infact ibuhlungu njengengoma yemfeni ( the truth is that your outfit is not nice neither ugly infact its painful like a funeral song)

Ghost: ( hitting his head) hayi voetsek wena

Meanwhile Lihle is now facing the oracles gate .She is still a pillar of fire being escorted by two whirlwinds. Behind her is King Nqobile who is being followed by a multitude. The people are quietly following them towards the oracles house. Siya's men stand frozen when they see Lihle who walks before them. For the first time Smokes is tongue tied. When Lihle reaches the gate she stands and looks ahead where the oracle and the three Khumalo ancestors were. She then walks two steps forward where she collapses on the ground turning back to her human self without fire and the whirlwinds all vanish.

\*\*\*\*\*

KING NQOBILE

NARRATED

Fear is an understatement ,who and what that lady is only the ancestors . The beast have nothing on such. She was a pillar ,a full pillar of fire . Her fire was calm,warm and harmless . I could feel the pureness around her and her eyes were beyond imaginable. Never did I think I would meet something greater than the Khumalo beasts. I was frightened of her ,me King Nqobile scared of a girl. But she is not just any girl she is blessed. I feel compelled to follow her . As I follow I familiarise with the path ,this is the very path that leads to the Oracle's house. A huge crowd is on my tail. When she reached the gate there were four black cars with armed man who were gaurding the compound .She waited and what she was waiting for is not something I was willing to see. My grandfather, my father and my brother were standing with the oracle. Each of them with his own beast. My father was shaking his head ,showing the great disappoint and how much I have failed him. The lady falls down and a familiar person too stood before her. Shock registers all over my face when I see MaNxumalo ,Khayaletu's wife . The first Khumalo bride in our family . I turn around and look at the people to see if they can see what is before me but all their eyes are on me.

Grandfather: you have dragged the family into the mud. You are a disgrace to royalty .

Father: how could you Nqobile how could you . Look at your hands they have blood on them. You stained the Khumalo throne with blood.

King: please please (crying) father, Mkhulu l

Father: look what your greed caused .Look at your

brother he has been loitering around in the world of the living. His soul knows no peace . Now his son is suffering because of you

King: my brother has a living son. Who is the son. I never knew about him . Father the guilt has been eating me. I would have done right by him.

Meanwhile all the people were busy looking at their King who was on his knees talking alone. Some pitied him while others were confused and others keen to see exactly who thier King was talking to.At the same time Simphiwe and Siyanda find thier way through the crowd after they were informed that the whole Kingdom was following the strange lady.

Grandfather: talk Nqobile ,tell the Kingdom what you did . Tell them the truth

Father: Khayaletu cannot talk to his son because of you. His son needs his help. Release him and tell the truth now

King: who is Khayaletu's son

Grandfather : your wife is a snake. all the male children you raised are yours. The late Khumalos held back all your sons. And the desire you had for sons made your wife look for the seeds somewhere else. Not knowing that your illment was spiritual. The only children that are your own are the female one. None of the four are your sons.

King: what are you saying Mkhulu

Father: its too late Nqobile . Your soul will never be allowed among the Khumalos. Speak now

King: ( turning to the people with tears in his eyes) I Nqobile Khumalo has committed a great atrocity . I killed the late King Khayaletu with the help of a friend .Khayaletu was standing in the way of my



success and he had one thing that I wanted that is the throne. I then conspired to kill him and we dumped his body in a trench where the birds, and creatures of the earth feasted upon it. That was all after we had removed his organs and those organs I used them to strengthen myself as a King.

All the people listening to the King's confession start mumbling among themselves whilst Siyanda and Simphiwe walked out of the multitude to their car . Meanwhile the man among the crowd started singing songs whilst the woman clapped and others whistled. The young adults of the King rushed to the nearby trees and came with huge whips whilst others carried stones. They all started singing circulating Ngobile's body who was now seated but flat in the soil crying hysterically. The man started throwing stones hitting him. He seated still seated with his head bowed down whilst the stones hit every part of his body. His skin began to rip off from the stones that registers on his flesh and the already present wounds on his flesh . He managed to kneel and looked at his father and brother and Mkhulu.

King: Khaya lethu my brother forgive me for I wronged you and deprived you a chance at life .

Khaya lethu: I forgive you . Rest well dear brother.

King: (shouting) my sins have finally caught up with me. I die today for what I know and for what am guilty of. (Collapsing down)

The rest of the multitude charged towards him and stoned him on the bare soil. Blood oozed out from his head and body. Some stepped on his head whilst others were whipping his body. They continued

stoning him until his eyes dangled out from their sockets. Flesh ripped off from his face and a part of his flesh in the face peeled off. They all hit his body with heavy stones breaking his bones. One of the man came forth with a huge stone and crushed his head scattering all his brain out .

## A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 38

(Sponserd by WhatsApp Group Members)

## HARLEY

My trip with Kim really worked out the way I hoped it would. It helped me refresh my mind. I was going crazy especially after what Ayibongwe did to me. Throwing me out of his office dragging me all the way to the parking lot like some call girl. I love him with all my heart but if he can not see it I will open his eyes for him because he is definitely missing out. Who would reject me, I have a killer body to top up every guy will die to be with the top model of Zimbabwe. I have been drinking and crying in my room waiting to strike and planning on how to teach him a lesson. Ayibongwe will not know what hit

him. I will take away all the Zikhali Construction Company clients and investors leaving them bankrupt he will surely come crawling back into my arms. Wouldn't he ,definitely he will. Good one Harley . Harley one Ayibongwe zero. As I gulp the last sip of my Gordon the intercom rings. I look through the window and I see Mlungisi's car the P. I guy ,what is he doing here . I was supposed to meet him tomorrow. I open the door mind you I am wearing one of the lingers that I had bought to seduce Ayibongwe which he turned down mxm that bastard. As soon as he sees me his jaws drop.

Him: ( gulping down his saliva)Harley are you okay

Me: Yes I am fine come in and sit ( opening space for him)drink

Him: No thank you . I uhm uhm uhm I was in your hood so I decide to pass by and see you. I also have news I think they might work on your favour

Me : okay thank you. Tell me( walking towards him with 2 glasses of wine)

Him: don't you think you have had to much to drink. And please go and get dressed so I tell you the news

Me: tell me you dont want to see all this. I see you got a boner already let me take care of you . Dont you like all this ( moving towards him licking her lips seductively)

Him: What are you doing Harley your father will kill me( with a low tone and breathing heavily)

Me: Shhhh(putting her fingers in his lips)what daddy doesnt know won't kill him( kissing him on his neck with her hand going down to his pants)

He looks at me with bloodshot red eyes and closes them whilst shaking his head . I go harder on him

and start him gently on his neck whilst breathing softly in his ear . He opens his eyes and scans my whole body and curses between his heavy breaths . I sit on top of his manhood and start grinding on it with my already drippin honeypot . I balance myself with his legs and lean back whilst facing the roof and continues grinding on him boner. I unbuckle my bra and start playing with myself whilst the other hand balances my upper body . He opens his eyes which were now small and watches me before pinning me down on the couch . He looks at me deciding on what he wants and I mourn softly sucking my fingers. He moves fast towards my face and kisses me hungrily while lifring me up from the couch placing me on the table. I respond to his kisses quickly ,all thanks to alcohol I am getting some today. He looks at me for approval I don't reply him but I just unbuckle his belt leaving him in his briefs. He rips off my lingerie leaving me butt naked on the cold glass table. His hand find its way to my honeypot which is already dripping like Limpopo. He massages it nice and slow whilst teasing his fingers on my entrance. This every tease I moan soft accepting my body to be submissive to his touch . He continues massaging me while I meet him half way accepting every rub on my already throbbing clit. He.....#REMOVED

\*\*\*\*\*

SIZWE

After my sister left I ran like a mad person towards the direction she had pointed . After a long distance I saw the palace which meant I was getting nearer . I

ran till I met a crowd of people that were stoning someone. His body was already in pieces . All the eyes were out , a part of the head cracked with white like stuff which looked like brain cells coming out. The clothes the person was wearing were soaked in blood.I walked a little bit closer to the person moving towards the face . I was beyond shocked when I saw Ngobile in that state. His own people had killed him. Seeing the King made me come to terms with my fate. Then I realised that no matter how glorious the days on earth are, the sins you commit are the ones that make them numbered. I will also die soon but dying with the guilt of not confesing my own sins that is the same as denying your own wrongs. If death comes now atleast I know that I died by my own hand. I walk bawards slowly separting myself from the crowd only to see my sister standing afar looking at me pointing at the oracle . She spoke loudly

Her: What took you so long Sizwe

Me: uhm Dade yikut....

Her: what took you so long

Me: I couldn't find my way I don't know the Kingdom, please don't kill me please I will confess to everything please.

Her: Not so fast ,the people who you owe this confession to are not here. Go to the oracle and tell him who you are. He has been waiting for you .He knows where my daughter is

Me: he will let me see her so that I can confess.

Her: patienc your trial is coming soon today was the king maybe tomorrow is you. You see these people they might kill you too I don't want you to die yet but you will be punished like Moses was when he

killed one of the Egyptians(Laughing )then I will rest in peace maybe visit my daughter in her dreams. Now I can't because she is pure and I am in the world of the living and dead. I don't want her to see me like this.

Me : I will wait and do as you say. I am willing

Her: Every dog has its day and yours is coming soon. You thought your glory was for life but it was all umlilo wamaphepha. (She disappears)

I walk towards the man she showed me and said is the oracle. Never have I been in the presence of a person so adorned with so much beads and clothes. The sight of him screams voodoo but what can I do. My sister sent me here and this very man is my gateway to freedom or should I say death and peaceful rest .I walk towards me ,she shifts his head looking straight in my direction .

\*\*\*\*\*

## SIYABONGA

I am in a black tunnel there is light on the other side and darkness on the other. I hear people calling me but they are afar. I am wondering trying to come out I can't. I look up and cry. I failed her, I destroyed her, I hope she finds love and be happy because with me she wasn't going to be happy. I am sacrificing myself for her. I close my eyes to let darkness take over but Lihles' tear drop on my face I can feel her presence but what is she doing here. I wake up and stand. There she is beautiful and glowing but mad at me. I know that face. She walks towards me with a frown and turn to leave.

Me: I am so sorry my love

Her: for what (with a straight face)

Me: for complicating your life ever since u have been with me I know you don't know happiness now you were violated and it's all my fault( I cry)

Her: Siyabonga Khumalo

1. You are not God to see things and stop them
2. You usually take the easy way out
3. You think for me and not let me think for myself
4. You are weak and if you really want us to work you better stop being a coward fight this and come with me to fave your fears.
5. You need to accept your beast because we are definitely going to need it before building this kingdom.

All this time she had a straight face saying all these and not even a tear streamed down her beautiful face. The Lihle I know would be crying and cursing but this one is the Queen of my people, feisty and strong. I love the new her I pray she doesn't leave me.

Me: How do I leave

Her: you will have to fight Your Highness your Kingdom awaits you. (She smiles and vanishes).

Me: What did she mean when she said your Kingdom, my father is alive it cannot be that he died am I even ready to be King.

Voice: Yes you are Son you were born a King and always ready.

Me: who are you(, am I crazy ) please leave me I am not ready

Voice: you heard the lady you are weak now prove her wrong and fight by her side then bring back the kingdom to light. The evil is consuming everything. Only you and her can save the kingdom.

Me: How please tell me . I am just the prince and last born I know nothing about the Kingdom

Voice: Figure it out like her. She will guide you that is why they chose her for you.

Me: who are you . Show yourself

Voice: You will son but not now. You are strong Your highness wake up your people need you. Don't disappoint the Khumalos.

Me: but why me . Simphiwe is there

Voice: you are a lone prince to the Khumalos son. It was your destiny from the onset . You were born alone to fulfill this duty. Now sit up and do right by your ancestors. She needs you and you need her .

Me: but I....

Voice:( with a fading voice) follow the light  
Siyabonga and you shall never go wrong Mntungwa

A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 39

AT THE PALACE

Simphiwe and Siyanda enter the house with their



heads down. Their drive from the oracle's compound has been surrounded by silence. Each and everyone of them is consumed in their own thoughts. They park the car and drag themselves to the palace where they find Sivuyile drowning himself in one of the whiskey in his fathers special collection. No one talks to the other and they all decide to join him.

Siyanda: how could he do that ,how could he kill his own brother. That man was more of a father than he ever was and he killed him like an animal

Simphiwe: you worrying about that ,how about the fact that you no longer have a father and chances are high that we will be evacuated from this palace . Where are we going to stay

Siyanda: What's wrong with you . All you care about is the palace and the luxury. Did you even think of the fact that father is dead and he needs a descent burial

Simphiwe: we show grief in different ways. That's why there are three heads in this room. I am thinking about the future and you thinking about the present . Everyone is playing their part here .

Sivuyile:You know you surprise me Simphiwe . I have been watching you closely . You faking your feelings . NOTHING here seems new to you . All you concerned about is the money . That makes me wonder . WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Simphiwe: ( pointing his finger) wena leave me alone . I am the eldest in this family since father is dead I have to worry about the rest of us . You see the speck of dust in my eye but you do not see the one in yours. Father is dead and you are not even shocked.

Sivuyile: ( laughing) why should I cry for a father that was never mine to begin with. Did he care about any of us ? No . He showered us with gifts and never did he play his role as a father . And you heard what your mother said . Nqobile Khumalo is not our father he is a monster who murdered his own brother for the throne that is what he is .

The Queen walked into the lounge where the three were busy arguing . Sivuyile words shocked her leaving her defeated.

Queen: (shocked)Nqobile did what

Sivuyile: like husband like wife . You and father deserve each other . You were both cruel . You both masterminded this didnt you that's why you kept him in the palace prison so that he wouldn't talk.

How could you kill mother . Do you feel at all

Queen: don't you dare paint me with a dirty brush . I didn't know about your father's secrets . I am not the one who butchered someone here

Siyanda: spare us the show mother . Evil is written over you. You are very transparent .

