

DEAR
DEAR
DEAR

Carol
Carol
Carol



"The ceremony took six minutes. The marriage lasted about the same amount of time though we didn't get a divorce for a while. My name is Carol and this is my story...."

Oh Dear Carol

Dear Carol

#01

I stood by the bedroom door and admired my husband as he got ready for work.. I had just started a new chapter of my life and everything seemed to be going well. Happily married and wealthy.

Justin: Goodmorning beautiful...

I walked into the room and kissed him before fixing

his tie.

Me: Goodmorning. How did you sleep?

Justin: Well and you?

Me: I slept well thanks.

Justin: What time did you get up?

Me: Just before six. I wanted to fix you some breakfast and a little lunch pack.

Justin: (Smiled) And they ask why i got married. Thanks my love. I really appreciate it.

Me: What time will you be back?

Justin: I am not really sure. It will all depend on the workload. What did you have in mind?

Me: It's a Friday and i was thinking that we could go to the movies when you knock off.

Justin: Sounds good to me. Have you seen the line up?

Me: I did and i have already picked a movie.

Justin: Perfect. Let me run. I have a long day ahead.

Me: Are you not going to have some breakfast before you leave?

Justin: I will grab an apple.

Me: But i made some food for you.

Justin: I know and i am sorry but i am already late. You know how the traffic is.

Me: Ok. I have packed your lunch in the lunch bag.

He held my hand and we walked out of the room hand in hand.

At Asa's

Kutlwano gave her friend a glass of water and sat besides her...With everything that had happend , she didn't know what to say.

Asa: Kutlwano...

Kutlwano: Yes friend.

Asa: Do you think that there is something wrong with me?

She looked at her friend and her throat became dry. The truth was that there was nothing wrong with her. It was the fact that she had asked the question that had left her broken. She knew the position her friend was in very well. Witnessing all that somehow opened up some old wounds. No female deserved to ask herself that question.

Kutlwano: My friend you have to accept that things will happen, and they are beyond your control. You control you and decide for you not for anyone else. You have to accept that people will screw up no matter how many times you beg them not to. Their thoughts are different from yours. Justin's decision has nothing to do with you. There is nothing wrong with you and you have to stop blaming yourself.

You are an amazing woman. In time you will find a man who loves you genuinely. I know that it's really hard right now but you have to focus on you. In time you will forget about him.

Asa: That's the thing my friend, i don't want to forget about him. I love J ustin so much and i will never stop loving him. Kutlwano i can never love another man the way that i love him.

Kutlwano: I know friend but he is a married man now. He choose to marry another woman while you were together. That should tell you something about the type of man he is.

Asa: J ustin is a good man. I have known him for six years and he has never cheated on me or even looked at another woman. There must be something wrong. I need to hear him out before i can judge him.

Kutlwano: I honestly hope that's just pain talking because i don't want to believe that you are naive. The man married another woman right under your nose and you still wanna believe that he is a good

man.

Asa: I am just telling you what i know.

Kutlwano: No that's the pain talking.

Asa: Please leave. I need to process things.

Kutlwano: Okay but please stay away from him. I have made you some breakfast. I will see you later.

Asa: Thanks.

She picked up her bag and left...

At J ustin's Office

Lereo crossed his arms over his chest as he waited for J ustin to sign some files.

J ustin: I believe i have signed on every page.

Justin slid them towards Lereo who picked up the files from the table and stared at him...

Lereo: What you did was very wrong.

He was certain that the anger he felt was written all over his face...

Justin: Excuse me?

Lereo: How can you go and marry a different woman? Asa has been with you through thick and thin.

Justin: I don't know if you are forgetting something here but i am not only your friend, i am your boss as well. Mind the way that you speak to me. Not that it's any of your business but i married the woman i love. I don't see how that is a crime. Just like every other man out there, i had a choice. I don't remember promising to marry Asa. Whatever we had was nice while it lasted but i am now a married

man. I love Carol and i am committed to her. Asa will get over her heartbreak. We have all had to heal at some point.

Lereo: I don't care how you justify it but nothing will ever make it right. You should have broken up with Asa before marrying another woman. Getting married right under her nose is a low blow, even you know that.

Justin: I have a lot of work to do.

Lereo: Well i have told you the truth. Even if you didn't pick a single word out of it. God knows that i tried. The least you can do is apologize to Asa and make things right otherwise you will never be at peace. Have a good day.

He closed the door as he walked out...

Justin: (Sighed) Oh God!

He picked up his phone and tried to text Asa but he

didn't even know where to begin. Some flashbacks of the years they spent together came to mind and everything became numb... He loved Carol and he was probably just feeling pity for Asa. This time he gathered the strength to call her and she answered instantly...

Asa: Babe...

Justin: Hie Asa.

.

.

.

Welcome on board!

Dear Carol

#02

Asa: Babe...

Justin: Hie Asa.

Asa: I have been trying to call you all week but you haven't been taking my calls.

Justin: I am sorry. I have been really busy of lately.

Asa: Busy living your new life with a new woman.

Justin: Asa i am really sorry. I know that words will never be enough. What i did to you is unforgivable but please understand that i didn't know how to go on about it. The last thing i wanted to do was to hurt you.

Asa: But you hurt me anyways. After six years. After six fuc*ing years Justin. I waited for you to propose and i was patient with you. Through thick and thin. To hell and back. I was with you through everything but the moment you get your big break, you toss me aside like i never existed. The least you could have done was to let me know that you didn't want me anymore. I don't understand how you go and get married.

Although she tried to sob silently, her pain betrayed her.

Justin: I don't know what to say except that i am sorry. It was never you. You are a good woman and i am grateful for everything that you have done for me.

Asa: Then why couldn't you marry me? Why couldn't you do right by me?

He laid back and sighed caught up between a rock and a hard place. Her sob pierced through his heart but that did not change the way that he felt about his wife.

Justin: I am really sorry Asa. I don't know how to make things right.

Asa: (Breathing heavily) Leave her. You still have a chance to annul the marriage.I don't know why you

married her. All i know is that you and i love each other. We have been through so much to give up on what we built.

J ustin: Asa please.

Asa: You know that it's true.

J ustin: I am sorry but i really love her. I married her because i love her.

Asa: And what about me? Are you saying that you didn't love me?

J ustin: I didn't say that. You know that the spark has been gone for a while. Our relationship has been hanging on a thread.

Asa: Couples fight all the the time. We are not different.

J ustin: I know but you know that things have been rocky for a while.

Asa: Akere mme go tsamaiwa go baakangwa J ay.
(We can still fix things.)

J ustin: What about my wife? I know that it's hard to take everything in but this is our new reality Asa. I

am a married man and what we had can not be fixed.

Asa: Why? Am i beyond forgiveness? Is our relationship beyond redemption?

Justin: Let's not do this.

Asa: I gave you everything. All of me and the best of me.

Justin: I am sorry that i didn't tell you the truth. What i did was wrong.

Asa: I don't blame you. I blame her. No one has the right to come between two people that love each other. I know you. I have known you for years and i am sure that she did something to influence your decision.

Justin: My wife didn't know anything about you. If you are looking for someone to blame then blame me. I should have been honest with you and ended things amicably before moving on. I hope that someday you will forgive me.

He hung up and picked up his files...

At my mother's

I switched on the kettle then prepared the coffee mugs while my mother took out the muffins from the oven.

Mma Dineo: How is married life treating you?

Me: (Smiled) Oh mum. I don't even know where to start. When he first proposed, i was not so sure but every single day he proves to me that i didn't make a mistake.

Mma Dineo: I was also worried that the wedding happend so fast but as long as you are happy my girl.

Me: I still don't understand why people scare us about marriage. Hewee hewee marriage is hard. Marriage is this and that.