Queen: and what are you going to do about it dear son. Are you going to burn me . Try me and I will wipe you off the surface of earth like I did to one of you.

Sivuyile: and what is that supposed to mean mother!!

Queen: it means exactly what it meant. ( walking away)

Sivuyile: you see what I mean. (Pointing at Simphiwe) he is carefree none of this bothers him . Why don't you follow your mother .

SILENCE

A loud bang on the door steals their attention. Siyanda walks towards the door followed by Sivuyile. Meanwhile Simphiwe diverts the route to his mothers room. Siyanda opens the door and a bloody Linathi stands at the door supporting herself with the wall. Mind you all the palace servants left after hearing the death of the King and how he had brutally killed his own brother. Siyanda stares at Linathi blankly whilst the sight of Linathi doesn't even move an inch of emotion on Sivuyile. Linathi manages to drag herself in with the two watching her and distancing themselves from her. Siyanda finally calls out for his mother after closing the door . Him and Sivuyile both walk away from her waiting for their mother.

\*\*\*\*\*

## QUEEN NOXOLO

Narrated

Noxolo walks into her bedroom with shock,pain and fear written all over her face . She thinks of how all this time she had been looking for Khaya lethu's killer whilst she had been sleeping and sharing her bed with her enemy. Simphiwe barges in the room and locks the door after looking like he is ready to kill .

Simphiwe: we have to do something very fast . They are starting to see me for me

Queen: they are far from the truth don't bother yourself about it

Simphiwe: you are so ignorant . Are you becoming weak now or your judgement is now clouded by weakness . Siyanda is no threat but Sivuyile is getting closer to the truth

Queen: ( with a confused look) what do you mean.

Simphiwe: Sivuyile is more analytic than any of your sons. He has been putting two and two together. The night Mdluli came here, he followed him and they talked . He is snooping his nose around in the wrong business. If you won't stop him, I will and you know it will be messy

Queen: that's my son you bastard

Simphiwe: and I do not care . We both made an oath ,if anyone gets in our way we eliminate and your son might be next

Queen: but ..

Simphiwe: but what . I have been pretending for a long time and its getting boring. I am about to get my price do not ruin it . I didn't come all this way and planned all those things to end up dead with nothing . If I were you I would step up my game .

She hears someone calling her name from downstairs and looked at Simphiwe. How could one person make so many deals with different devils. She walks towards the door slowly and then back at Simphiwe.

Queen: all I ask for is time . Please

Simphiwe: guess what beautiful time is not on our side and you better plan very well.

Queen: (stammering) I will

She quickly walks out of the room straight to the

lounge only to find her sons watching Linathi on the floor.

To be continued....

\*\*\*\*\*

HARLEY

Mlungisi is a monster in bed . The things he did to me were just beyond my expectations. His sex game is on point but that doesn't change the fact that I love Ayibongwe. Mlungisi and I fucked but I wanna make love instead with the right guy. I have to give this to him,he satisfied me for days ,I can get my head in the game now. What we had was just meaningless sex I hope he knows that am still his bosses daughter not a booty call. Speaking of the devil ,I just received an email from Mlungisi. I don't know what to do about it I guess I should be the General's daughter that I am. I was raised around guns so I have to make use of my skills to get what I want. The email is saying Ayibongwe is kidnapped and held hostage by THE SIYABONGA KHUMALO. Everyone knows him. I wonder how he got himself in this mess. I am sure it's because of Lihle. I wonder what these men see in her. I have to go save Ayibongwe at any cost before they kill him. I did self defense lessons and I know how to shoot. Being the general's only child comes with risks. Dad has enemies everywhere when they want to hurt him I am the target that is why he taught me how to defend myself. I am laying in my bed thinking should I save him or not. Saving him could work for me because I want him. I put on my black skin jean, black vest, blackboots and black

biker jacket. I walk out to the garage. I opt for the black Honda 945rr bike, I get on it, putting on my helmet and drive straight to the Moyo mansion. I get there in 13 mins and park outside. I remove the helmet and enter the house walking straight to my dad's study. I open the door and there he was busy on a call I let myself in and grab a chair. He looks at me and shakes his head and chuckles before dropping his call

Him: MaDewa I know that look and dress code who am I killing

Me: No one dad but there is someone who has to die for touching what I love

Him: Whooa baby girl you are not killing anyone

Me: Yes I am daddy (standing up) IF YOU THINK I WILL SIT HERE WHEN THE LOVE OF MY LIFE IS OUT THERE KIDNAPPED BY SOME DUCHEBAG THEN YOU ARE JOKING. I NEED MEN WHO ARE GOING HELP ME GET MY MAN BACK AND I NEED YOUR GUN MINE IS NOT LOADED.

Him: HARLEY MOYO SIT YOUR ASS DOWN AND NEVER USE THAT TONE IN MY HOME GOT IT. I AM STILL YOUR FATHER. APOLOGISE PHANGISA

Me: Ngyaxolisa baba ( looking down and sitting down)

Him: Good girl. Now we gonna speak like normal people. The love of your life you want to save is Ayibongwe Zikhali right

Me: Wait dad how do you know that.

Him: I am your father when you hired Mlungisi I asked him to pass through me with what he got. I had to know the man who swept my princess away.

Me: I should have known ( rolling my eyes)

Him: I saw that MaDewa. Stubborn like your Mama.

Me: hmmm Dad time is ticking they will kill him please dad help me I can't lose him please he is my life if he dies I will kill myself

Him: You are my daughter I won't lie to you I hate that guy but since you love him I will let my guys go bring him for you

Me: thank you dad but I am going with them please

Him: No you are not Nkazana, you will stay here

Me : Dad then why did you teach me guns and fighting if you are gonna fight my battles. I need to go and protect my man please baba

Him: It's dangerous I can't lose you like your mum. You not going anywhere that's final ( he stood up wanting to leave)

Me: (holding his legs on my knees) please Daddy, Moyo, Dewa, Sayi, Vumabalanda let me go I promise I will be safe I will wear a bullet proof vest please Baba( crying )

Him: you know your tears are my weakness baby don't cry. Okay fine you will go on one condition. You promise to come back in one piece. I can't lose you. ( he lifted me and gave me a hug)

Me: Okay daddy I promise I will come back safe.

Him: Okay MaDewa. I will arrange everything you will need and the guys for you. Just don't get hurt you will be leaving in 1 hr 30 mins. I knew you will come so I was prepared I have a plan. Mlungisi will brief you about it in 15 minutes. I love you and take care.

Me: thank you dad you are the best.

Him: okay go get your gun in your bedroom safe. I switched it when you almost killed Kim's ex boyfriend for breaking her heart.

Me: Dad you did what OMG you are unbelievable.  
(She disappears down the hallway that goes to her

room)

## A GIFT CURSED INSERT 40

### AT THE ORACLE'S HOUSE

Clouds have gathered outside creating thick darkness ,so thick that even a person standing next to another cannot be seen. Rain starts pouring wetting the soils and while the water flowed towards the direction of the Manzini River. According to the ancestors when such is happening it means the ancestors are cleaning every impurity in the Kingdom. Mean while the oracle has gathered every thing as he was assigned by the ancestors . He starts a fire in the hut while Lihle and Siya lay lifeless on two separate mats but close to each other. The oracle gathers some hot coals in a broken piece of a clay pot and walks towards their heads. He drops some roots and dry eucalyptus leaves on the coals . He adds some sheep fat and a white smoke start forming just above their heads. He prepares a bath of blue stone and some herbs and sprinkles it whilst circulating them and calling the Khumalo Clan names . He encircles them six times and stands before their feet while clapping saying the clan names louder and louder.



He then kneels down and shakes his head while his body shivered . All that was audible was the sounds from the oracle agreeing to what ever he was listening to. He placed his hand in his ear again listening harder and agreeing . He sprinkled the bath on their bodies and on his back and also on thier feet .

\*\*\*\*\*

Meanwhile Siya was standing in the middle of nowhere trying to find a way out of the place where he was surrounded by darkness. He turned all directions and everything was the same to him. He gathered his thoughts together and remembered Lihle's words and how she begged him when he was leaving. His eyes became glossy and he started thinking of how much he has been failing Lihle ever since she had been given to him. He thought of how Lihle had suffered. All that was is in his head was Lihle . He thought of how strong he has to be for her and that became the drive for him to find a way out of the darkness. He knelt down and balanced himself with his arms and started speaking.

Siya: MaKhumalo, boMntungwa I am your son . I am a child you chose as one of your own. You welcomed me and showed me love but I was swimming in a pool.of confusion diluted with a tornado of emotions . I never knew where I.stood and where I was going. I have failed a lot and let my sanity become a meal to scavengers. I blame myself for what happened to her for I posed as a failure but I love her.Yes I have hurt her but I want to do right by her from now onwards ,I want to be there for her, I want to protect

her for now I know where I stand . I need her and she needs me . My fathers give me another chance to do right by the one I love. I want to hold on to her even though I am a little unsteady. Help me get home and help me protect her . She is mine but also your daughter. BoMntungwa take me HOME please .

An urge to stand up overshadowed him and he stood on his two feet and started walking meanwhile his eyes were closed . He walked and walked . He felt a heavy presence beside him ,un familiar but calm and peaceful. He walked and walked and a sudden cool and calm breeze blew towards his face . He continued walking until his feet reached cold water . He tried to open his eyes but the same thing that had told him to close them told him to keep them closed. He stepped on the water and hesitated taking the next step but finally gathered the courage to. As he walked he realised that he was walking among shallow waters which only went as far as above his ankles.

He kept walking until his feet rested on grass. He then opened his eyes and before him stood two men and beside him was another which was Khayaletu and the other two were his grand father and great grand father. The two men before him had his beast before them which was surrounded by leaves and roots from the tree that they were standing under. Siya looked around him and saw that he was standing under a very big tree which was in the middle of a huge sea. He looked at the sea and knelt down putting his hand inside the water and realised that the waters were so deep. He stood and looked at them before he spoke

Siya: I just walked in this water but it wasn't deep

like this

Grandfather: how do you know that you walked on them . What if you flew. Even the atmosphere has water

G/Grandfather : welcome son we have been waiting for you

Siya: BoMntungwa I am

G/father: (looking at Siya's beast) he was injured but he is better now . You resented your own beast and it decided to come back here where it was born . Son your body was confused whilst your beast had its own mind. When you welcomed your beast you did not fully welcome it . This is all your fault son. Had you accepted it fully all the answers you wanted it would have led you to them. It would have opened the closed doors that were before you but infact you fought it until it gave up on you too.

G/Grandfather: Mntungwa my son. You are a King and the King that is next in line that is why you were given Ndlangamandla. The beast and you are one and whatever that happens to you happens to it though you belong to two different dimensions. The beast protected you the night you went for your chosen one. The poison it took was meant for you but it took it imstead .

Siya: I do not understand bobaba

Khaya lethu: You are the only Khumalo child left . Your live is the one that determines whether a future Khumalo generation will come or not . And you are the only King who is to sit on the throne . Ndlangamandla is your protector as much as you are one to Lihle

Siya:only Khumalo child but how ,I have brothers.

G/father : brothers yes you have son and they are the same people you grew up with and lived with

under the roofs of the Khumalo palace but none of them are Khumalo seeds . You are the only Khumalo seed among them. Even though your coming happened under bad circumstances but you can never be held responsible for your father and mothers sins .

Siya: they are not my brothers. But my mother is...

G/grandfather: your mother is the cause of your pain my son. When they say umuntu akazizali its true . Your mother is a chameleon whilst she gave birth to an angel.Look at this my son.

A big picture showed before Siyas eyes on the tree. On the picture Noxolo was tiptoeing towards a particular room. On the door there was a leopard skin which represented the throne meaning the room was the Kings. She knocked and entered. In the room there was a man standing at the window facing outside . Noxolo walked towards him and touched him on his shoulders . The man turned around and the same man who was standing beside Siya was the same man in the picture. Noxolo was rubbing his back which seemed like a source of comfort whilst fresh tears flowed down the man's face . Noxolo talked to the man and walked out of the room . The pictures on the tree changed and it now showed Noxolo in the kitchen who was preparing juice . Noxolo then fetched something from her breasts, it was a white substance wrapped in a plastic paper. She put the white substance in the juice and stirred it until it dissolved and walked back to the room where the man was. She gave the man the juice . He gulped it down in one go and sat on the bed and beside her was a Noxolo who had a sad look on her face . The man started being sleepy

and drowsy and Noxolo walked towards the door and locked it . As soon as his head hit the pillow Noxolo moved quickly towards the man and started undressing him and she also undressed herself and found pleasure in a man who was asleep but his sleep.was not any usual sleep because he was not moving or opening his eyes.

At the same time the pictures changed again and this time it was in a round hut where two royal midwives stood and Noxolo was on the bed showing a her pregnancy and her thighs were covered with a white cloth. The midwives telling her to push but nothing was coming out. The voices were the exact voices which Siya had been hearing all this time in his dreams . Then Noxolo spoke asking them to say the Khumalo clan names . The same man who was with him who is the older version of the one Noxolo had given a juice to came in the room with a hoarse voice and started chanting the clan names . The baby came out ,it was given to the old man who then lifted him.up and called him SIYABONGA MUZUKHONA KHUMALO then all the pictures disappeared. Siya looked at all the men before him and the one beside him with tears in his eyes which were threatening to come out

Siya: (looking at Khaya) so you are my father

Khaya: and you are my son . You never knew me for I died before your birth but you are my seed .

Siya: where have you been when things were a mess in my life . why didn't you show yourself

Khaya: the one who killed me had not confessed and that hindered me from coming to you because you were not introduced as mine to the ancestors

Siya: who killed you

Khaya: that you will find out in the world of the

living . Your chosen one is waiting for you now and your beast is healed . Let me take you home my son. Be cautious and stand with your chosen one. Those who are meant to be part of you , you will feel them but those who possess evil you will see them in your visions . Now walk with me .

Khayaletu took Siya and they walked towards a barrier where water was going up instead of coming down. On the other side stood Lihle who was glowing inside light and staring at Siya . Khaya looked at Lihle and back at Siya

Khaya: take care of her and this time fear not my son I will stand with you till the end . When the going gets tough I will be there and your beast will not bother you anymore for your path has been paved and light stands before you . I bless you son. Now take her hand and do what you were born for  
Siya: (bowing)Mntungwa

Siya then takes Lihle's hand who pulls her into a dark tunnel but the light shining from her makes the darkness disappear in the tunnel. All this while Lihle is holding his hand but quite facing ahead . Meanwhile Siya looks ahead too smiling . As they walk deeper and deeper into the tunnel . A bright light shines ahead them . When they reach the end of tunnel Lihle looks at Siya and speaks

Lihle: are you ready Mntungwa Ndlangamandla  
Khumalo my King

Siya: ready as you are my queen

They both hold hands and walk into the light .

\*\*\*\*\*

On the other hand the oracle has been watching the black poison veins on Siyas body slowly disappearing and Lihle shaking and shivering on the mat . They both inhale heavily at once which is followed by coughs from both of them on the mats and they both open their eyes.

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 41

Not Edited

AT THE PALACE

Noxolo is panicking watching a lifeless Linathi on the floor . She starts pacing up and down looking at her body. She slowly walks towards her and puts two fingers on her nose just to check if she is still breathing . Sivuyile is watching his mothers actions calculating every emotion on her face very well. He moves towards Linathi's body just to get a glimpse of the person who is capable of making the Queen fear. A few minutes later Simphiwe walks in on them standing watching Linathi whilst the queen talks to her self . What she is saying no one hears but sounds

of a person speaking are heard . Simphiwe walks towards the body and immediately as he notices the person his eyes pop out ,he looks at the body and back at the queen . He clenches his jaws and tightens his fist in anger. A curious Sivuyile walks towards him and closely reads his emotions before speaking

Sivuyile: I know you are holding back those words dear brother(patting his back) speak

Simphiwe: get out of my business

Sivuyile: you look like you know her. The way you so angry you could murder the whole Kingdom. Is she important to you. What is she to you. She looks like a prostitute who lost her way

Simphiwe: ( clenching his jaws and speaking between his teeth)do not push me boy . Your life is at the tip of my fingers . Even your mother has no say in this one boy

Sivuyile: and that why you mad because of a prostitute or what

Simphiwe: ( holding his collar) listen ,you are a small boy who is trying to swim in a sharks territory. I have no reason to feel when I kill your ass ,you not even my blood

Sivuyile: come on dear brother . Speak or forever hold your peace

Simphiwe: ( shouting ) I AM NOT YOUR BROTHER !!!

Sivuyile: am not your WHAT

Simphiwe:(breathing heavily ) I have no time for you

Meanwhile Noxolo has been busy on the phone since the two started arguing .



Sivuyile: now you don't have time . I mean why are you so pissed . Is the prostitute yours or something

Simpfiwe: Noxolo you better put your dog on a tight leash. I am losing my cool with this son of a bitch

Sivuyile: you calling our mother a bitch . What is your problem

Simpfiwe: (laughing) so that hurts after all. YES she is a bitch but that "our" is wrong she is your mother not mine. (looking at Noxolo) I lost my mother a long time ago. She is just.....(noxolo cuts him)

Queen: SIMPHIWE!!

Simpfiwe: WHAT I should not talk now . Are you scared that...

A knock disturbs them and Mdluli barges into the palace followed by paramedics . He finds Linathi on the floor. A mixture of anger ,guilt and pity becomes visible on his face. He looks at Linathi and back at Noxolo with an evil eye. He rushes to Linathi and touches her . The moment she is touched she screams and throws tantrums which leaves Mdluli in tears. The paramedics inject Linathi and carry her to the ambulance that was outside. All this while Noxolo kept her head bowed down. Mdluli left the palace with Simphiwe on his tail. Meanwhile Sivuyile also tiptoes following them outside to eavesdrop on their conversation. Mdluli stands by his car and roars in anger while Simphiwe watches.

Mdluli: Simphiwe

Simphiwe: baba

Mdluli: do what a true Mdluli does. You saw what they did to your niece. Give them a double dose

Simphiwe: with pleasure

Mdluli: cancel all the plans and initiate the final plan

. They asked for it let them be served accordingly.  
Son I want to see pain written all over their faces .  
Can you give me that  
Simphiwe: consider it done.

Meanwhile Sivuyile is standing in a far corner  
listening to their conversation . He curses as he  
hears all that is coming for them then walks back to  
the palace and drags Siyanda to separate room.

\*\*\*\*\*

## AT SIYABONGA'S WAREHOUSE

All roads lead to the warehouse after ghost almost  
fainted upon seeing Siya who was fit and strong. He  
is still tongue tied after seeing his boss . They enter  
the warehouse and clock in . They all sit down  
together digesting what they all just saw .

Ghost : I can't believe that son of a gun is still alive  
Flames: believe it or not man . He is back mfethu .  
And I gotta admit the feeling is just so good .  
Waves: I don't have words I am still digesting  
everything.

Gunner: ( looking at Smokes)kanti ntwana uxap  
uthule kakhulu lamhla( are you okay you too quite  
today)

Smokes: so uRazor ugrend xap ukahle uyaphila.

Ghost: ( laughing) yazin you always the loud mouth  
but I never forget that you the teddy bear of the  
family . You do know its okay to cry right

Smokes: ( with tears streaming down) Razor took me  
from the dusty slums and polished me up . He gave

me a life when I was about to take my own. He always treats me like his little brother and never makes me feel out of place. I was scared and thinking a lot too . I was afraid of going back to the life that I had . I am no longer a heavy smoker because of him .

Waves: did you see him kodwa l a mean umjita ulabadala kuye, he is here to stay now

Smokes: I need two blunts I will be at the balcony(walking out)

Flames: this really touched him .

Ghost: I would feel the same if I.were him. Razor sees a son in him. He always talked of playing the fatherly role to him ever since he bright him here. The day he came with him ,he had found him near a field tieing a rope on a tree about to hang himself . Razor is all he got .

Meanwhile the machines in the tech room started beeping . Smokes ran to them and checked all the camera sensors that were put on the road that led to the warehouse and realised that there were about five vehicles that were in their territory with people who were heavily armed. He walked out of the room straight to the other guys.

Smokes: ngiyabona liyazi ukuthandaza. Get ready to dance we got company.

Waves: YES !! just the kind of fun I want . After all Razors comeback needs to be celebrated . A blood bath it is .

Ghost rang the intruder alarm and all the man guarding the warehouse . Waited on standby whilst Smokes called for some back up . The guys all

walked out to the front of the warehouse and waited for their meal to serve itself in a silver platter . After calling for backup Smokes collected a bunch of chairs for the guys and gave them to sit on while they wait.

Meanwhile,the man accompanying Harley all assembled outside giving each other angels to attack with. Harley suggested to use the gate with the other man to distract the man. Harley and her two men drove in through the gate and found all the guys waiting while seated polishing their guns and the others loading them. She walked out of the car straight to the guys.

Ghost: welcome to our beautiful home uninvited guest . How can we help you

Harley: (with confidence) I want my man

Smokes: mthathe phela sisi ubanjwe ngubani. Majita who is her he lapha( take him sister who holding you. Guys who is her he here)

Harley : I am not here to negotiate

Smokes: kangela ubuso bala madoda lobubi bawo . Ngitshela bakhanya be negotiator sisi( look at these ugly men do they look like they are on negotiating terms)

Gunner: ( laughing) voetsek wena ngubani omubi LA( who is ugly here)

Harley: (laughing) your life is in my hands if I were you I would be begging

Smokes;( laughing) kanti kuno Jesu owesifazana . wait yiphi i version le kanti majita liyangizonda kanje alisangitsheli ukuthi kulo Jesus lo Jesus Lite eish ngeqiwe kanjani (there is a female Jesus. Which version is this gents you hate me you never told me there is Jesus and Jesus Lite)

Harley: (annoyed tone) shut up you annoying asshole

Meanwhile all the other men who have been dealing with Harley's boys around the compound have been slowly coming to the front after their successful kills . One of the guys walking with Harley realises and whispers it to her but she yanks the guy off.

Ghost: you know what barbie doll your time is up  
Harley I want Ayibongwe out now or else

Ghost : else what (walking towards her)

Smokes: mfethu can I have this one (Ghost raises his hands and walks backwards)

Smokes offers Harley a chair telling her to sit while they get her, he for her . She absent mindedly sits and Smokes walks towards her making her goons step back .He starts whispering to her while dancing for her . He seduces her and plays around with her . On the other hand Harley being Harley starts getting aroused by the strip dance Smokes was doing in front of her . Meanwhile the goons get distracted and fail to notice the men sneaking behind them . They all at once use guns with silencers and shoot them at the back of their heads helping them to lay peacefully on the floor without making noise .

Meanwhile a distracted Harley pays no attention to what is happening, she is already heavily breathing being taken by the handsome snuck in front of her . She is even reaching out touching and feeling Smoke's hairy chest whilst giggling looking at him with seductive eyes. Smokes whispers "goodbye beautiful" in her ears which was followed by blood

flowing on her neck and blood coming out of her mouth. She reaches out for the blood gasping for air trying to breathe. She tries speaking but words fail her and that was lights out for her. Yes Smokes just sliced her throat whilst she was paying attention to the seduction.

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 42

AT THE ORACLE'S HOUSE

The oracle has prepared herbs for Lihle and Siya to fully strengthen them after their awakening . They both starring at the oracle waiting for him.to say something since confusion is written on both their faces. The silence in the room makes everything more awkward and Siya decides to break it.

Siya: baba I am.fully aware of what happened but how and when I got here marvels me. I remember I was in the ...

Oracle: isipho sakho sikulethe lapha ndodana kwamele uthethe naye . Seliqedlile kulomuntu okumele ngilibonise yena(your chosen one brought you here talk to her . When you are done there is someone I need to show you)(the oracle walked out)

Siya moved towards Lihle ,fear was written all over his face . Lihle was on the mat facing the wall all this while with her head bowed down. Siya hesitated touching her twice but soon gathered the courage to. He walked towards her face and kneeled before her .

Siya: my wife sthandwa sami wena okhethelwe Mina ( cupping her face into his hands) MaNgcobo wami . ( Lihle's tears followed into Siya's hands. He sat beside her and wiped her tears and touched her hands)

Siya: my love am sorry. I am sorry for coming late . I am sorry you had to suffer at my expense. This is all my fault had you not been involved with me you would have never suffered like this. I carry the guilt of being the one that brought pain and agony into your life . MaNgcobo my words can never take away the pain you feel but I am willing to suffer for your pain. I am willing to stand with you through this pain. I am willing to face everything with you if you let me. I have done a lot of terrible things that am not proud of and those sins are the ones that have consumed you . ( heavily sighing) ( raising her chin starring straight into her eyes) please my heart say something .

Lihle: ( with a faint voice)(crying) Siya I am damaged (stammering) how can you want something damaged . You are a prince

Siya: Lihle you are my sanity ,you are my rib. Do not say you are damaged cause you are not. It will hurt and sometimes get difficult but always know this your scars,pain and all the emotional battles you have fought define you.They might judge you from how you live ,what you earn and what you have but

that is all a gift .You are a living testimony, a fighter and a warrior.Clothes and looks do not define you .What defines you are the emotional battles you fight each day,the way you keep smiling no matter how emotionally broken you are,your life may not be glorious and you might not have trophies and medals to flaunt about but your biggest trophy is your heart full of love ,compassion,acceptance.You are a testimony and you will survive against all odds in your life because you are strong through and through.I love you as you are and you are my blessing . I am blessed to be loved by you . I will stand with you through it all ,let me be your pillar and lean on me when ever you are not strong . When you get tired I will carry you and when you are about to give up I will fight the battle for you until you get up again. I love you Lihlelethu Ngcobo. Lihle: (crying) I love you too Siyabonga Khumalo

Siya opened his arms wide and embraced Lihle whilst Lihle let it all all out on Siya. He allowed her to cry to her heart's content while he rubbed her back . Siya pulled her out of his arms and looked at her though everytime he touched her she was a little jumpy he admired the beauty before him and thanked his ancestors from within for a blessing like Lihle. He smiled to himself

Lihle: why are you smiling

Siya: I am being grateful for you. Lihle you see this( beating his chest) this is your home ,this is where you belong. Come rain come thunder I am made for you and I got you all the time.

Lihle: (smiling) I got you too. The oracle said he ....

Siya: yes let me call him



Siya called the oracle who walked into the room with a very thin Sizwe who had his head bowed down all the time until he sat down. Lihle blankly stared at Sizwe with tears flowing down her cheeks while confusion and concern was written all over Siya's face .

Siya: baba who is this

Oracle: ngu....( Lihle cut him short )

Lihle: (in a whisper) Sizwe my....uncle

Siya: the same uncle who sold you . What is he doing here

Oracle: uthunywe uku...( again he was cut short.

Sizwe held his hand as a sign to let him speak instead)

Sizwe: Lihle my child I do not deserve any love,pity or forgiveness from you . The reason you are as you are today is me. Greed over powered me and I became jealous of your parents and their hard earned property. I was involved with the Queen Noxolo the Prince's mother . We once loved each other and our bond was so tight that I would do anything for her. She wanted the late Queen dead because she was after the late King and your parents worked for them. They were the only means to which the Queen could kill them but they were very loyal to the throne. When Noxolo approached them asking them to help her poison the late Queen they refused and you were the person they used to threaten them. Because of their worry they asked me to take care of you but Noxolo got to them when they were about to tell the royals her plan. Noxolo butchered them and removed their intestines . She sliced them into pieces while I watched and I never stopped her . I was even the one who helped her

carry the intestines and we fed it to the dogs. After that I took you in and used all the money they left for you to start my business whilst I planned to sell you for human trafficking until things changed and I had to sell you to King Nqobile.