Mma Dineo: (Laughed) They are not really scaring you. There is some truth in it. Each marriage is different but you will soon realise that it requires a lot of hard work. There are a lot of challenges that come with it but the most important thing is to persevere. Akere you know that in this family we don't divorce. If you experience some challenges, you don't run away. You run to God with them. Your husband is the only friend you should have. Tse tsaditsala ga se tsalenyalo ngwanaka. Gatwe ga bo ratanelwe. (Friends and marriage don't go hand in hand.)

Me: What about the friends i have?

Mma Dineo: You will have to lose them my girl. When you become a woman, you need to make tough decisions.

Me: I understand but we all need someone in our corner.

Mma Dineo: Well you do have someone and that's your husband.

Me: He is an amazing person.

Mma Dineo: That water is fine. Please serve the tea.

Me: Emma.

At Nandos,CBD

Lereo carefully observed how his girlfriend played around with her food...

Lereo: Are you not going to eat?

Kutlwano: I don't think that i am hungry.

Lereo: Are you okay?

Kutlwano: Yeah. I am just worried about Asa.

Lereo: How is she doing?

Kutlwano:Not so good.

Lereo: I can imagine.

Kutlwano: Babe...

Lereo: Mma?

Kutlwano: Can i ask you something?

Lereo: Yeah sure.

Kutlwano: Why didn't you tell me that J ustin was marrying another woman?

Lereo: I know that you don't believe me but i didn't know about all this till the morning of the wedding. Even when i found out, i didn't know how to tell you. It was not my place.

Kutlwano: Do you love me?

Lereo: Is that even a real question?

Kutlwano: You lied to me.

Lereo: Babe this is not even about us. I know that she is your friend but it's not our place.

Kutlwano: Birds of the same feathers my friend.

Lereo: What's that supposed to mean?

Kutlwano: Thanks for lunch but i have already had enough.

Lereo: Are you leaving?

Kutlwano: Yes. I have lost my appetite.

She picked up her bag and left...

Later that Afternoon....

At Asa's

Asa stood by the mirror and fixed her make up. A lot did not make sense about the decisions Justin had made. She was certain that he married his wife all for their wealth. She took out her phone and stalked Carol.

Asa: She is not even that pretty.

She clicked her tongue and put her phone in the bag before leaving...

At my house

I threw an apron at Justin then turned on the radio...

Justin: What are we making?

Me: Potato bake and some chicken.

Justin: Will we make it to the movies? It's getting late.

Me: Yeah. Maybe we should stay in and watch a movie.

Justin: And have some wine.

Me: We can even play some board games.

Justin: (Laughed) But it's just the two of us.

Me: I know. We don't need people to have fun.

He hugged me from behind and embraced me...

Me: Oh no. They say, save the best for last.

Justin: Then let's skip to later. The rest can wait.

Me: I have heard that before. We made plans and that's what we need to follow.

Justin: Oh come on. We can order some pizza and eat afterwards.

Me: Not a chance.

Outside the house

As a fixed her dress before she knocking...

Inside the house

Me: Are you expecting anyone?

Justin: No. I have no idea who it could be.

Me: Let me get it. Wena start chopping those onions.

J ustin: (laughed) As usual.

A few minutes later...

As soon as i opened the door, a tall dark beautiful woman walked in without even greeting me.

Asa: Where is the owner of this house?

I trotted behind her...

Me: Can i help you?

Asa: Where is J ustin?

Me: Who ar...

J ustin walked in and i could see the fear on his

face...

Justin: Asa!

Me: You know her?

Asa: Why did you move the furniture around.

Me: Heelang! Are you lost?

Dear Carol

#03

I looked at my husband as he failed to stay composed...

Me: Who are you?

Asa: His girlfriend.

I held my waist and laughed as she sat down...

Me: J ustin!

Everything became numb as i looked into his eyes...He did not have to answer me. The truth was written all over his face.

J ustin: I can explain.

Asa: That's a good start. Explain everything. I need to understand how one can be with a woman for six years then marry another.

Me: Six years?

I sat down and fought my tears...

Asa: Good. You are gonna need just a sit for this one because clearly your husband has been fooling around with you all along. I don't know how you two got married but i am his rightful wife. He was supposed to marry me not you.

I closed my eyes hoping that it was all just a dream but when i opened them my husband was on his knees. Each time the atmosphere got intense making everything so real.

Justin: Babe...

Asa: Yes. Go ahead and tell her. Tell her that this marriage was just a mistake.

Justin: Asa stop it. Stop all this. I have already apologised for everything. There was no need to take things this far.

Me: What exactly is going on? Do you know her?

He shamefully bowed...

Justin: She is my ex girlfriend.

Asa: Oh no. Tell her the whole truth. Tell her that we never broke up. Two days before you got married

you were at my house. Our relationship never ended. You just got married behind my back. For six years, i was with you. For six years i stood by you through everything. I invested my love, time and even money into this relationship. The furniture in this house was picked by me. Some of the things were bought by me.

Me: Is that true?

Justin: Babe i am sorry.

Asa: So this marriage was just a mistake. This man and i have been through so much to break up over a girl he met yesterday.

He went on his knees before me as tears filled his eyes.

Me: So you lied to me? All this was just an act?

Justin: No...No, it was not an act. Asa and i never officially broke up but our relationship was not great either. When i met you,we were practically

over. A few months later, i fell so deep inlove with you and i didn't want to let you go. It was clear that you were the woman i wanted to spend the rest of my life with every single time we were together. Marrying you without breaking things off with Asa was very wrong of me. I honestly did not know how to break things with her. Like she says, we have been through so much together. She was with me when i had nothing and at times, she took care of me of me with her own money. She did everything to love me but the truth is that i fell out of love with her.

Asa stood up and picked up her bag...

Asa: The same way you get a man is the same way you will lose him.

Justin: Asa please just leave. What we had is over. I did you wrong but that does not give you any right to disrespect my wife.

Asa: Karma will deal with you.

I held my head feeling very dizzy as she walked out...

At Nthabi's

Pearl looked at the wedding pictures and laughed...

Nthabi: What?

Pearl: I still can't believe that Justin married another woman. I have always thought that he would marry Asa.

Nthabi: We all did. I honestly feel for her. I can't imagine what she is going through. Imagine having to find out that the man you are with is married to another woman on facebook.

Pearl: Serves her right. That girl was getting too big for her boots. The way she was bragging about her relationship told me that something was wrong.

Nthabi: Poor girl did not know that things would end this way.

Pearl: We kept saying that it would end in tears. All these relationships that are always being publicised are fake. Those people are never really happy. They do it to convince us. Hlamma go a nyewa mo mojolong. We are all seeing the stars. Even those married couples that seem to be so happy.

Nthabi: Now that just sounds like you are bitter. Everyone is allowed to do what they please in their relationship. We can't control or choose what people should do.

Pearl: Call me bitter all you want but i was right, it ended in tears. The same can be said about this wedding.

Nthabi: But they look so happy together.

Pearl: That does not mean a thing. Men are all the same. In the end he will hurt her.

Nthabi: You have serious issues that you need to heal from. You can't be convinced that all men are

the same.

Pearl: Let's see how far it goes in that case. We can even bet on it. Akere i said it the first time but you didn't believe me.

Nthabi: You can't be serious about betting on people's misery.

Pearl: I did nothing wrong.

Nthabi: For crying out loud, Asa is your friend.

Pearl: Who thinks that she is better than everyone.

Nthabi: I suggest that you deal with your issues before they drive you into depression.

Pearl: Look who wants to talk about issues. Nthabi i am not the one that got left with a house full of children.

Nthabi: Let's just drop it.

Pearl: Good.

She browsed through the pictures and continued laughing...