Lihle: ( in tears) how could you be so heartless. She was your own sister ,your flesh and blood . You killed her like an animal . Are you happy now ,I hope you are happy .

Sizwe: Lihle I am sorry . My sins have caught up with me. I am here to confess and rest .

Lihle: uncle Sizwe however you are to suffer for your deeds only the maker knows. You are very heartless.

Lihle wepted hysterically in Siyas hands with every pain from her voice being heard by everyone. Siya felt every atom of her pain and her crys made his beast react. It slowly took over while Siya tried to contain in but it was proving a mission to him.

Sizwe on the other hand cried too for the deeds he had done and also the pain he had caused his niece. He looked at both Siya and Lihle and allowed the hurt and regret to overshadow him .

Sizwe: I have more to say . My prince forgive me for I have wronged you too. I have wronged the royal house hold . King Nqobile and I had been involved in business . I was indebted to him which came to an extent of me covering the debt with Lihle. This all came after the murder I helped the King commit. The King was jealous of his brother who was King before him . He masterminded the plan to kill him and since I was endedbted to him he blackmailed me to help.him . We both killed his brother who was the

King before him and we cut off his manhood ,kidneys and took part of his brain. We dumped the body near the trench close to the city pipe lines . I am sorry you highness.(with his head down)

Siya: (in a calm tone) you and Ngobile killed my father . You took his life for the throne . You have royal blood in your hands. How could you be so heartless. How could you fail.to feel. You took a life ,someone's son for a simple throne. ?

SILENCE

Siya walked towards him heavily breathing and his veins were already popped out. Ndlangamandla had already taken over him and it was ready and thirsty for blood . Thirsty for blood that caused havoc to the Khumalo throne. Lihle realised it and walked towards Siya who was already near Sizwe and touched his hand.

Lihle: Sizwe we are not murders like you. Your death is not in our hands but the Maker and the ancestors . I forgive you for what you did but I am not doing this for you but I.am.doing this for me and my wellbeing. I am doing this for my inner peace. I have been battling with a lot of demons and I cannot have all this weighing down on me because it will make me fail to love those that love me now. I never wished any bad upon you and I never will. You are always going to be my uncle. May you be judged accordingly and I hope you will also find peace and forgive yourself. (Looking at Siya) Mntungwa this is not our war. Our war is ahead and near his blood will taint you he is not worth it.

Siya: (crying) you denied us the chance to be loved and feel the love from our parents but that did not



Ghost: perfect . Boys clean up the mess and Flames why don't you deliver the Barbie's body to her father and by the way a beautiful and condolences message will do too. Let him know we are crying with him.

Flames: sho bozza

Ghost: Smokes let's visit the lover boy in the cells and the rest you are dismissed . You can go celebrate

Ghost and Smokes both walk away from the men straight to the cells. They open Ayibingwe's cells and Smokes starts blurting nonsense.

A GIFT CURSED

INSERT 43

AT THE HOSPITAL

Mdluli walks in together with Simphiwe in the room Linathi is admitted in. Linathi is sleeping on the bed . She tosses and turns while screaming in the bed . Mdluli walks towards her while Simphiwe rushed out to call the doctor. The moment Mdluli touched her she jumped from the bed and ran straight to the door where she met the doctor and nurses together with Simphiwe and looked back at Mdluli . She sat down on the floor and started crying while rocking

herself back and forth, Mdluli took a step forward and touched her and she screamed again . She continued rocking herself while she spoke

Linathi: (while shivering ) you made me a monster and I drank millions of concoctions because of you . You killed him.and made me drink the blood . Now you want to wipe the royal family and take their throne

Mdluli: LINATHI!!

Linathi: I was all okay on my own . You told me blood was life while you stole my soul. I ate raw human flesh and intestines that you said were going to make me strong .

Doc: what is she talking about ( with a confused look)

Simphiwe : I think she is traumatized doctor after what was done to her . Look at her she is shivering and rocking herself on the floor

Linathi: Yes tell him the lies. They befriend you and treat you like family until they consume you . They are Devils hiding under human skin. They use blood and concoctions for their rituals . And I believe I am the next i

Mdluli: ( in a fake emotionl tone)Doctor do something ,look what they did to my daughter .

The doctor injected a serum on her and it was lights out for her . Mdluli and Simphiwe talked to the doctor about Linathis well being then they exited the hospital. Simphiwe drove out of the hospital straight to Mdluli's homestead and parked the car but no one left the car . Mdluli was deep in thoughts . He exhaled heavily before speaking .



Siya was standing beside his father who was showing him a huge river. They both stood before the river which was roaring heavily carrying logs and all sorts of dirt including tree branches . Khaya looked at Siya before he spoke.

Khaya: Siya my son do you see this river . The storm coming your way is as heavy as this river. The logs it carries represents the battles and havoc it comes with. The only person who can help you see what is beyond the storm is laying in a hospital now. Her life is about to be taken from her.

Siya: who do you talk of father

Khaya: the one you once called your own . She will be if great help to you.

Siya: are you saying I should befriend my enemy

Khaya: son we do not choose our paths always. Some are decided for us which cause us to depart from the truth. The differences you had ,they were never her choice but they were made for her by those she called family. Look for her and save her before its too late.

Wake up wake up wake upppppp

~~END OF DREAM~~

Siya wakes up quickly from the bed mistakenly waking up Lihle. He breaths heavily while confusion and anger is written on his face. Lihle feels him and sits up too.His veins were already popped out and his body was starting to be hairy as Ndlangamandla took over.



Lihle: Mntungwa

Siya: he said I should rescue Linathi. He said she will help up conquer the storm ahead of us. How do I trust my enemy . How do I trust someone who was after your blood

Lihle:( holding his hand) we do not choose everything Siya. The ancestors are wiser than us . who are we to defy them. You may go ,do what they sent you to

As soon as Lihle gave him permission. Siya fully changed into a beast and jumped out of the room through the window and ran towards the direction which the ancestors were showing him . Upon arrival he found a dark like figure in the room ,it was all covered in thick black smoke hovering around Linathi's body. The figure was holding Linathi's neck while her mouth was half open. It was sucking out Linathi's soul and her body was becoming pale. Siya charged towards figure and grabbed it with his paws making it fly across the room. He stood in front of Linathi's bed facing the figure whilst it hovered in the air. Siya looked at it and it started forming a black ball in the air which had blue lighting in it . it threw the ball towards Siya which he dodged and attacked the figure . it again threw another ball which hit the brick wall of the room causing it to scatter on the floor creating a huge hole on the wall. Siya again attacked it and they both rolled out of the room through the hole. Meanwhile outside the room black clouds had gathered in the sky creating a portal like structure which was slowly opening as more of those huge black figures poured out into the sky and flying towards numerous directions. The night sky was

now decorated with black clouds making the whole place dark while lightning clapped across the sky and thunder roared. Squelling sounds were heard as the figures flew out of the portal. A nurse entered the room and screamed upon seeing Siya which distracted him while the figure entered the nurse causing her eyes to turn to pure red. The nurse charged towards Siya being controlled by the demon . Siya kept dodging and trying not to hurt the innocent nurse . He tackled her down and held her by her neck and slowly pulled the demon out of her. It first resisted and he managed to finally pull it out holding it by its neck and with one squeeze on the neck it turned into ashes which formed on the floor and were blown away.

Siya walked towards Linathi and disconnected the drip that was on her. He carried her and walked out through the hole. And stood midway looking at the once possessed nurse on the floor who was breathing and ran out into the darkness with Linathi on his shoulder.

A GIFT CURSED  
INSERT 44

LIHLELETHU

I am waiting anxiously for Siya ,I can feel it that he is okay but I cant stop worrying especially after I almost lost him. Thunder and lighting flashing into the room captures my attention and I move towards the window only to come across something I least expected. A large whirlwind like had formed in the clouds which had turned dark from pure white. Floating things that had shapes of a living being poured out from the clouds .

MaNxu: are you ready

Me: I don't know

MaNxu: you are scared for him I see it in your eyes. Do not undermine him he is stronger than he was before. Those are souls of people that were caught between the land of the dead and living . These are souls that seek to revenge on the living ,souls of people who died before they finished any of their bad missions. The ruler of the underworld is coming for the both of you ,this is just the beginning the Hinterlands are cracking open ...if they fully open the demons of the underworld would be out to hunt .

Me: how do we conquer such

MaNxu: you are prepared and the one that Ndlangamandla has will lessen you burden . Heal the one in custody of Ndlangamandla ,purify them you are the daughter of light let light lead . Gather your forces and prepare those who are going to be in battle. You will lead but you need two people by your side one on either side to attain balance . Ndlangamandla is standing with you but do not deny the other one ,he has been there from the beginning for a reason see through him.

Me: I do not understand

MaNxu: yes you do but you are in denial, do not block your light let it lead (she vanishes)

Siya : who are you talking to?

Me: take me to the warehouse NOW!!( with a straight face )

Siya : okay

I did not realise when Siya walked in,his clothes were ripped and worn like always whenever he changes form . When MaNxumalo told me about the denial I knew that it was Ayibongwe . All the time I had been trying to forget him but it never happened ,even when I was locked up by that man a part of me believed that he too might save me . I know its crazy but now I get it all and I know what to do . Siya is afraid but we will attend those feelings later . He drove and parked the car . He was hesitant to let me in but he never questioned me and I appreciated his silence.

Siya: we are here ,this is the warehouse

Me: take me to Ayibongwe

Siya:(roaring) what

Me: trust me please Ndlangamandla

He clenched his jaws and directed me towards a series of doors . I realised everyone in this place was fearful of me though they all carried guns. I was so curious but I brushed it off and focused on the main reason I was there.

\*\*\*\*\*

## AT THE WAREHOUSE

Lihle walked in on Smokes and Ghost sharpening their knives with Ayibongwe on a metal table . They all looked at Siya and back at Lihle while Lihle was starring deeply into Ayibongwe eyes without blinking ,they started turning white and all the guys in the room started freaking out . No matter how many times they had seen her change they never got used to it . Lihle walked towards Ayibongwe and signalled the guys to untie him . She stretched her hands towards him .

Lihle: you are a little unsteady ,hold on to me it will all go away . ( ayibongwe looked at everyone in the room and back at Lihle, he was hesitant at first then held her hands)

Lihle: it is okay to cry Ayibongwe do not contain your pain your scars are your greatest weapon do not hold back let it go

Ayibongwe started crying while both their hands trembled . Siya walked towards them and held Lihle's shoulder . The moment he held it he started feeling all sorts of feeling which were engulfed by a sense of warm and peace . His eyes slowly changed while veins popped on both sides of his eyes . on the other hand Lihle's hands started glowing and she clinged harder to Ayibongwe . Ayibongwe was already crying a river full of tears. On the other hand the sight before Ghost and Smokes left them tongue tied unable to utter a sound or shift .

As the three were still in that position thier souls

moved from their bodies making them travel through decades of time to a place where there was a plastic shack . Ayibongwe' s facial expression changed to that of anger and pain. They all stood inside watching a small boy curled in a corner coughing and shivering from the cold . Sweat was all over the boys forehead showing that he had a massive fever ,they were then taken to a place where they saw the same boy again scavenging for food in bins while people chased him away like a dog ,they saw that same boy stealing a loaf of bread at a market place and running away from the vendors escaping through a hole under a barbedwire fence which dug in deep through his skin near the neck creating a very huge scar. Again they passed a series of emotions where they heard cries, groans of pain and frustration , the more they heard those emotions the more the voice grew stronger and stronger from that of a child to a young man .

This time they watched a young man being handed a gun being told that the gun was going to be his family . Lihle realised that the same boy they had been seeing was the young man in front of them , the scar on his neck helped her realise that . They watched the young man taking lives like a programmed robot up to when he landed in the hands of a man who then called him his son . The man's words were " from today onwards you are now my son ,and you shall call me father and what I ask of you ,you shall do " .

They again shifted to the same young man now being haunted by dreams making him scream and shiver in fear , making him stare at the wall for the

longest time without blinking like a possessed person. Lihle was already in tears while Ayibongwe watched in silence with his jaws clenched while tears flowed freely on his face. On the other hand Siya was already breathing heavily in anger. They saw the same young man now grown and more older with this time he was looking at a girl in a fast food shop admiring her from afar and then it changed to the guy spiraling out of control when he failed to find the girl with the girl's pictures scattered all over the floor up until the guy was captured and prisoned. After a short while their spirits travelled back to their bodies.

Meanwhile, Siya, Lihle and Ayibongwe in the warehouse were still in the same position and they all started breathing heavily as if they are catching their breaths after a long run while Ayibongwe cried silently. Lihle's eyes change back to normal so as Siya's. They both looked at Ayibongwe and only shock was written all over Siya's face while pity and pain could be read on Lihle's face.

Siya: Ayibongwe mfethu I don't know what to say. I am sorry.

Ayibongwe: (shouting and crying) how did you do it? How did you do that

Lihle: Ayibongwe it's not wrong to share your pain. It's not wrong to be vulnerable. Do not build walls around yourself when we are willing to stand with you. How that happened I don't know but what I know is that we were shown that to understand you better. Your scars define you they don't make you weak. We will not treat you otherwise because of your past, whatever happened in the past is in the past. All that happened and it had reasons for it to

turn out that way but we will not define you with your past Ayibongwe.

Ayibongwe: what makes you any different from the rest . You keeping me locked here for something I know nothing of .

Siya: that is my fault by then you were the only person who seemed to be having something that can make you take her . I was in the dark and I could have dealt with this matter in a different way . Its me ,put it on me for treating you like an animal while you are human like me

Smokes: Razor uyahlola ,ungumuntu wena uma uzikhangele . Wambona ngaphi umuntu oguqukayo njenge cartoon character uyanya shame(you are crazy ,are you human? Have you ever seen a human that changes form like a cartoon character)

Ayibongwe: ( laughing) where on earth did you get him

Siya: ( laughing ) he is not far different from you .

Ayibongwe look I am sorry mfethu for everything .

Ayibongwe: I should be the one apologising for disrespecting you and going against the rules because I was being lead by feelings .