At my house

I packed all my clothes in the suitcase and ignored Justin as he begged and cried.

Justin: Babe please. Can we just talk about this. I am sorry.

Me: You lied to me. All this time our relationship was a lie.

Justin: It was not a lie. Everything, my feelings for you, my promises. Babe it was all real.

Me: And what about her?

Justin: I didn't know how to end things with her.

Me: That's the problem. You didn't say anything. You were comfortable enough to marry another woman while you lied to the other. I am so angry that your ex came here and confronted me but at the same time i am grateful. Grateful that she

showed me the light. I now know what kind of a man i am married to. The one that will toss me aside and find a new woman once he is tired of me.

J ustin: That's not what happend. Our relationship was over even before you came into the picture.

Me: And you didn't tell her.

J ustin: I didn't know how.

I pulled my suitcase out of the room as he followed me.

J ustin: Where are you going?

me: I am going back home. You clearly have so much going on in your life. I doubt there is any space for me.

J ustin: Can we atleast talk about it. If we can't sort it out then we will go see a therapist.

Me: And you think that will just erase everything?

J ustin: I know that it won't change what i did but it

will help us heal from this.

Me: J ust leave me alone.

I put my bag in the car and got in then drove off...

At Asa's

Kutlwano held her friend tightly as she sobbed...

Kutlwano: I am really sorry that you are going through this my friend but you should have never went to see his wife. I know that you think this is some kind of payback but it will only y hurt you. The man has made it clear that he has moved on so should you. I have been here and i know that it really hurts but you need to let go friend. Hurting them will not help you in any way, if anything, it will make them stronger moving foward. In the end you will just be something that they have been through.

She let go of her friend and sat on the bed wiping her tears...

Asa: You should have seen the way that he looked at me. It was as if he didn't know me. Even his tone had changed.

Kutlwano: Am sorry my friend.

Asa: I still don't understand what i did to deserve all this. I loved that man with every cell of my being. I even gave up so much of me for that relationship. Another woman walks in and a few minutes later she gets married. Kutlwano that man is what he is because of me. His fancy suits, his colognes and all the fancy stuff in that house were bought by me.

Kutlwano: And life happend my friend. Pick yourself up and move on. You are strong and you will get through this. Get some rest. I will see you in the morning.

Asa: I can't sleep. Everytime i close my eyes

everything just plays in my head.

Kutlwano: It will take a while but you will heal my friend. You can come sleep with me if you like.

Asa: Are you not going to Lereo's house?

Kutlwano: Let's not talk about that one.

Asa: Ok. I will be there in five minutes. Maybe we can netflix.

Kutlwano: I would love that.

At my mother's

I pulled my suitcase in the house walking past my mother as she stood there shocked.

Mma Dineo: What are you doing here with a suitcase?

Me: I came back home.

Mma Dineo: I don't know if you are forgetting

something but this is no longer your home. You are a married woman meaning that there is no longer a place for you in this house.

Me: Not anymore. My marriage to Justin is over. We are done.

Mma Dineo: (laughed) So you think that this is a joke? This is not a relationship my girl. That's where you can walk out after your first argument. In marriage you stay and fix things.

Me: But there is nothing to fix. He married me while he was with another woman.

Mma Dineo: So what's the problem? He is a man after all. Monna ke selepe ngwanaka. The fact that he married you means that you were his first choice.

Me: First choice? All i wanted was an honest man. I refuse to stay married to a liar.

Mma Dineo: And you think you will find an honest man? My girl, there is nothing like an honest man. Wake up. This is the real world. Be grateful that you found a man to marry you. Not everyone is so lucky. Look at all my sister's kids. None of them is married.

Me: And what about my happiness? What about my feelings mama? Should i just let a man walk all over me because he married me.

Mma Dineo: My girl, women submit to their husbands and that's that. I am sorry but you are not welcome here. Please leave.

I closed my eyes as tears filled them..

Me: Please mama.

Mma Dineo: I am sorry my girl but you need to leave. There is no place here for you here.

She opened the door and i walked out pulling my suitcase. Other than my mother's house, i didn't know where to go. If mama could not see my pain then who would... Not only had my marriage ended before it started but the same could be said about my relationship with mama.

The following day

[02/07, 08:20] : Dear Carol

#04

The following day

I brushed my teeth then sat in bed scrolling through my phone... With all that was going on, i didn't know where to start. I looked at my ring and closed my eyes. How could it all be a lie?

Justin: Morning babe...

He stood by the door with a tray of breakfast.

Justin: I am really sorry about everything that has happend. I know that you are angry and i understand. Thank you for coming back home.

He walked into the room and sat on the bed with the tray...

Justin: I made you some breakfast.

Me: Why did you bring me into another woman's house?

Justin: I know what she said but i bought this house myself.

Me: That doesn't change the fact that she was here when you bought the house. She even picked the furniture and bought some things in here.

Justin: That's true but i honestly didn't think that it was a big deal.

Me: You honestly didn't think that bringing another woman into a house you shared with another woman was a big deal? A house you two made memories in?

Justin: I am sorry. If you are not comfortable then we can sell this house and buy another one.

Me: And what about your lies? What will we do with them?

Justin: I am sorry i should have never lied to you. I know that it's going to take a while to heal from this but i will be here all the way. I meant what i said yesterday. I married you because i love you and i want to spend the rest of my life with you.

Me: I don't know if i still wanna do this.

Justin: Baby we took vows. You said you would be by my side till the end. I know i messed up but we can still work through this.

Although i was angry at him, my love for him still lived. It was as strong as the day i met him. I wanted him. I wanted to grow old with this man and have kids together.

Me: Are you sure that what you had with her is over?

Justin: Yes.

Me: If you have any unfinished business then it

would be wise for you to deal with it because i am not staying married to a man that is still stick in the past.

Justin: Emma. So does that mean that you forgive me?

Me: I forgive you but you are gonna have to earn my trust.

Justin: Emma.

Me: Thanks for breakfast.

Justin: Babe

Me: Huh?

Justin: Don't ever do what you did last night. You can't run away each time we have a fight. We are husband and wife and that means that we behave like two married people.

Me: Erra. Am sorry that i walked out. I was angry.

Justin: I know. Now eat up. I have taken the day off. I want us to go house viewing.

At Mma Dineo's

Mma Dineo counted the notes that her daughter had given her then put them away in her purse.

Dineo: I hope that it will be enough. Business is a bit down at the moment.

Mma Dineo: Thanks my girl. I will make a plan. How is my son and the kids?

Dineo: I can't really tell. He is nervous most times.

Mma Dineo: And the mistress?

Dineo:(Laughed) I haven't seen or heard anything. They are probably laying low. These days he is always home and he spoils me and the kids a lot.

Mma Dineo: I told you that it would work. He is probably wondering when you will ask him about his affair since he knows that you found out. Every single day he treads carefully because he is nervous. Don't ask him anything. Let him sweat and suffer. All men are the same. They all cheat. All you

need to know is how to deal with yours.

Dineo: You are right mama. These days i don't shout or argue. I just give him the silent treatment.

Mma Dineo: Good. That's how a woman handles herself. I hope that you have gotten that divorce nonsense out of your head. You can't build so much wealth only to leave it for another woman.

Dineo: We Morule women are smart. We don't give up. We fight till the end.

Mma Dineo: Now that's my girl. That is the secret behind our marriages in this family.

Dineo: Thank you mama. We are so lucky to have you.

Mma Dineo: You are welcome my girl. I just wish that your sister was as smart as you.

Dineo: She just got married. You will teach her once her honeymoon phase is over.

Mma Dineo: Owaii! Kae tota? She was here last night with her bags.

Dineo: Already?

Mma Dineo: You must sit down with her and tell her how a married woman behaves. She can't still be acting like a girl.