Lihle: they were not feelings but a calling. It might be hard to believe but you have a purpose in all this that is why you are still here with us today. I have done what has been asked of me . I have taken all the things that haunted you at night ,you a brand-new man now . You have been given a new start .

Siya: a blank page indeed now write your story and the choices are entirely yours .

Ayibongwe: and what about what you wanted to do to me.

Lihle: past will stay in the past . Now prove yourself noble ,here is a family your choice ,you join it or you



walk away. ( lihle walked out of the room)

Ayibongwe: she is that intimidating ?

Siya:(laughing) only when she is using her gift .

Ayibongwe: are you okay with all this. I mean me being part of this

Siya: like she said this is a family ,from your words I take it you have decided to start over . Welcome to the family . After all I will leave these idiots with someone who also has focus ( laughing and walking away)

Smokes: mana ngikuncwebe indlebe nothing is normal.about this family lawe ungaza nje with eyakho iart I am Smokes ( let me tell you .....you can come with your own gift )

Ayibongwe: ( laughing) can someone rescue me here , do you ever shut up dude everything is joke to you. I give up on you Smokes.(lifting his hands in surrender)

Ghost: that is the baby of the family get used to him ,he is a son to everyone. I am Ghost

Smokes : baby wamasimba woza bafo sikutshengise the rest of the weirdos( come brother let's introduce you to the rest of the crew)

They all followed Smokes laughing and Ayibongwe was already feeling the instant connection with the guys.

\*\*\*\*\*

## AT MDLULI'S HOMESTEAD

All the souls that have been coming out of the portal are hovering around Mdluli's house while in the Hinterlands the underworld doorway/path is slowly

opening and a few demons have been escaping all gathering near Mdluli's home. Mean while Mdluli is still in his secret room chanting calling all those who are under his rule. They all become compelled and go straight to their master. When Mdluli walks out he finds those of his kind gathered around in billions before him . They all bowed as soon as they saw Mdluli among them was Simphiwe and Noxolo. Mdluli stood tall watching them beside him was a shadow ,the shadow was rather strange as it also stood beside him nothing showed it being connected to Mdluli but rather it was completely detalouched capable.of moving just like any human but only seen on the ground. The shadow had horns that were protruding from its body and huge claws .

Mdluli: my children the hour has come . This is the time we take what is hours and destroy for good .

Them: roaring/ squeaking/ growling

Mdluli: be prepared for what we have been planning is happening on the day of the BLOOD MOON. The sun whill hide behind the moon creating a moon that gives strength unto us . In that hour we shall strike and consume the Kingdom. No stone will be left unturned ,no human will be left pure. Make their hearts fear and thirst for revenge . Leave them rotten to the core.

Them: (shouting in joy)

Mdluli: now go , go and do as your father have sent you .

The demons and souls all vanish withing a blink of an eye leaving Simphiwe and Noxolo standing before him .

Mdluli: you have gone against the rules for so many times ,this is the time you can prove your loyalty bring me the daughter of the Light's heart and you shall be reconsidered back in the ranks of those who stand with me

Noxolo: yes master

Mdluli: ( pointing at Simphiwe)You shall face Ndlangamandla ,my faith is in you lead the souls to him and end him in battle

Simphiwe: yes father .

A GIFT CURSED

THE SUMMONING

INSERT 45

A WEEK LATER  
AT THE PALACE

The palace looks dirty and dusty like a deserted area. No atom of movement is audible only the squeaky sound from the gate being gently pushed by wind is audible . All the palace grounds are empty even a small ant cannot be seen passing by .

Meanwhile Sivuyile is throwing his clothes on the bed ,they are all scattered across the bed and he is scruffily pushing them into his suitcase . Siyanda

walks in to his brother roughly pushing his suitcase trying to close it .

Siyanda: what are you doing

Sivuyile: something I should have done two weeks ago . I am leaving this shit hole you all call a palace.

Siyanda: but this is our home . Where are we going to go

Sivuyile: anywhere but here. If you want to die young and get slaughtered like a cow stay . Open your damn eyes we have been here for a week hoping mom and Simphiwe will be back . You were there when mother walked out of here like a compelled person and none of us know where she is . As for Simphiwe its all written on him he is not what he possess to be. He is a vicious wolf ready to bite our flesh

Siyanda: you are reading too much into this don't you think. It is possible to see false evidence appearing real .

Sivuyile: not when that false evidence is clearly written. Caution or Dangerous. That is exactly what our mom and Simphiwe are . We came here with one motive to get a contract to dig in the Kingdom, look where we are today. We are former princes who have been living a lie all this time . With a brother who plans to kill us with someone we do not know . We have siblings we know nothing about their where about whilst the man we once called father is dead and happens to be a cold blooded killer. Who exactly was displaying who they truly are in this family ? NO ONE . Dear brother you may stay I will not hold you against your will . Your life your choices you are grown do what is right by you.

Siyanda: and where are you going exactly

Sivuyile : I do not know but my ancestors will guide

me whoever they are

Siyanda: I am coming with you ,let me also pack

Siyanda rushes and packs up his clothes quickly leaving the wardrobe empty . They both walk out of the palace to the garage. They stand for a while bidding thier goodbyes to what they used to call their home hearing to the unknown. Sivuyile said a little prayer as he sat on his sit holding the stirring wheel. He drove out with Siyanda hitting the dusty roads of the kingdom whilst a cloud of smoke accumulated in the clear air. As they kept driving something made Sivuyile take a turn hearing towards the Oracle's house . As soon as they parked they found the oracle waiting by the house looking at them .The oracle walked towards them and sprinkeled some herbal water onto them before asking them in.

Oracle: bengililindile ukuthi lize lapha(I have been waiting for you to come)

Siyanda: how did we get here l ....I thought we were leaving the Kingdom Sivuyile

Oracle: ungamethesi icala engasilo lakhe. Abaphansi balenjongo( don't blame him for what he did not have any control over . The ancestors have a reason)

Sivuyile: injogo?

Oracle: sesifikile isikhathi sokuphendula yonke imibuzo elinayo( its time to ask all the questions you have)

Siyanda: imibuzo baba?

Oracle: ngiyabona lisadidekile ,lapho elilubhekise khona akula I kusasa enhle lingazi lapho elivela khona. Ngiyazi isimo elisitshiyileyo lapho elivela khona kodwa ke akukho okuzalivimba lilapha .

Hlanganisani amakhanda lilapha kuze kuphela lokhu okuzayo.( I see you are all confused ,where you are going there is no future when you do not know where you are coming from. I know the state the palace is in but there isn't anything that will attack you here. Use this time to think things through until what's coming is over)

Sivuyile: what is coming

Oracle: impi yombango( a war for survival)

The oracle leaves the two hanging with a lot of questions. The oracles welcomed them into his home the same home where Sizwe was being kept as a prisoner .

\*\*\*\*\*

## AYIBONGWE

I have been given a chance to start over. It's a rocky path but I am on it with pride knowing that I have faced my greatest fear again and accepted it . I had it rough and tough growing up but it does not have to determine my character and who I am that's how they both advised me . To think I hated someone so kind and down to earth and understanding like Siya . Its true when they say in every storm there is a cloud of false judgement upon the opposer. Lihle has been of great help to me ,I do not even wish to go back to the place I used to call home. I have found love ,togetherness ,support and loyalty from these people , different by blood and race but one heart . I have left my past and now I am a brand new man . Judge me all you can but I only did not find a family but I found love in this very warehouse . I have

found my broken rib though she doesn't know and seems like to get to my destination I am yet to swim oceans and dig mountains with a needle but I am willing to go that far. She is a work in progress and very fragile . I spend countless hours starrng at her,taking care of her let alone dreaming about her . DAMN what does Linathi have on me . The way she makes me feel. It all feels like I have just started falling in love. I thought it was a small crush but it grows everyday and her eyes weaken me every moment , in her presence my stomach ties into knots . Today I am visiting her again ,I wouldn't want the boys to be aggressive on her ,only Siya knows how I feel about her apparently to him I am an open book. The way we are you would think we were born together ,I understand him and he does too more than anyone.

I am walking towards the bedroom which she has been allocated . I am busy doing breathing exercises and its just surprising that a woman has got me by the balls . I knock twice and I hear her soft voice asking me in and I do as told. There she was standing by the window starrng outside . I take my time admiring her acknowledging every curve on her.

Linathi: Its rude to stare Bongwe

Me: (scratching his head) eish am sorry Nathi just that I couldn't help it and I just had to admire the beauty

Linathi: (laughing) I am just a mess. A broken mess and there is no beauty in a mess

Me: yes there is . Do you perhaps know art . In art the artists all have different ways they art and different substances they use but that does not mean

what they drawn ain't art. Some scatter around paint while others use pencils but regardless of the mode used on the art it does not stop it from being art. Infact the problem ain't the art but the person who sees it . You see all you have to do is open your heart and mind and soul to appreciate a master piece . What I mean is not everyone will see you for you but to those who see you as you are let us appreciate the fine work of art you are cause you are indeed a masterpiece .

Linathi: (shocked) you think I am beautiful

Me: I do not think ,infact you are beautiful . (holding her hand walking towards the mirror then standing beside her while she looked at herself at the mirror) . I am not saying there is no outer beauty but don't deprive your inner beauty a chance to shine too because you have come across a few people who have shaken you . You see these scars on you ,they extend your beauty they make you more than beautiful but extraordinarily gorgeous ,you know why because all these scars define how much of a warrior you are and how much of a fighter you are . They tell your story without the world hearing your words . This is your beauty and your inner beauty compliments everything on the outside. (Looking in her eyes) you see everyone is beautiful in their own way ,they are a fine piece of art that's why we are different ,there is no one beauty but many kinds of beauty and it all starts from the heart of the beholder which goes on to demystify the cloud of judgement before them.

Linathi: (crying) thank you ,you have made me feel again (hugging her) thank you

Me: look Nathi never allow anyone to tear your spirit or anything to cause you pain . I am here now



and that is all gone

Linathi: what do you mean

Me:( smiling ) that is a story for another day. Now I need you to tell my friends everything you have been telling me for the past week . They say the information you have will help them overcome the storm ahead of them . Can you help us please

Linathi: ( nodding) okay I will tell them everything . If it can help them then I will speak

Me: (hugging her )thank you . I will be holding your hand through it all I won't leave you. Can I call them in now. They are quite a bunch

Linathi: (stammering) okay

Ayibongwe calls in the group and walks in together with Siya,Lihle, Ghost ,Smokes and Waves. When Linathi's eyes lands on Ghost she starts trembling in fear . Ghost realises it and starts displaying a series of emotions on his face . Ayibongwe rushes to her followed by a concerned Lihle who hugs her while Ayibongwe rubs her back gently. Her silent cries were loudly whispering in the room.

Ghost: can I speak please (Siya nods his head in approval) I do not know where to start but as a man I have to take responsibility of my actions. Linathi I am sorry for what I did to you . I brutally harassed you with no remorse and left you broken. No woman deserves to be treated like that there could have been better ways I could have punished you and my actions cannot be justified even though I was mourning the death of Siya who happens to have ressurected . I am really truly absolutely sorry for what I did to you and I will always apologise for this. I know my actions are unforgivable but I am so

sorry.(with his head bowed down) I will leave the room I do not wish to make you feel uncomfortable while you speak.(walking away)

Linathi: ( sniffing) Wait ...please wait ...you can sit . I have done worse and I will not condemn you for trying to protect your loved ones. Just like you I owe everyone an apology . Siya I am sorry for everything I did to you ,to be honest I never loved you my grand father sent me to seduce you when he found out that you could be the true heir to the Khumalo throne . He made me look for you in the city so that I could lure myself into your life and when you fall for me it would have been easy for me to wipe your entire family from within without anyone realising it . I was soo determined because he made me believe that the royal family was the one who killed my parents when he was the one who caused their own death. I took the plan and embarked on my mission but Lihle came and became an obstacle towards my success and the only way to achieve it was by killing her or making her heart dark since she is he daughter of the light . Lihle proved to be stronger ,the more I made things difficult for her the more she became stronger(crying hysterically) thats when I ...I took a video of you and I together . My motive was to show her so that she can be broken since you were her source of strength . I am so sorry.

Smokes: hayi ke impilo iyanyisa . Lihle yingilosi whilst uRazor sengu Lazurus ovuka ekufeni .

UNathi ngujuniour Satan ovuma izono zakhe and wena psycho ungumlahlwa oyindodana yolahleko and Ghost mfethu nc nc nc angel of death . Angazi ukuthi kuthiweni kodwa Mina ngizoba yoglue yakhona ke . ( looking at Waves) eish mfethu awula role phela wena( well life is a bitch. Lihle is an angel whilst Razor is Lazurus the one who resurrected

from the dead. Nathi is junior Satan who is accepting her sins and you Psycho are the lost one and ghost you the angel of death . And since we are a mixed bunch I can be the glue to keep us together. Eish brother you don't have a role )

Linathi: (laughing) junior Satan kodwa .

Smoke: you would make a sexy devil

Linathi: ( blushing) thanks I really feel better now

Smokes: yabona manje Psycho yimina inja yegame .

Ngikuthathela umfazi ubhekile . Kungasenani I am not stingy sharing is caring (/you see psycho am the big man . I took your woman while you were watching. For what's worth ....)

Ayibongwe: I will be re arranging you ...you will be Lazurus the second soon (Everyone laughs)

Siya: jealousy doesn't suit you mfethu (everyone then keeps quite and looks at Linathi)

Linathi: ( she moves looking at Lihle) I am sorry for everything . I am sorry for the havoc I caused between you and Siya . Noxolo never wanted you and she masterminded the whole plan of me seducing Siya and making me pretend to like you . You were so nice to me and I was the opposite of nice . I do not wish to be bad and evil please am sorry for all the pain you had to go through because of my actions and fake emotions .

A GIFT CURSED  
THE SUMMONING  
INSERT 46

## AT THE WAREHOUSE

Lihle: its okay ,that is all in the past now .Everyone in this room is fighting today for a cause all you have to do if find your . Your grandfather is planning something huge and we need you to help us know what it is and how we can defeat him.