Dineo: What happened?

Mma Dineo: Apparently Justin was seeing someone before he married her.

Dineo: So what's the problem? Akere she got the ring after all.

Mma Dineo: That's what I told her.

Dineo: Mme kana nna I long told you guys that Carol is not ready for marriage. Marriage is hard and it needs a strong woman that is determined. Nna kana retswa fa goleng thata teng. (We have been through so much). At some point our husbands moved in with other women leaving us to suffer with their children.

Mma Dineo: Yet they are back home. No matter how much a man cheats on his wife. He will always remember his home.

Dineo: Indeed. Carol is still too young. She will

understand some day. She needs to stay home and appreciate that the man married her.

Mma Dineo: I sent her away immediately.

Dineo: You did well. She knew what she was doing when she got married.

Mma Dineo: That's true my girl. Please turn on the kettle in the kitchen. I haven't had some tea.

Dineo: Ok mama.

She stood up and went into the kitchen.

At Asa's

Asa looked in the mirror and spoke words of affirmation.

Asa: I am strong! I am beautiful! I will heal!

She took a deep breath and fixed her make up before joining her friend in the living room.

Asa: Morning.

Kutlwano: Goodmorning.

She looked at her friend and smiled...

Kutlwano: Somebody looks amazing. What's the occasion?

Asa: I am going to work.

Kutlwano: Has your leave ended?

Asa: Not yet. Staying home all day only makes the pain worse. It hurts so bad that i want to stop breathing but when i think about everything that i have been through, i am somehow motivated to keep going. I loved J ustin with all of my heart, i still do. Seeing him with another woman hurts and i just wanna burry myself in sand but i refuse to go down

like that. I refuse to go mad while he builds a home with another woman. I know that what i did last night was crazy but somehow it set me free. I finally know that he left me for her and he is not coming back. It has now sunk in. It won't be easy moving on. I am so angry at him, at God and at everyone that knew about this girl but i know that it won't change anything.

Kutlwano: I am so relieved to hear that. I know and i understand that it's not easy to deal with all this but you will heal. God will put together your broken pieces and give you a man that loves you.

Asa: Yeah. I just don't know if i will ever be able to love another man again.

Kutlwano: Give it time.

Later that day...

Asa took down all pictures of Justin on her desk and threw them in the trash can.

Pearl: Are you fine?

Asa: Yeah. It will take a while but i will be fine.

Pearl: Have you talked to him?

Asa: Yeah i saw him yesterday.

Pearl: And what did he say?

Asa: It's a long story. We will talk about it after work.

Pearl: Ok. I am really sorry that i didn't come to see you. I just thought that i should give you some space and to be honest with you, i didn't know what i was going to say to you.

Asa:It's okay. Understand.

Pearl: You do know that you can sue him for wasting your time right?

Asa:(Sighed) I don't know.

Pearl: He was with you for many years and he even made you believe that he would marry you.

Asa: I know but i don't wanna fight anymore.

Pearl: You can't just let it go. That man made a fool out of you. You need to teach him a lesson he will never forget. He can't just hurt you and walk away free. Even his wife needs to know the kind of man she is married to.

Asa: We will see how it goes.

Pearl: I can recommend a good lawyer.

Asa: i said we will see how it goes...

At Mma J ustin's

Tebogo put her brother's wedding pictures into the album and shook her head.

Tebogo: I still can't believe that J ustin married that girl.

Mma J ustin: He did well. For once that boy made the right decision.

Tebogo: What J ustin did was very wrong. I am

surprised that you welcomed that girl knowing very well that Justin was with Asa.

Mma Justin: Asa was never good enough for my son.

Tebogo: Even after all this time? Mma that woman was there for your son through thick and thin. She stood by him even when he had nothing.

Mma Justin: We all stood by the people we were with but they moved on. She was only doing what a partner does. My son has finally found the perfect woman from a good family. Please let him be.

Tebogo: You mean a wealthy family?

Mma Justin: Tebogo just mind your business and focus on moving out of my house. You should be married by now but you are here discussing your brother's affairs. Shame on you...

Three months later...

[02/07, 08:20] : Dear Carol

#05

Three months later

I picked up my pregnancy tester and looked at the results closely. Praying and hoping that a second line would appear. My heart broke as i passed the stick to my husband.

Justin: I am sorry babe. It will happen.

Me: When? We have been trying for three months.

Justin: Trust me, it's still too soon.

Me: Maybe there is something wrong with me. What if i am infertile?

Justin: Babe it's still too soon. We will only get worried after a year of consistently trying.

Me: We have been consistent for three months. I have taken prenatals to prepare my body to conceive. We have also been trying on the days i

was ovulating so i don't get what the problem is.

Justin: Stop stressing. It will happen. These things take time. Relax and let's leave it to God. Maybe this child is not destined to come now.

Me: I feel like i am failing you. You have always said that you want children by the age of thirty five.

Justin: Carol you need to stop being so hard on yourself and relax. We have not even been together for a year. Things will fall into place. For now let's enjoy our marriage.

Me: I hear you.

Justin: Good. Now please take a shower. You can't afford to be late while you are on probation.

Me: You are right.

He kissed me then left...

At Asa's office

Pearl shared the breakfast she has bought amongst her and Asa then sat down.

Asa: Why didn't you buy two plates? I didn't have breakfast at home.

Pearl: This was the last plate. I think i am a bit late today.

Asa: Mme kana i long told you to go and buy.

Pearl: I wanted to finish up last week's report before the big bosses roast me.

Asa: Have you sent it?

Pearl: Yes.

Asa: That sounds better.

Pearl: I bumped into J ustin and his wife while getting breakfast.

Asa: Oh okay.

Pearl: He has gained weight.

Asa: Oh...

She took out some papers from the file ontop of the desk amd started re - arranging them.

Pearl: I filled those two days ago.

Asa: You did not do it properly.

Pearl: Ok. So do you know anything about his wife?

Asa: No and i would like to keep things that way. I would appreciate it if you didn't talk about them.

Pearl: I thought that you had made peace with him and accepted that he was a closed chapter in your life.

Asa: I have.

Pearl: Then why do you seem agitated?

Asa: We all have a past that we don't like talking about. You of all people should understand that.

Pearl: And at times we need to come face to face with our past.

Asa: Let's do the week plan.

Pearl: Just deal with your past.

Asa: Listen Pearl, i know that we talk about almost everything but this topic is off limits.

Pearl: I didn't mean to offend you.

Asa: Just don't make a habit of it.

At Justin's office

Justin browsed through the folder that Lereo had given him before handing it back to him.

Justin: All seems to be in place. You can go ahead with the campaign.

Lereo: Thanks. Let me get back to work.

Justin: Lee

He laid back and sighed...

Lereo: Yes boss.

Justin: Come on man. Don't be like that. Why are you so uptight around me?

Lereo: You asked me to respect you as my boss and i am simply doing that.

Justin: You know that i didn't mean it like that.

Lereo: Can i go? I have a lot of work waiting for me.

Justin: Don't be a girl man. I am sorry for the way i spoke to you. I was just frustrated. Everything was happening at once.

Lereo: It's okay man.

He pulled a chair and sat down...

Lereo: How have you been? How is marriage?

Justin: Oh man. Marriage is so fulfilling. Coming back home to that woman everyday is everything i

have ever wanted.

Lereo: I am glad that you are happy.

Justin: I see a 'but' there.

Lereo: But i am still confused. I don't understand how you left a woman that you have been with for so long only to marry the one you barely know.

Justin: You won't understand my guy. Sometimes love makes us do the wildest things.

Lereo: And what if it's not love? What if it's infatuation?

Justin: I know for a fact that it's love. I knew that i was going to marry Carol from the very first time i laid my eyes on her.

Lereo: And Asa? Have you talked to her? Have you atleast apologized. What you did to her was a big deal.

Justin: I know but she will heal. We all do.

Lereo: I hope so.

Justin: Let's go out for drinks later.

Lereo: I would love to but i already have plans.

J ustin: Maybe tomorrow.

Lereo: Yeah.

A few hours later

In the parking lot

Asa read the message that she had typed for the hundreth time then deleted it and took a picture of her doctor's report. She sent it to J ustin before calling Kutlwano.

Kutlwano: Hie mummy.

Asa: Hey.

Kutlwano: How are you feeling?

Asa: Tired and a bit stressed.

Kutlwano: Please don't stress. J ust rest and try not

to think too much. I know that this is a really difficult situation but you will get through it somehow. God will see you through.

Asa:(Teary) How? Kutlwano i was finally picking up the pieces and learning to let go and now this. What will people say?

Kutlwano: Forget about what people will say and focus on yourself. People will always talk after all.

Asa: How do i forget about people when i know that they are going to have a field day with me? I am carrying a married man's child.

Kutlwano: You conceived before he got married. Gape le gone, you didn't know about this marriage. No one can blame you.

Asa: People can be so cruel. I can't imagine what this child will go through.

Kutlwano: Did you tell him?

Asa: I sent him a picture of my doctor's report.

Kutlwano: Has he said anything?

Asa:Not yet.

Kutlwano: Maybe he has not seen it. Give it time.

Asa: Yeah maybe.

Kutlwano: Are you fine? Will you survive the office?

Asa: Yeah. Being home drives me insane so i am fine.

Kutlwano: I know that it's really hard but for now please don't share with anyone at the office till Justin has talked to you or told his wife.

Asa: So now i have to protect the same person that hurt me?

Kutlwano: That's not what i am saying. This is a messed up situation. Take control of it because if anyone apart from you takes control. They will manipulate it. Le yone hela pregnancy e sensitive especially during the first trimester. (Pregnancy is also sensitive).Protect yourself and this child.

Asa: Yeah. I guess you are right.

Kutlwano: Yes my friend. Please do that for now.

Asa: Let's talk later. I am going back to the office.

Kutlwano: Make sure you drink lots of water.

Asa: Emma.

Kutlwano: I will see you later.

Asa: Later.

At the clinic

I knocked on Kagelo's door before proceeding in...

Kagelo:(laughed) What is it this time?

Me:(laughed) Hello to you too.

Kutlwano: What do you want?

Me: Who says I want anything?

Kagelo: If you don't want anything then what are you doing here? Why are you not at your work station?

Me: I just came to see if you don't need anything.

Kagelo: I am good thanks.

Me: Ao Doc. You don't even want a cup of coffee?

Kagelo: A cup of coffee would be nice.

I sat down and took out my prenatals from my pocket.

Me: You said these would help.

Kagelo: I knew that you wanted something.

Me: When can i go for some tests? I will happily pay.

Kagelo: What tests?

Me: Fertility tests. It's been three months and each time i test it's always negative.

Kagelo: That doesn't mean that there is anything wrong with you. I told you to give it time. The fact that you are putting yourself under pressure is not helping. Tota gape to be honest with you, you just got married. Enjoy your honeymoon phase. Get to know your husband. Travel together and make memories before the kids get here because once

they do, you won't have time to do all that. You are very young. You will have kids. Be patient and trust God's process.

Me: But i want to have kids now. My husband wanted kids before thirty five. I don't have much time. I have only a few months.

Kagelo: What about you? What do you want Carol? Marriage is a two way street. Both parties have to sacrifice. This can't be about J ustin all the way. At some point, you have to be a priority. We are not in the past where women were made to believe that they got married only to bear children and serve men.

Me: I don't know why i feel this way but most times i feel like i am failing him.

Kagelo: You are not failing anyone. Everything happens according to the will of God. Take it easy and live in the moment my friend. As long as J ustin has not complained then you are doing good. Enjoy your marriage and all will fall into place.

Me: Yeah. Thanks my friend.

Kagelo: Bring me that cup of coffee and get back to work.

Me:(laughed) Yes boss.

At Justin's Office

.

.

.

It's 03:57. Goodmorning

[02/07, 08:22] : Dear Carol

#06

At Justin's Office

Justin loosened his tie and took a deep breath. He opened the picture that Asa had sent him and zoomed in. All her details were in the medical report

yet he couldn't help but feel that she was making it all up. There was no way that she was pregnant with his child. They had tried for many years so there was no way that she could be pregnant.

He picked up the landline and dialled her number.

Asa: Hello.

Justin: I know that you are still hurting but this is not right. Faking a pregnancy will not make me leave my wife. I told you that what we had is over and there is no way that we are getting back together.

Asa: What?

Justin: Faking a pregnancy is just so low even for you. I know that it will take a while for you to get over me. The process is hard but you still need to maintain your dignity.

Asa: So you think that i am lying?

Justin: I know for a fact that you are lying. We have been trying for six years without any luck.

Asa: So it's my fault that i have now conceived.

J ustin: Why now?

Asa: J ustin not everything is about you. I was only telling you this because you have a right to know. It's got nothing to do with wanting you back. I am not forcing you to be a part of this child's life.

J ustin: I don't know what it is that you want from me but whatever it is, you are not getting it. Stay away from me.

He hung up and began to curse...

At Ofile's house

Nadia turned off the tv and sat next to her brother...

Nadia: Don't tell me that you are just going to stare at the tv all day.

Ofile: I was actually watching that.

Nadia: It didn't seem like it.

Ofile: But i was...

Nadia: Ok. So how have you been?

Ofile: I have been great.

Nadia: You don't need to lie to me. How are you really feeling?

Ofile: I feel just fine.

Nadia: That's not true. The love of your life just got married.

Ofile:(laughed) She is not the love of my life. She is my bestfriend.

Nadia: That you were inlove with. It's just such a pity that you never confessed your love to her.

Ofile: I don't know what you are talking about.

Nadia: It might take a bit of time but you will get over her. Next time you fall for a woman, open up and tell her how you feel from the word go. Losing Carol should teach you a lesson.

Ofile:Ijoo!

Nadia: I know you are hurting even though you will not admit it.

He stood up and picked up his car keys...

Ofile: I will see you later.

Nadia: Where are you going?

Ofile: I am going out for drinks.

Nadia: Do you want me to join you?

Ofile: So that you can lecture me all day? No thanks sis.

Nadia: I will behave.

Ofile: You better.

At work

I rested my head on the desk and closed my eyes. I had not slept well in a few days.

Kagelo: Carol!

She stood by the office door and shook her head.

Kagelo: Are you okay?

I slowly got up and faced her...

Me: Yes. I just have a headache.

Kagelo: Stop stressing. Things will fall into place. Go home and rest. You can come to work tomorrow when you are feeling better.

Me: Thank you. I am so sorry about today.

Kagelo: It's fine. I understand but please don't make a habit of it. We all have problems. None of us

should carry them to work.

Me: Emma.

I packed up my things and fixed my desk before leaving.

Later that day

Outside Asa's office

Justin parked his car next to Asa's then called her...

Asa: Are you not done insulting me for the day?

Justin: I am parked next to your car. Can we talk?

Asa: There is nothing to talk about. You made it very clear that the child i am carrying is not yours.

Justin: Should i come to your office?

She looked around then slipped on her shoes.

Asa: Give me five minutes. I will be there.

Justin: Thanks.

While he sat in the car, so many things came to mind. Through the confusion and fear, there was a bit of excitement. He was finally going to be a father after all those years. He couldn't imagine what his child would look like.

Asa knocked on his window causing him to come back to reality... He opened the door and she jumped in.