Linathi: he is no longer my grandfather, what ever that man is I am not sure but he can never be my grandfather . Mdluli is a devil ,just like Noxolo he sold his soul to the devil but oy that his sacrifice was different from that of Noxolo. He gave away his life for the devil to use him. What is with him is not his soul but darkness lives within him and that is why he is coming for you . Lihle is light and soon she would be capable of seeing every evil and that puts the demons and bad spirits at jeopardy. And the only way to save them is by killing Lihle . A gift like hers cannot be eliminated because she cannot die she gets reborn llike a phoenix from the ashes of shattered dreams just like the way her body did when Noxolo kept her imprisoned when she discovered her gift.

Siya: yes I remember when I found her she was in a pile of ashes

Linathi : exactly ,the only way she can be eliminated is by taking her heart and that is what they will aim for . At the same time if Lihle gets to be pregnant for you the child will be stronger than anything because it will be coming from both the two worlds . The child will be a portal between the underworld and the world of the living and if that child's is taught

pureness from a tender age it will be largely clouded by light but if not it can cause great havoc to this world.

Lihle: you mean Siya's beast is...

Linathi: yes it is A GIFT CURSED. His beast is a tamed monster from the underworld that is why he has that necklace around his neck it is meant to keep him it caged if not it can be a blood sucking monster and in the underworld it is a machine to destroy and it knows no mercy. And as for you thier main aim will be the necklace luckily that necklace is enchanted and can only be removed by a secret spell from your chosen one and it will be difficult for them to use you . But Lihle is also your weakness if and I say if anything happens to her it can go out of control. There are illusionists these are demons that will show you what is not real to play with your emotions and Siya your emotions are your greatest weakness but your beast can see while your eyes are closed and you will have to fight blind folded. You should let it lead instead.

Ayibongwe: this seems like a war . When and how will it happen .

Linathi: how it will happen and where it will be I have no knowledge of it but after a series of years there is a BLOOD MOON . It is not any type of moon ,this is when the sun hides behind the moon making the whole night blood red instead of dark. The underworld gains power then and they can be as good as invisible and can cause great damage . That is when they are likely to attack you . The blood moon comes with a lot of consequences and nothing will be the same . To those of pure human origin it will make all of them asleep not just any type of sleep but dead asleep. Meaning that all will happen

while the whole kingdom is peacefully sleeping . But there are also demons that can use a human body and that alone is dangerous cause they they enter anyone which mean if they do ,you will be left with no kingdom for you will have to kill the human to get to the demon.

Ghost: how can we protect the Kingdom and there are some of us who wish to help we cannot be asleep.

Linathi: I can make a concoction for those who want to be awake and make a spell for the kingdom to be protected .

Smokes: (with a serious tone) how can we trust you . I mean you the same person who was under this devil. Psycho don't bite my head off I am doing what all of you here are failing to .

Linathi: I understand where you are coming from . Siya and Lihle can tell if I have bad intentions but to make you more certain you can take me to the oracle . He will clense me then I will make the portions .

Ghost: and how do you know all this

Lihle: because she is a descendant of the Ariels. The last half angel and half white witches . Making her a mage

Smokes: sungilahlile

Siya: she has a gift and all the things her grandfather gave her were meant to steal her shine but they didn't dim all of it .

Ayibongwe: when is this blood moon

Linathi: ( in a shaky voice) in three days . the pure humans call.it a luner eclipse . The difference is that this one will be more different it was prophesied even before I was born. There will be two blood moons instead of one .

Lihle: how come

Linathi: the Hinterlands were opened meaning two worlds have become one . The underworld and the world of the living . and the result is the two moons .And the demons will....

Siya &Lihle: more powerful

Linathi: exactly

They all stare at each other in the room.while others are swallowing their dry saliva and the others digesting what Linathi has said. Some are battling with their thoughts on the do or die situation ahead of them . Its a fight or die situation where family comes first before anything . MaNxumalo appears before all of them.making herself visible to everyone . No one notices her as they are all battling with their thoughts.

MaNxu: now this is the part where you all pray . Siya and Lihle your hearts are already leading you follow them . Linathi my child prepare these men for the war and take care of the Kingdom .

Lihle: what about....

MaNxu: they are all in safe hands. Siya your brothers are with the oracle fear not . The underworld is preparing so should you . Now go.(they leave at once)

Smokes: yazi I am getting used to all this I am now even thinking that its normal when its not

MaNxu: Ayibongwe and Linathi you now both have a reason to fight for ,do what is right .And you three be strong for each other ,hold on and never back down you shall never be wrong . Its all for the family . Help Linathi protect the Kingdom.

MaNxumalo disappears leaving them looking at each other . They all stand up at once as if they know what they should do moving out of the room.

To be continued....

\*\*\*\*\*

SIYABONGA

Narrated

I am holding hands with Lihle as I walk out of the warehouse . I feel the fear in her as much as I feel mine . Nothing is easy but what I know is I want to conquer and build a family with this woman I have here . We have been walking for a while now and no one seems to know where we heading but I feel compelled to move forward like there is a force pushing me . We kept walking until we reached an intersection. A small light forms before my eye and its so intriguing whether Lihle sees it I do not know but I feel the urge to follow it and I let go of her hand. I hear distant words like she is talking to me but I fail to listen and follow the light .

\*\*\*\*\*

Siya follows the light through thorny and rocky paths to a very dark cave in the middle of nowhere ,where the cave was coming from no one knew but it was a kind of portal that was leading him back to his ancestral land . Siya kept walking glued to the light until he entered the land of the ancestors . As soon as he reached the ancestral tree the light vanished in front of him . He blinked twice and three but it was all darkness before him . He could hear distant voices while he saw no one . Meanwhile his



eyes had turned white. The voices kept coming near and nearer to him until he could clearly hear them.

Siya: is anyone there

Voice1: welcome Ndlangamandla to your ancestral land

Siya: ancestral land how come I do not see anything

Voice2: your spirit was the one that usually came to this land but today you came in your human form and that is why your human eyes are blinded so that you may not see the path you took coming here .

Siya: can they be opened now

Voice1 : I am sorry my king but they cannot ,it is best for them to stay this way until your mission is over .

Voice2: the reason you were brought here was to strengthen you and your beast and that is what we shall do . Come (holding his arm directing him towards the tree)

They both made Siya lay flat on the ground near the tree and started praying with their heads bowed down in a foreign language while Siya was still on the ground. Meanwhile the ancestral tree started moving and its roots being uprooted from the moist soil. The roots moved towards Siya pulling him closer to the tree. The roots covered his entire body while the small roots connected to his head and rest of his body making him fall into a deep slumber with a sense of peace . All the roots connected to his body . The voices of those praying faded leaving Siya embraced by the ancestral tree.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LIHLELETHU

I have been walking with Siya for quite some time now until we reached an intersection. We both stood there but not for long until Siya started letting go of my hand . He was looking at empty space and his eyes where glued but they had already changed to white . I kept calling him as he walked away but it all fell on deaf ears . I wants to follow him but it was like my feet were glued on the ground . I kept calling him until he disappeared into the bush. I stood there clueless of what I should do . I then began to hear a small whisper in my ear as if someone was calling me . I listened harder and the sound started to fade . I followed the sound and the more I moved the more the whispers grew leading me to a very beautiful place .There were there were the four pillars of life AIR,EARTH,WATER AND FIRE . I felt the need to kneel in the middle of the pillars and I started praying whilst bright light clearly shone above my head .I felt a sense of peace and calmness and I allowed myself to be lost in the world of the spirits .

\*\*\*\*\*

## AT THE WAREHOUSE

The boys have all gathered what is needed by Linathi for her to make her portions while the rest had gone to get the oracle at his house . They have prepared a room in the warehouse where Linathi is doing her stuff. All the guys were given assignments and they were busy running around like headless chickens . Flames was assembling all the ammunition while Ghost was barking orders .

Psycho and Smokes were setting all the necessities for the war and holding a grand call to all the man under Razor .

Meanwhile Waves parked the car and came out with the oracle which he led to the room where Linathi was . He found her with a book in infront of her while she was busy mixing all kinds of different substances in a large mixing bowl. The oracle did not ask questions he went down on the task before them and started helping Linathi with everything .They mixed ,herbs, leaves, different roots and powders . The oracle was busy chanting all kinds of chants while Linathi mixed the portion . The portion started glowing turning into a beautiful sky blue and its light shining across the whole room .

Meanwhile Ghost was busy assembling all the men just like how Linathi had asked of him. Linathi and the oracle both walked out of the room carrying a bowl of the portion each. All the men lined up drinking from the portion which was in Linathi's hands while the oracle sprinkled the one in his arms around the whole warehouse . When all the men were set ,the oracle and Linathi all went to Manzini Kingdom with the rest of the portion. Ghost and some of the men delivered them . They started walking door by door to the houses of those living in the Kingdom . They anointed them on the forehead while they put a mark on their door steps to hinder the demons from entering their homes .This took the whole day for them and when they were done they went back to the warehouse and the oracle was delivered back to his home. Meanwhile all the men assambled by the warehouse waiting for the final hour .

A GIFT CURSED  
THE SUMMONING  
INSERT 47

SEASON FINALE

THE DAY OF THE BLOOD MOON

"When the cat is away the mouse are out to play" .

Death,havoc,chaos and evil can be smelt in the Kingdom. The Manzini people have their hearts out of their chests knowing that the day of the eclipse has come . All the animals are making sorrowful noises. Noises of pain ,noises of agony . This only means one thing History was being made that very day . All the trees are swaying towards one direction even the children in the kingdom are awfully quite . Nothing seems to have life in it . Could it be the end? . A shadow of darkness floats over the kingdom as a moon appears in broad daylight overshadowing the sun. A reflection of blood red moon is seen as all the animals in the kingdom run away and hide . Only chaotic silent is audible . Meanwhile as soon as the people in the Kingdom see the eclipse ,they all rush to their home shutting their doors and windows

crouching in corners hiding away from the evil. The silence prolongs for a few hours whilst from a distance doors are heard shutting and the noises of people muttering dying down. After a series of minutes a howl is heard from a far distance, while roars and screams filled the sky.

The Hinterlands cracked open, and a dark fog with tainted with scent of dead corpses hovers around. The spirit of death came out of the crack, it was all smoke filled with little pecks of burnt bones and ragged clothes. Its body covered in a cloak without a face. On its right was a watch dangling in its hands showing that the time had come for the dead to relive while on the left was a crooked silver bottle filled with fresh blood for the awakening. It floated towards the graveyard of the Kingdom and on each grave a drop of blood was hit the moist soils. The graves started splitting open while rotten hands and legs protruded from the soils. The corpses all matched towards Mdluli's house, some without heads, others without hands or feet, others without eyes in their sockets. They all moved in unison towards the home stead. As the Hinterlands opened demons came out in numbers floating above the sky, meanwhile the sky had already turned pure black with blood red light from the moon shining in the bare sky. No atom of life could be smelt by death and stench from the living dead.

The Hinterlands became one with the world of the living, a separate moon appeared in the sky, one to the east and the other to the west. Thunder clapped across the sky with lightning flashing, no scent of rain could be smelt but only the visible red lighting in the thick black clouds. Distant scratching, howls, roars and screams populated the silence. All roads were leading to Mdluli's house. Corpses, beasts,

illusionists ,shape shifters and soul suckers came out from their hiding places. The more the moons rose the more they gained power ,they could move with the speed of lighting without a soul seeing them . Meanwhile Mdluli in his hideout was slowly changing form growing wings with pointy edges ,claws, three horns and body that of half human and half beast . His body was covered in dark veins,while his skin was transparent even his brain and bones could now be seen. The quickly peeled off like a snake leaving his new shade out . On each side of his body there were three wings making him possess six wings . On each wing were eyes while his forehead was decorated with six eyes representing the mark of the beast . He flew into the red night viewing all the directions from his eyes . On the east came the corpses, to the north were beasts from the Hinterlands ,to the south were demons squealling ,screaming and making scratching noises that deafened the ear,while to the south came lost souls . He let out an evil laugh watching his army gathering up . He roared into the sky causing great thunder and lighting.

At the warehouse Linathi is cuddling close with Ayibongwe ,she is trying to reassure herself that all will be well but she is failing to put all her feelings in one place . Ayibongwe holds her tight trying to assure her but it doesn't help . They whole crew is seated in one room , they are all giving each other talking eyes but no word is coming from their mouths . A loud clap of thunder startles them while the light protruding through the curtains turns into blood red . They all look at each other , the fear in their eyes cannot be missed but the love and courage in them shows thier might. No one talks but

you could see that they were all prepared for whatever was coming their way .

On the other hand an army assembled by the General ( Harley's father) is slowly sneaking in the Kingdom with their guns . They all get the shock of their lives as they get close to the borders of Manzini Kingdom , a thick fog has the Kingdom locked in ,while only thunder and red lighting is seen. They all realise that the fog is around the Kingdom and the side in which they stand is still broad daylight. The men look at the general who has his fists tightened and jaws clenched. The General roars in anger telling the men to move forward and not to turn back . Knowing their general the men all drive to their death . As soon as they enter the fog the barriers close again . They all drive for a reasonable distance and the cars start to be shaken by demons hovering ontop of them . They continue driving while the other soldiers fire their bullets towards the unseen demons. One of the soldiers peeps through the window and a demon enters his body taking full control of his body. It does not take time for the rest of the soldiers to be entered by the demons. The demons all search their hearts and finding them with one object to destroy . They contain their bodies . The drivers kept driving nearing towards the warehouse .