Asa: So what do you want?

Justin: How far along are you?

Asa: Sixteen weeks.

Justin: How many months?

Asa: Four.

Justin: And you are only telling me this now?

Asa: I also just found out.

Justin: Asa i am not an idiot. There is no way that you didn't know that you were pregnant. You knew from your very first missed period.

Asa: That's the thing. I am still getting my periods.

Justin: That's impossible.

Asa: I said the same thing till i did an ultrasound.

Justin: Are they sure that it's a baby?

Asa: Yes. He or she has a heartbeat.

Justin: So you are pregnant for real?

Asa: Yes. Would you like to go for an ultrasound with me?

Justin: Is that possible?

Asa: Yes. You are the father of this child after all. I

can't stop you from being a part of it's life.

Justin: I am really sorry about what i said earlier on.
I was still in shock.

Asa: What about your wife? Will she accept the news?

Justin: I will talk to her. Don't worry about anything.
Wena just focus on you and the baby's health.

Asa: I am sorry that things turned out this way. It was never my intention to cause any drama in your life.

Justin: You are not causing any drama. What's done is done. My wife will understand.

Asa:I hope so.

Justin: Can we go now kana you are still busy?

Asa: I am actually done for the day so we can go.
Let me go and grab my bag and car keys.

Justin: We can take my car. I will drop you off when we are done.

Asa: Ok but let me go and get the bag.

Justin: I will wait here.

Asa: Thanks.

At home

I scattered the rose petals from the passage all the way to the bathroom then found a place to position the candles. I stood by the door and admired now my bathroom has transformed. The last couple of months had been really stressful and i was convinced that this was all we needed to get our spark back. We had been preoccupied with trying for a baby the last couple of months that we had not experienced true intimacy in a while. Tonight was the night. I thought of the new lingerie i had bought and smiled.

Botsogo Private Clinic

Asa closed her eyes as the doctor rubbed the

ultrasound gel on her belly.

Dr: Are you ready?

Asa: Yes

Dr: Dad?

Justin: Yes

He moved the transducer over the abdomen for a few minutes then put it away.

Dr: Your bladder is not yet full. You need to drink water then wait for a few minutes.

He wiped the gel off her belly then sat on his chair while she got dressed.

Justin: After how long should she come back?

Dr: She can come back once she feels the urge to

pee.

Justin: Okay.

He held her hand as they walked out.

At Dros

Ofile downed his drink as his sister ordered another round.

Nadia: I still don't understand how you watched her slip away. I was confident that you would win her over.

Ofile: That guy didn't give me a chance. When i had finally gathered my confidence, he asked her to marry him.

Nadia: It all happend so quickly.

Ofile: Yeah. Mme hela i don't see them working out.

Nadia: I smell jealousy.

Ofile: I am just being honest. There ia something about that guy. I don't know what it is but i honestly don't trust him.

Nadine: That's a brokenhearted man speaking.

Ofile: Let's wait and see how it unfolds then.

At Botsogo Private Clinic

Dr: There is our little chap. Those are the legs. That right there is the spine. The child is lying in a longitudinal position. Those are the hands.

He pointed to the body parts while the two listened attentively.

Justin: Doctor is the child fine?

Dr: According to scan, all is well. The fetal heart rate is fine.

Justin: She still gets here periods.

Dr: It's very rare but it happens.

Justin: (Smiled) So can we check the gender?

Asa: We will find out on the day of birth.

Justin: How will we know what to buy?

Asa: We can get unisex clothes akere.

Justin: I need to know what to get my boy.

Asa: (Smiled) And if it's a girl?

Justin: No way. It's a boy.

A few hours later...

[02/07, 08:22] : Dear Carol

#07

A few hours later...

At Asa's

Asa unlocked the door and Justin walked right in with grocery bags...He took them to the kitchen then joined Asa in the living room.

Justin: I have to go. I hope that we got everything that you need. If there is anything else, you will let me know.

Asa: That should be all.

Justin: I will drop off your pills tomorrow. For now please take it easy and keep hydrated. You heard what the doctor said.

Asa: Thanks.

Justin: I will see you tomorrow.

Asa: Drive safely.

Justin: Thanks

She looked at him and sighed. So many things were going through her mind. She had waited for this for six years for this moment but it was nothing like she had imagined. The father of her child was going home to another woman. In that moment her heart broke when she realised that her child would have to go through the same.

Asa: J u s t i n

J u s t i n: M m a

Asa: Will you tell her?

J u s t i n: Tell who?

Asa: Your wife. Will you tell her?

He cleared his throat and looked up...

J u s t i n: Yeah. I can't keep this away from her. If she finds out from someone else then she will leave my

ass. Carol doesn't take nonsense.

Asa: I see.

Justin: I must warn you, things won't be easy.

Asa: I understand.

Justin: But no matter what happens, i will always be here for you and this baby. I know i messed up big time but i will never fail as a father.

Asa: Goodnight.

Justin: Take care of yourself

She stood up to lock as he left...

At my house

I turned off the candles and went to bed. I had tried Justin's number so many times and i eventually gave up. I could only pray that he was safe. There must have been a good reason why his phone was

off. I turned off the side lamp and mumbled a prayer then closed my eyes.

A few minutes

Justin walked into the bedroom and turned on the lights. I sat up and looked at him.

Justin: Hey

Me: Hie.

Justin: How was your day?

Me: Where are you coming from?

He took off his clothes and jumped into bed.

Justin: I had a few things to take care of.

Me: And you didn't think of telling me?

Justin: Am sorry babe. So much was going on. I became so busy that it slipped my mind.

Me: The least you could have done was text me so that i knew that you were safe.

Justin: I am really sorry.

Me: I hate sitting up at night worrying about someone. That's not fair.

Justin: I am really sorry for getting you worried. The truth is that i didn't know what to say to do. I came across a situation that left me completely helpless.

Me: What are you talking about?

He held my hand and took a deep breath...

Justin: I want you to know that you are my wife and i love you. I married you because i want to spend the rest of my life with you. Even on this day, that's all i want. It's you i want and it's you i will always choose.

I looked into his eyes and i could see fear...

Me: You are scaring me. What's going on?

Justin: There is no easy way to tell you this. I want you to know that i am sorry. I didn't know that things would spin out of control this way.

Me: What is it? Stop beating around the bush and tell me what's going on.

He scratched his head...

Justin: Asa is pregnant.

Me: (Giggled) So what does that have to do with us?

Justin: Babe

Me: What?

Justin: She is pregnant with my child.

I narrowed my eyes as my whole body went numb. I tried to get off the bed but my feet went cold. I could not move any inch.

Justin: I am sorry.

We had not been married for even a year but here was the horror of my life unfolding. Suddenly the vows we took felt like the joke of the century.

Me: What?

Justin: I also found out today.

I began to sweat on a cold winter night. I closed my eyes hoping that he would laugh and tell me that he was pulling my leg but he was dead serious. I burst into tears. Everything became such a blur. The fact that we had been trying without any luck gave me some palpitations. That was it. Even though Justin had assured me that i was the one he wanted,i knew

for a fact that our marriage was over. Another woman had given my husband what i was failing to give him. I didn't need to be told how this story would end. I knew.

I wiped my tears and tried to stay composed but my heart betrayed me. I was distraught.

Me: How far along is she?

He tried to hold my hand but i pulled back..

Justin: Four months.

I felt like i was being tortured over and over again.

Me: So you slept with her while we were together?

He kept quiet and looked down...

Me: You intentionally slept with another woman without using protection around the same time we were busy with our wedding preparations?

Justin: At the time, it didn't mean a thing. For me it was goodbye. I didn't know that she would conceive.

Me: And you think that makes it right?