Linathi senses their presence as they were nearing towards them . She sprung out of Ayibongwe's hands and rushed to the room they had made for her to prepare her portions before . She came back running with a root in her hand and the other with a book. She quickly opened the pages until she

reached a certain page . She bit the root and gave it to the guys for them to bite on it too.She looked at them and nodded ,they all did as instructed and she gave them her hands and they held them making a huge circle . Linathi rubbed some powder in her hands and started chanting in a foreign language ,her hands glowed and it connected to the rest of the guys . By the time she finished the possessed soldiers were already knocking the warehouse gates with their cars . The guys in the room all looked at each other and each and everyone picked up their own weapon loading it and moving swiftly out of the warehouse . Ayibongwe kissed Linathi on her forehead and they both walked out . They stood before the entrance in a circle facing the possessed soldiers.

The soldiers charged towards the guys with animosity in them showing its true form. Bullets flew across the sky hitting the soldiers . The other soldiers viciously attacked the men ripping their flesh and eating their hearts and lungs . All their intestines scattered across the paved ground . The ground became decorated with red blood and flesh hanged all over the place . Heads were ripped of and cries of agony and pain echoed. Ghost charged towards the soldiers slicing each and every one that came in contact with him . All the demons possessing the soldiers that were being killed started hovering around. Smokes aimed each soldier on its forehead with the bullet going straight between the eyes . Ayibongwe on the other hand aiming the soldiers with his hand gun while he throws knives aiming at the soldiers out numbering Linathi. One of the soldier attacked Smokes from the back and bites his hand , Smokes shoots it and Ghost slices its throat leaving its head dangling on Smokes' hand



which later falls off with a chunk on meat from his arm. Linathi stands in a circle of soldiers attacking her from all directions she calmly closes her eyes and rubs her hands together then blows something from them which sends all the soldiers flying across the whole compound. She opens her eyes only to find Smokes looking at her smiling with his thumbs up saying "bathathe sexy devil". Another soldier sneaks towards Smokes and a sound of a blade is heard from his back . When he turns he sees Ghost with a dripping blade in his hands while shaking his head and Linathi laughing from the other direction. Their mini episode ends as sounds from Ayibongwe's fights escalate,he starts to fight like a possessed man not leaving any soldier alive , the more they killed the more the demons accumulated above their heads causing a great darkness. They all moved swiftly killing all the soldiers one after the other . The General became the only one left and he stood from afar and all the demons hovering in the sky all entered him.making him a legion with six arms and because of his heavy ,evil and revenge clouded heart . Smokes looked at everyone before muttering " siyanyelwa kanti sesikubhayibhile LA" . They all looked at each other and Linathi started chanting something that made large winds blow around them while she shouted something to the guys saying "go for the heart ,that is the only way we can kill it " . They all nodded encircling the legion which they charged at the same time . The demon caught Ayibongwe by the throat while Ghost sliced some of it's arms and Smokes shooting its body which only made everything more worse. The sliced arms grew back while the bullets were absorbed in its body and it continued shocking Ayibongwe. Ghost jumped toward the hand and sliced it while

Ayibongwe fell down while the legion scratched Ghost's thighs and blood oozed out from it . Behind Linathi was leaving the guys to buy her time while she chanted behind the beast . She signalled for Ghost to slice its head while Smokes aimed at its body too and signaled Ayibongwe to go for the legs . They all together charged towards the legion with everyone aiming at their target ,Ghost sliced the head ,Ayibongwe ripping the legs ,Smokes aiming the body and Linathi aiming for the heart . Linathi disappeared within the legion coming out from the other end with its beating heart. The legion fell apart at once with the guys all panting looking at each other . Blood was all over their clothes and faces. The heart was still beating in Linathi's hands whose body was already soaked in blood . They all helped each other up walking towards the warehouse door. Bodies dotted across the pavements, heads and intestines everywhere , just as they were about to reach the door they heard a growl . As they all turned back they saw the legions scattered body parts on the pavements slowly moving as if they had gained life coming together making up a full body again. They all watched in horror and fear . The body parts rolled on the ground moving towards the rest of the body ,one by one getting attached forming a whole body all over again. They all looked at each other again and .....

\*\*\*\*\*

Meanwhile in the forest Lihle and Siya both opened their eyes at the same time with Siya catching his breath while Lihle quietly sniffed in the air and smelt the death and blood that had tainted the once

pure atmosphere. As Siya opened his eyes ,the whole place looked blurry in his vision he could only see shadows. He listened carefully and heard the howls,squeals and roars from the demons . A flash of the cracked hinterlands ran through his mind and he saw the visions and all the hinterlands and what was coming from it. He saw the two moons, while he saw all this Lihle could see everything that he was seeing now in which Lihle had become Siyas eyes since he was blind. They both kept quite feeling all the emotions in each other and not even a glimpse of fear flashed in them. Lihle touched the soil from where she was and she felt all the blood that had been consumed by the soil . All the flesh that had scattered around the Kingdom. She felt all the evil and chaos in the Kingdom. She silently made Siya fell her and they both stood up from the separate lands and started walking out of them. With each step Lihle took whirlwinds started forming while her body turned into a pillar of fire . Siya fully transformed into the BEAST he was . His whole body became hairy and veins popped out . He allowed his beast to take over . They both started running towards the kingdom and ...

A GIFT CURSED  
THE SUMMONING  
INSERT 48

They all turned back looking at the legion which was back to its full form. They all charged towards it

with Linathi blowing some powder on its eyes which made it staggered back losing its balance on the paved ground. They gathered their strength watching it standing up from the ground. Ghost signaled that everyone should encircle it but the moment it reached the ground from it started melting as if it was bleeding from the knock on the ground causing a large puddle of black blood in the ground which spread out through the ground . The guys saw it as an opportunity and charged toward it splashing in the blood puddle. The puddle was black and shiny green , it extended even to where the rest of the guys were standing ,totally encircling them . The all stood waiting for the legion to come back looking exactly where it had hit on the pavement . The puddle instead started to consume them like a quicksand into the earth numerous hands protruded from the blood puddle pulling them all in ,in full force , it was like there was an opposite force pushing them into the puddle as they quickly slipped into the puddle.

They all fought against the puddle but none of their actions and trials worked in their favour. the puddle covered their entire flesh with their bodies drowning in the chaotic puddle. The screams and cries all faded as the puddle slowly became drawn back into the legions wounds covering all the wounds in its chest ,finally silencing them.Bodies at the warehouse decorated the pavements ,the once notorious crew all gone and faded into the the unknown. Flesh hanged on trees like fresh laundry. Intestines and blood spotted the trees which now looked like a bloody Christmas .

Meanwhile Lihle gathered her speed as she started to float into the air as a thick cloud floated below her giving her room to stand on . Her whole body covered in fire while the whirlwinds shone as if they contained bright and pure light in them . The cloud led her straight to the Kingdom where she met an army of demons waiting for her . She descended onto the ground ,the moment she stepped on the ground huge flames covered the whole battle field which was once Mdluli's homestead completely locking in all the underworld's creatures . She stood tall watching the demons . The demons all charged at once towards Lihle who opened her hands and spread her arms while inhaling air , the demons all ran in full force towards her while she balanced herself and clapped her hands at once while screaming .

The moment she clapped her hands demons all flew across the ground as a large wind blew them across the battle field , as soon as they hit hard on the ground they all turned into ashes scattering around the ground. Her screams were followed by fire coming from her mouth like a breathing dragon ,which burnt the demons consuming them in the fire . She again got lifted from the ground slightly floating above the demons , raising her hand which made trees and the ground start to shake . The trees got up rooted from the ground ,as they gained life and started moving towards the battlefield with their roots hitting any living dead in its path. Some of the bodies were thrown across the battlefield causing all the body pieces to scatter .She raised her hands again making the huge whirlwinds to spin very fast into the battlefield ,raising all the bodies and demons ,consuming them in the fast spinning

whirlwind.

Meanwhile Noxolo realised that Lihle was becoming stronger for the demons, she took out a dagger and dipped it in snake poison and enchanted it with her spell and sent it flying across the battlefield aiming for Lihle's heart , the moment the dagger started drawing close to Lihle , Lihle was slowly moving up deeper into the clouds ,the dagger switched her hitting straight on her belly. Lihle fell in full force from the sky hitting hard on the ground causing her to collapse on the ground. Demons all together charged towards her all crowding themselves on her body . Lihle managed to gather all her strength as the poison on her was slowly draining her power, he raised her head hearing the movements from the demons and lifted her right hand as the demons grew closer to her. She drew light from her body to her hands and cast out a large ball of light which spread across the whole battle field making all.the demons blind whilst the closest ones to her were burnt to ashes buying her time to groan in pain moving into the thick bushes for cover . Noxolo watched in amusement as her prey ran for its life .

On the other hand Siya ran across the thick bushes with the speed of a cheetah allowing the beast in him.to guide him.to his destination. The beast kept sniffing its way to the Kingdom as soon as it got to the Mdluli's homestead he found an army of souls being led by Simphiwe waiting for him . He quickly stopped midway from them feeling their presence around him. The souls surrounded him while he gathered his strength waiting for them to make their move . They all charged towards him at once from

different directions, he inhaled slowly closing his eyes then opened them ,he moved swiftly attacking every soul, each soul coming in contact with his paws turning to dust . He dodged a soul flying above him and jumped towards it ripping it off on its neck ,whilst kicking the others with his feet. Simphiwe threw a ball of fire towards him which he roared at blowing it off , the roar made the souls squeal in agony and pain . He charged toward Simphiwe who quickly ran hiding behind the stream of souls hovering around him which started creating an illusion where Siya started hearing Lihle asking for his help , Siya battled with his emotions while his heart raced as he started fighting with his beast as his emotions overpowered him. Simphiwe saw a chance to attack Siya which he charged at but the more Siya fought with his beast it caused a heavy load of emotions which were accompanied by a larger roar which deafened Simphiwe making him fall on the ground bleeding from the eyes,ears and nose while a large crack got created on the ground sucking all the souls in.

Meanwhile Noxolo slowly floated toward Lihle watching her drag herself on the soil in the bush moving away from a laughing Noxolo. Noxolo rushed towards her and lifted her from the ground and threw her across the sky causing her body to hit hard in a series of tree branches and trunks knocking her head and other body parts. Noxolo charged toward her as she saw an opportunity to finish her off . Lihle lay flat on the ground lifeless with faint breaths. She closed her eyes allowing herself to be concentrate on her light, the speed at which Noxolo was flying toward Lihle could be seen from the dry leaves in the ground , being blown

away . The moment Noxolo drew closer to Lihle , Lihle managed to lift her hand with the last atom of energy in her sending a huge ball of light flying across the trees straight to Noxolo which sends her flying across the trees and bushes which scratched her leaving Lihle weak and drained on the ground .

A GIFT CURSED  
THE SUMMONING  
INSERT 49

Not Edited

Siya in his beast form stood in the middle of the souls and crouched down on the floor calming inhaling and exhaling. He closed his eyes then breath in heavily catching his breath . He touched the ground ,feeling every movement on the battlefield. Everything was now playing in slow motion . He tilted his head listening to the faint heart beat of his chosen one . A tear dropped from his face as he drew all his pain ,emotions and guilt that was still in him into one breath. He moved gently on the dry grass,locating each and every soul from every angel . He then said a deep prayer within asking his ancestors to keep Lihle for her in one peace . He fought his thoughts and emotions so hard connecting to Lihle , which made him feel the



same sharp pains in his abdomen which Lihle felt ,the tiredness, and weakness from Lihle all registered on his body.

This did not only make his heart want to be close but it became a drive for him to move faster so that he may get to his rib. Siya listened through his heart as Lihle told him that he can do anything all he had to do was JUST BELIEVE. Siya gathered all his emotions back together and opening his eyes though blind his vision was now different ,infact he was now using the eyes of the beast not his own. He raised his hands and roared hitting the ground hard making the ground crack open while his roar pushed some of the souls into then created crack. He charged towards the demons ,dodging and ducking all the the numerous things that were being thrown at him . With every soul or demon coming his way ,he slayed them with his claws ,leaving no ounce of life ,or was it life . He cleared all the souls one by one while the battle field was still locked inside a circle of fire. One thing kept him going ,seeing all the whirlwinds and trees and the fire still in place only meant one thing to him that Lihle was alive and breathing whereever she was. He jumped for one of the demons throat whose body tuned to ashes as soon as it got in. Contact with Siya's teeth. Another one scattered before Siya's feet , with its clothes being left on the ground when they turnedback to their original form.

Meanwhile ,skeleton heads and bones vibrated on the ground making the battle field a mess of carcasses and bones. Heads flew across the fields and bones broke like glass.On the other hand the legion was making its way to Mdluli's homestead. The trees being controlled by Lihle's gift and the whirlwinds all encircled the demons that were left

from the war as whirlwinds swallowed them up and the whirlwinds combining from the four that they were for mining one huge tornado. Siya seeing all this concentrated on finding the faint heart beat from Lihle . He slowly followed the heart beat leading him to where Lihle was . Upon his arrival he felt Lihle but not alone , he felt two other presents with her . MaNxumalo's hands were wrapped around Lihle's body while Khaya stood beside her while great light shone above her and Lihle . Siya calmed his beast down and slowly move towards them , the closer he got the more his beast calmed down.And a voice spoke

MaNxu: we have been waitngt for you young prince

Khaya: its time we take over from where we left

Siya: where you left

MaNxu: you and Lihle have lived our lives ,this was our battle to fight not yours. This was our destiny not yours. I blessed her with the gift before she was born for I had seen my ending . While you got the gift under different circumstances. But this is a war there is no time to explain in detail. We have to take care of her and remove the poison.

Khaya: we will stand with you for wat you are about to face now cannot be defeated by only the two of you . No matter how you have been strengthened you still need a helping .

Siya: thank you .

MaNxumalo spoke some enchanted language while holding Lihle's wound . MaNxumalo slowly removed her hand from her wound while a strand of green pigment floated out of the wound . The moment the whole strand got removed . Lihle opened her eyes while coughing uncontrollably at the same time

breathing heavily . She scanned the whole place and saw Siya before her . Siya moved towards her and held her putting their for heads together breathing the same air. They needed not to say words but their heart connected and intertwined in perfect harmony . They stayed in the same position for a long time then let go of each other . Lihle tore a part of the dress she was wearing and tightly tied the wound. The poison might have been removed but the wound was still intact and fresh . Siya patiently waited for her then carried her on his back , and ran towards the battle field . One thing they were not doing was to run away from their problems. As soon as they reached the battle field Mdluli raised his hand while flying above everyone in the sky signalling his army to stop fighting . They all obeyed while Lihle on the other hand made the winds to die down and the trees to stop. The pain she was feeling was written all over her face and Siya was feeling the pain she was feeling .