My throat became dry, my body weak and everything else had come to a standstill.

Me: What did i ever do to you? What did i do?

I broke down...

At Asa's

Kutlwano put her bag down and threw herself on the couch.

Kutlwano: Hey Preggy.

Asa: Hie Aunty.

Kutlwano: How was your day? You look and sound better than this morning. Can i get you anything to eat?

Asa: Thanks but i have already had dinner.

Kutlwano: That's good to hear. What did you cook?

Asa: I didn't cook. J ustin and i went out for dinner.

Kutlwano: What?

Asa: I told him about the baby. We went to the doctor together and ended up going out for dinner on our way back.

Kutlwano: Tell me that you are kidding.

Asa: (Smiled) I know hey. I also couldn't believe it. He is so excited about the baby. He reckons that it's a boy.

Kutlwano looked at her friend and shook her head.

Kutlwano: I just hope that you don't forget that this man is married to someone else.

Asa: (Frowned) I thought you cared about me.

Kutlwano: I do.

Asa: Then why can't you be happy for me. Atleast i am not gonna raise this child as a single parent kana mma you want to see me struggle.

Kutlwano: That's not what i said. I just don't wanna see you get hurt.

Asa: Who says that i am gonna get hurt? Akere i have just told you that J ustin has accepted this pregnancy.

Kutlwano:That's the thing my friend. The fact that he has accepted it doesn't mean that he will be here every step of the way. He is a married man that has to go and consult his wife. The wife he married right under your nose. With him anything is possible. If

she decides that he should not take any part in this child's life then he will probably listen to her. As your friend i need you to know these things and be prepared.

Asa: You are being negative right now and i honestly don't wanna hear it. I am going to bed. Goodnight.

At Mma J ustin's

Mma Gos aitsi counted all the notes that Mma J ustin had given her then recorded them on the book she was holding.

Mma Gos aitsi: If we keep up this way then very soon we might have even buy ourselves some cars.

Mma J ustin: Owai. For me this money is just pocket money. My son and daughter inlaw are planning to buy me a car.

Mma Gosaiti: Are you serious?

Mma Justin: Why would i lie to you? Kana those two have money. They have even bought a new house in the suburbs.

Mma Gosaiti: Money really does change people.

Mma Justin: What do you mean?

Mma Gosaiti: It's funny how your son has suddenly taken a different wife and forgotten about that poor girl that was with him all these years. Nana kana when i heard he was getting married, i thought he was getting married to her. I was very surprised to see a different woman on the wedding day.

Mma Justin: Your problem is that you like involving yourself in other people's affairs. Who told you that money changed Justin. Do you know what happened between those two? That girl was never good enough for my son.

Mma Gosaiti: That's right. She was only good when she worked like a slave during your family functions and when your son did not have a single thebe. People like you use others then toss them

aside when things turn in your favour. I can only hope that the poor girl has learned her lesson. I hope that next time she can wait till she is married before turning into a slave during family functions. A ware selo se lenyalo sea ratiwa mo batho ba ikgorosang.

Mma Justin: Leave my house before we start insulting each other. I never come to your home and tell you how to run your household. Let's respect each other.

Mma Gosaiti: Ya baba nnete. (The truth ia hard to swallow). I will see you on our next meeting.

The following day

[02/07, 08:22] : Dear Carol

#08

The following day

I gathered the strength to climb out of bed and went to take a shower. Although i didn't have the energy to face the world, i had to. Life had to go on. The pain i carried weighed me down and all i could do was cry. I felt so helpless and alone. J ust when i was getting over the fact that J ustin had lied to me, i had to accept that there was a baby on the way. Another woman's baby for that matter.

I dried myself and moisturized my body while my husband sat on the bed and watched me.

J ustin: I am really sorry. I don't know what to do to make things right.

Me: So what's gonna happen? Are you gonna leave me for her since i am failing you? Will you two raise the baby together?

J ustin: Carol...

Me: J ustin.

J ustin: I love you and nothing will change that. I

married you because i want to spend the rest of my life with you. Even on this very day, i still want to spend the rest of my life with you.

Me: And what if i can't give you any children?

Justin: I didn't marry you because i wanted children. I married you because i love you. I know that right now you are going through so much and you are processing a lot. You will forget it because the pain is too much but i will be here to remind you. Allow your heart to find strength in my presence. I am here and i am not going anywhere.

Me: All that will change as soon as your child gets here.

Justin: Nothing will ever change my love for you Carol. I want to be there for this child and be a good father but i also want to be a good husband. We can find a way to co- parent. We can make this work.

Me: Do you know why i decided to get married to a man without a kids?

Justin: Because you wanted to be the first woman to carry his children.

Me: Yes that too but the main reason was because i didn't want any baby mama drama.

Justin: And there won't be any drama. Asa is not the type to do that and besides we had a meaningful chat yesterday when we got back from the doctor.

I closed my eyes as a way to numb the pain...

Me: You went to the doctor together?

Justin: Yes. At first i thought she was lying. I had to be sure.

Me: And?

I looked at him hoping for a different answer. I didn't want her to be pregnant. I couldn't stand another woman caring my husband's child.

Justin: We did an ultrasound scan and she didn't lie. The baby has a heart beat. His body parts have

developed. Though he is tiny, his heartbeat is strong.

Me: So you checked out the gender?

Justin: Not yet but i know that it's gonna be a boy. I can feel it.

Me: Any names yet?

Justin: Jake.

I became very bitter just thinking about the child.
Jake! My Jake. That was supposed to be our Jake.

Me: I have to go to work. I will see you tomorrow.

Justin: Tomorrow?

Me: I meant later. Sorry.

Justin: Babe i don't think you should go to work.
Why don't you take the day off and process all this?
You don't look ok.

Me: I can't stop my life just because you are having

a baby.

Justin: That's not what i meant.

I picked up my bag...

Me: Bye Justin.

At Asa's

Asa danced along to the music that was playing as she got ready for work. Kutlwano stood by the door and smiled.

Kutlwano: Morning.

Asa: Morning.

She ignored her and continued with what she was doing.

Kutlwano: Can we talk?

She turned off the radio and sat on her friend's bed.

Kutlwano: I am sorry about last night. I am happy for you. I didn't mean to sound negative. I know how much you have been praying and longing for a child. I was just looking out for you. I don't wanna see you get hurt again.

Asa: I know but i won't get hurt. Things are finally falling into place.

Kutlwano: Emma.

Asa: (Smiling) When i first found out that i was pregnant, i was scared because i knew that i was going to raise this child alone but knowing that the father will be there every step of the way makes me feel so much better. Kutlwano this man and i planned for this baby for years and now the baby is finally here. The fact that Justin came with me to

the hospital is a good sign.

Kutlwano: Emma. Mme hela be careful. Akere you know that he is a married man.

Asa: Married or not, no woman will separate my child and his father. That is something i will never allow. I didn't make this baby alone after all.

Kutlwano: J udt tread carefully.

Asa: I think that woman is the one that should tread carefully.

Kutlwano: Please don't cause any trouble.

At Nthabi's

Pearl washed the dishes while Nthabi sat on the breakfast table getting some work done.

Pearl: Will you drop me off at the office?

Nthabi: I am working from home today.

Pearl: Please.

Nthabi: J ust take a taxi.

Pearl: I can't. I need to get there before Asa. There is something going on with that girl and i need to find out what it is.

Nthabi: Uhu!

Pearl: I think she is pregnant. J ust the other day she warned me not to buy some oxtail and bring it the office because it doesn't smell good.

Nthabi: So what's wrong with that?

Pearl: Asa has always loved oxtail. She can't suddenly hate the smell.

Nthabi: Yaanong what will you do?

Pearl: I will buy it and see how she reacts when she walks in.