Mdluli signalled Simphiwe and Noxolo to take the field. Siya and Lihle's eyes both popped out seeing that the same people they thought they had killed had died but not knowing that it was all just bodies without souls. Simphiwe charged towards Siya and also changed into a hideous creature with red eyes and black fur with three eyes . It stood opposite Siya , they both looked at each other moving in circles calculating each others moves . Simphiwe made the first move attacking Siya tackling him down on the ground while biting his hand. Siya groaned in pain and the pain stabbed through Lihle straight to her heart and she also cried in agony as her tears started dropping on the soil. Siya wrestled with Simphiwe scratching Simphiwe all over his face but again Simphiwe bit him on the neck ,making Siya bleed ,

the moment Siya sees blood his whole beast starts getting crazy . He ran quickly and tackled Simphiwe hitting him straight on his abdomen with his head. A cracking sound being heard from Simphiwe body as if a bone had been broken. A gain Siya smashed Simphiwe's face on a rock but he never bled infact the skin peeled off showing emptiness in the hideous creatures body. Simphiwe had changed into the monster but all that was there was nothing ,the monster was empty without flesh ,blood or bones. Siya pushed the creator down on the ground with his hands whilst using his claws on his feet to reap open the creator. He scratched the creator but it was all fur and fur and nothing like the creator was a stuffed animal. Simphiwe pushed Siya off his body and looked at his own body . Siya quietly concentrated as he felt his body. Simphiwe again attacked Siya but this time Siya caught him.in mid air as he was jumping toward him.and threw him.into the fire . A loud squeal was heard in the fire as the creator / Simphiwe burnt in the fire. Mdluli flinched and anger was now fully visible on his face .

On the other hand Noxolo charged towards Lihle with the wound being her focal point as she thought it was Lihle's weakest . She got a surprise when Lihle had a come back. A huge ball of fire flew towards Noxolo which she ducked switching her face leaving a burn mark on her making her burn immediately turn black ,a shiny black. Noxolo attacked Lihle on her stomach hitting her with her fists which made Lihle' s wound bleed more as she staggered back dizzy making her sight vision blurt. She rubbed her eyes but nothing changed . Lihle tore again another part of her dress and closed her eyes and blindfolded herself . She stood and listened

attentively to Noxolos movements who was circling her looking for a good angle to attack Lihle's heart . As Noxolo jumped towards Lihle ,she met a heavy ball of fire infront of her face which made her scream in pain as it burnt half of her face leaving it to to be blown away by wind . the other half having cracks from the burn whilst her eyeball had already been fried by the fire. Noxolo charged at Lihle knocking her on the wound making Lihle fall on the ground . Noxolo wrestled her and put her two fingers inside Lihle's wound slowly opening the wound for the rest of her hand. Lihle screamed in pain while Siya lay on the ground ,failing to move from the pain he had endure. Noxolo moved further her hand slowly toward Lihle's heart while Mdluli had a weird smile plasted on his face saying " yes finish her . finish it and set the underworld free" . Lihle moved her hand from the ground while feeling all the pain from Noxolo who.already had reached her heart oy left with pulling it out. She drew light to her palms and held Noxolo neck burning it while she strongly resisted ,she kept burning the neck with light shining in her hand . Noxolo's head dropped on the ground leaving her entire body ontop of Lihle with her hand inside her . The body slowly turned to ashes and was blown away. Lihle sighed heaving and collapsed on the floor.

Meanwhile ,Mdluli flew from his comfort zone and stepped on the battle field . He looked at both Lihle and Siya before raising his hands . As he raised his hands all the demons floated and entered him ,on the other hand the legion having just reached the battlefield it slowly moved towards its master and entered Mdluli. Mdluli grew in high and his body was now more buff and huge . Lihle and Siya slowly stood up from the ground and looked at Mdluli .

They both looked at each other and tiredness and weakness was written all over them. Just then MaNxumalo, Khaya and the rest of the ancestors together stood in front of Lihle and Siya forming a shield in front of them. Mdluli laughed wickedly looking at them. They all together charged towards Mdluli leaving Siya and Lihle on the ground moving in a speed of light attacking him from different directions. MaNxumalo formed a huge light ball directed towards which sent him flying across the field. They again followed him and attacked him and he retaliated and roared sending them all flying across the field. Mdluli roared and roared while he started changing form. The clouds in the red sky gathered forming a tornado in the clouds which sucked all form of life in it all the left pieces of the demons and living dead while all the graves started closing. Mdluli turned into a huge beast with three heads and ten horns as it face the whole team in which Siya and Lihle were close together while Lihle started to feel sharp pains in her chest. The ancestors all charged again towards the beast but it was becoming a mission for them. MaNxumalo looked at Lihle and Siya and they both stood up from the ground and held hands while Lihle gathered all the light and any form of light in the Kingdom together directing it towards where the beast was. The ancestors all charged at the beast while Lihle drew out the light and ....

A GIFT CURSED

## THE SUMMONING

### INSERT 50

Lihle targeted a ball of light towards the monster in front of everyone . Mdluli was sent flying across the battle field which made him even more angry and frustrated. Meanwhile Siya had totally changed into human form trying to take care of the wound on Lihle's body. The moment Noxolo died when her hand was almost close to Lihle's heart made her to leave some of the ashes from her hand inside Lihle when her body turned to ashes after Lihle her head. The blood coming out the wound was no longer red but it had changed to the same colour of the blood the legion bled when Siya's men attacked it ,which later consumed them . Siya tried to apply pressure on the wound but nothing was working and Lihle was slowing becoming weak and weaker . Her whole body had now been covered in a series of parallel black vein which made her sweat profusely. MaNxumalo from the battle field looked at Lihle and back at Mdluli and struggled to decide who to assist between the two. She ignored Lihle as Siya was already taking care of her and concentrated on defeating Mdluli. The ancestors all charged towards Mdluli with their beasts accompanying them while Mdluli grew a fourth head on his body which made his heads capable of looking at all the directions in which the ancestors were attacking from . They all together charged at the beast which in turn was furiously fighting causing a great quake in the realm of the spirits. MaNxumalo on the other hand made a

ball of light in the air which she fired towards Mdluli. The ball moved very fast splitting into an army of light rays which stabbed Mdluli like daggers causing him to slowly fall on the ground. The daggers kept on going in and out of him circulating his body while the ancestors stood around his body chanting a spell locking him within their boundaries . Meanwhile MaNxumalo and Khaya both looked at Lihle as if they were communicating with her through the mind .

In which Lihle gathered her last strength stood up tall despite the fact that she was hurt and raised her hands while grinding her teeth fighting the pain from her wound which was as if someone was pulling her heart out which made it to have sharp deep pains in the middle. She lifted her hands and spoke

Hear the wind its my breath  
My bones are the trees  
The river is my blood  
The fire is my soul  
I am anointed and ordained  
And the Almighty lives in me

Lihle's eyes changed colour into a shiny blue , thunder clapped across the sky and veins of lightning appeared in the sky . Wind howled making a vigorous sound. A large hurricane appeared in the clouds . Lihle started screaming while changing form with her hair glowing brightly making every single little thing visible . An energy ball flew across the sky from Lihle straight to the second blood moon of the underworld. The moment the ball of fire touched the moon Mdluli started to scream in agony and pain as the underworld was connected to him .



Lihle brought her hand together and a large storm formed just behind Mdluli and lighting was protruding from it . A larger curtain of pure light formed inside the storm as it opened, the underworld began to be seen through it . Mdluli started to resist the pain from the daggers of light that were thrown at him. He dragged himself forward trying to unlock the barrier that was formed by the ancestors but the moment he reached them he knocked hardly on them causing great pain to him. Lihle then directed all her hands towards where Mdluli was and a ball of light enveloped him as it moved him towards the portal that was inside the storm which she had created . The ancestors moved together with him still locked in their barrier until he reached the portal. Lihle used her last energy to push Mdluli inside the portal and Lihle was now floating in the air . The moment she released her energy ball pushing Mdluli inside the the portal ,an opposite energy from the underworld pushed her too sending her flying off the battle field as the portal closed with Mdluli being sent to the underworld. The ancestors together with MaNxumalo all unlocked the barrier they had made running towards the direction which Lihle had been blown off to . They all arrived and found Lihle in rags while her body emitted smoke with bruises all over her body. She was laying lifeless on the ground where she had hit so hard causing cracks in the bare ground. Meanwhile as soon as Lihle collapsed on the ground Siya started groaning as he felt every little bit of pain from Lihle's body. Siya failed to move on the ground as he felt helpless though his heart and mind were where the ancestors were with Lihle . Lihle had fell a few metres from where he was but the numbness in his body and his inability to feel

any muscle in his body hindered him from moving off the ground to where his rib was.

Meanwhile with MaNxumalo and others concentrating on Lihle a large thunder clapped across the sky with flashes of lighting . Everyone turned looking at the direction of the lighting . They all wondered what was happening as they had sent the devil back to its lair and locked it. The ground on the other side of Siya cracked open and black smoke came out of it blinding everyone of what was happening before them. A small black energy ball slowly moved towards Lihle's body aiming straight for her mouth which was closed . It turned into a small bug and entered her through the nose down to her body . Meanwhile everyone was watching the crack in which the creature moved towards Siya and clang to his body. Siya failed to fight it as his body was weak. His screams were the only thing audible while the ancestors and MaNxumalo failed to see anything , because of the thick black smoke around them. The creature dragged Siya into the underworld and his screams faded as he was being pulled deep and deeper into the underworld. The creature vanished with him. Meanwhile on the surface the thick smoke was again drawn back into the crack ,giving the ancestors back the ability to see what was happening . As the last cloud of smoke entered the crack , it quickly closed with large force . The ancestors being left to wonder what was happening as confusion was left in them. The sun then started to move away from the moon ,returning back the day to what it was before signalling the end of the blood moon. With bright light shining across the whole kingdom.

~~~~~

LIHLELETHU

I woke up panting and catching my breath became a difficult mission. I slowly staggered to the bathroom and drank some water then washed my face . I looked at the mirror and checked my eye balls just to see if I was okay. How could I have been dreaming of such scary stuff. What does all of this mean. Does it mean something about our future and my acceptance into the Khumalos. I sat on the toilet sit and covered my face with my hands. How could there be a dream where all the people in my life seemed bad when I know them as good. I chuckled at the fact that Linathi was after Siya . Is this dream a WARNING . What does this all mean? . I asked myself a question I obviously had no answer to. I felt hands on me and I sprung up from the toilet sit only to find Siya looking at me with his eye balls popped out .

Him: (with a worried look) my queen are you okay

Me: (sighing) I am okay I just thought that you were

...

Him: I was what

Me: I just had a weird dream and it was complex and it left me frightened

Him: come let me take you back to bed it was just a dream my love. You will be fine . I will make you something to calm your nerves down. You look breathtaking my Queen even when you just woke up

Me: you mocking me , you trying to say I look like a Hippo.( tears were close to coming out)

Him: Why would I lie to the Queen of my heart I

don't want to sleep on the couch tonight . You are amazing my woman my Queen.

Me: Of course you will say that to make me feel better.

I dragged myself back to my room where I found the pillows in the bed made nicely for me to lay on. Siya came to the room and kissed my belly which was visible. I let him and he put me back in blankets and I closed eyes trying to make sense of what I just saw . Maybe I was day dreaming. I felt him leaving the room while I comfortably lay down there in silence until my rest was disturbed by a growling sound that made me shiver, the whole room felt so cold and there was a dark aura around it . I felt it . My stomach started hurting, the cramps were so severe and I could not help it but scream . I tried calling Siya but my voice couldnt come out I groaned in pain with my voice fading. I suddenly felt the urge to push and I did but nothing came out . Linathi came in the room running followed by Siya and the Oracle . We all watched as my tummy grew bigger before my eyes , it grew until it was like I was 9 months pregnant when I was only in my 5th month . I sat up and watched it in shock.

Linathi :My Prince please excuse us

Siya: What my wife is in pain and she looks bewitched and you think she is giving birth how on earth is that possible

Linathi : My Prince you are not normal yourself don't expect your children to be normal. (At the oracle) Please baba tell him to leave

Linathi used the herbs she had and rubbed them on my stomach. This time the urge to push became strong I pushed and I felt a head peeping out . I pushed harder as I was being instructed and the

chants from the oracle were annoying me more than ever. I pushed and as I felt the heaviness lifting off my body I breathed out as my whole body hit hard on the bed I was on. Just when I heard the cry of the baby in the room my heart started beating slowly as I fell in love with the voice. I caught my breath thanking the ancestors and the Almighty. Right then I felt another heavy cramp on my back, and this time this cramp was more severe, I then pushed again. My breathing escalated but instantly became short as I felt like my soul was being sucked out of my body. They made me drink a concoction which helped to give me strength but this baby was more powerful than I was. I felt the dark aura building up and thunder clapped outside the room. I pushed even harder with the last strength I had. Then I heard my baby's cry I smiled through my tears.

Oracle: you have been blessed with a girl and a boy  
MaNgcobo

Siya burged in the room and came towards me looking at the babies, then spoke between his tears that were already building up in his eyes. The oracle praised the children with their clan names.

Siyabonga: Siqobile and Nqobile Khumalo  
welcome. Welcome BoMntungwa

Me: (with a worried tone) Will they be normal your  
my love

Siya: Don't do that, let's celebrate you and the kids  
now. We will cross that bridge when we get  
there. (holding my hands tightly)

I knew what he meant. I asked him hoping for a  
different answer but I knew it was JUST THE  
BEGINNING. It was lights out of me right then.

~~~THE END~~~