Nthabi: You think too much. There is no way that she is pregnant. Akere you told me that she is single.

Pearl: What if they never broke up with J ustin?

Nthabi: Now you want to cause trouble. Let's go.

Outside Mama's house...

I parked outside my mother's house and rested my head on the steering wheel as tears streamed on my face . I dialled my mum's number and put the phone on loudspeaker.

Mma Dineo: Hello My girl.

Me: (Crying) Mama

Mma Dineo: Carrie

Me: (Crying) Mama

Mma Dineo: Calm down my girl. Stop crying and tell me what's wrong.

I wiped my tears and took a deep breath, trying so hard to stay composed.

Me: Mama his ex girlfriend is pregnant with his child.

Mma Dineo: Who told you that?

Me: He did.

Mma Dineo: Do you see why i have been telling you to fall pregnant? Now another woman has done what you failed to do. Had you listened to me then we wouldn't be here. Nna sale kere tlhatswa lesire Carol.

Me: (Crying) I tried.

Mma Dineo: Well seems like you didn't try hard enough because now another woman is carrying his child.

Me: (Crying) Mama!

Mma Dineo: Mama waeng Carol o itirile dilo. (You did all this yourself).

I hung up and started the car... In that moment i felt

like taking my last breath. The woman that was supposed to be on my side was blaming me.

Just as i was about to drive off she called back.

Me: Mama

Mma Dineo: Calm down and be strong. This is marriage my girl. Be grateful that he told you the truth. A lot of men father children all over the country and lie about it. Relax. You are the wife. You got the ring. Work on getting pregnant as well beca....

I hung up on her and burst into tears...

My heart was breaking so bad. I needed my mother on my side but it was clear that i would never get that.

I looked at myself on the mirror till i was calm.

A few minutes later i picked up my phone and called Ofile... He was a a friend i could always count on.

Ofile: Hey stranger

Me: Are you home?

I asked with a shakey voice...

Ofile: Are you fine? I am on my way to the office.

I tried to construct a sentence but all i could do was cry.

Ofile: Listen, i am gonna drive back home. Please feel free to come over. If you can't drive then just

send me your location and i will be right over.

An hour later...

[02/07, 08:23] : Dear Carol

#09

An hour later

Ofile threw a fleece at me and sat down...

Ofile: Talk to me. What's going on?

Me: It's nothing major. I am just dealing with a few things.

Ofile: Carol!

Me: Rra

Ofile: Don't tell me that it's nothing. I know you and i can tell that you are not fine. What is going on?

Me: My marriage is falling apart Offy. It's falling apart and there is nothing i can do.

Ofile: But you just got married.

Me: I know. I should be on my honeymoon phase but i am going through hell. I feel like i am going to fall and just die. My heart is so heavy.

He held my hand and held me tight before letting go.

Ofile: I am sorry that you are hurting my friend. It's ok not to be ok. You do not need to feel like you are doing anything wrong. Let the pain all out. If you need to cry to feel better then go ahead. You know that i won't judge you.

I felt my heart sinking into my boots. My husband's words kept playing over and over again. It was in that moment that i felt defeated. I could not hold back.

Me: (Crying) Another woman is carrying his child.
Turns out that they have been together for six years.
Even when we got married, they had not broken up.
I was the other woman. I am the other woman in
this whole situation.

Ofile: Oh my friend.

Me: Ofile my marriage is over.

He held my hand the entire time i broke down...

At Asa's Office

J ustin waited by the reception with a fruit basket
and a plastic bag...

Receptionist: Can i help you?

J ustin: Thanks but i am waiting for Asa. She said
that she would be here in a few minutes.

Receptionist: Okay.

She sat down and shook her head. How was it that a married man was still able to come and see his ex girlfriend? With gifts for that matter.

"Poor wife, she just has the ring". She thought to herself as she carried on with her work.

In Asa's office

Asa picked up the landline and dialled the reception area.

Receptionist: Kago Agency goodmorning. How can i help you?

Asa: Hie Nono. Please send J ustin to my office.

Receptionist: Emma.

She put the phone down and fixed her table.

Pearl: J ustin?

Asa: Listen my friend, can you excuse us for a bit? I need to talk to J ustin. I will explain later.

Pearl: Asa you are playing with fire. This is a married man we are talking about.

Asa: My friend i will tell you everything later.

She opened her bag and took out a two hundred pula note.

Asa: Go get us some chicken salads from Nandos. We will discuss the rest later.

Pearl: You have so much explaining to do.

Asa: (Laughed) I know my friend.

Pearl: I will see you in a bit.

Asa: Cool.

She grabbed her phone and left...

On her way out of the office she bumped into J u s t i n.

Pearl: J u s t i n

J u s t i n: Hie Pearl.

Pearl: Long time no see.

She looked at his ring and smiled.

Pearl: Congratulations on your marriage.

He bowed shamefully.

J u s t i n: Thanks.

They parted ways as each one of them proceeded to their destinations.

In Asa's Office

Justin walked in and placed the fruit basket on the table and greeted Asa before sitting down.

Asa: Is this for me?

Justin: Yes. I have been reading a lot on what you should eat and every pregnancy blog mentioned those fruits.

Asa: (Smiled) Thanks. I am impressed.

Justin: I also got your PregOmega Plus.

Asa: Isn't that a bit too expensive? You should have gotten Pregnacare.

Justin: This is your health we are talking about. It's

just a few hundreds.

Asa: Thank you for everything. I really appreciate everything you are doing for us.

Justin: Don't mention it.

He took a deep breath and looked outside.

Asa: So how are you?

Justin: Ok i guess.

Asa: Honestly.

Justin: Eish! I honestly don't know. I broke the news to Carol and she didn't take it well. I don't know how to feel. She is hurting and i don't know how to fix it.

Asa forced a smile and stretched her hand to his.

Asa: I understand. It can't be easy for her. I honestly

really understand the pain. I felt it when i found out that you are married. I still go through it at times.

Justin: I am really sorry for everything. Looks like i have this tendency of messing up.

Asa: What's done is done.

Justin: Yeah. I just hope that i can make things right with my wife. I don't wanna lose her or choose between her and the child. They both mean the world to me. I just wish that woman could cut my chest open and see how much i love her. My heart beats for her. I am just stupid. I mess up but i love her.

Asa adjusted her chair. Although she could not say it, those words broke her heart. She was just the baby mama after all. How she wished that Justin had loved her that way. Even when he spoke, you could see the love he had for his wife in his eyes.

Asa: She is a lucky woman.

Justin: I am the lucky one.

Asa: Anyway, i am going to the clinic to register for my pregnancy. Do you wanna come with?

Justin: I would love to but i think that i need to sort out things with my wife first.

Asa: Oh okay.

Justin: Enjoy the fruits. I have to run. Let me know if you need anything.

Asa: Cool.

He stood up and left...

A few minutes after he had left, she could still smell his cologne. How she longed for him. It had been a while since he had held her in those strong arms.

At Ofile's

I sipped on my coffee while Ofile downed his beer.

Ofile: How do you feel?

Me: Better.

Ofile: I told you that the tea works like a charm.

Me: Yeah. I just wish that it could fix my marriage as well.

Ofile: Yeah neh.

Me: You know my friend, i feel so alone. I don't even know how i am going to deal with all this. I went to mama's house hoping that she would atleast guide me but to her it's all about marriage. My feelings are not important.

Ofile: I am sure that she meant well. You know that she loves you.

Me: (Sighed) I am not so sure. Sometimes i wonder if she is really my mother. You know that she told me that it's my fault that i can't conceive. I don't know how many remedies and pills i took to get pregnant. It's as if am doomed. Everything is just

going south. I am supposed to be enjoying my marriage but i can't seem to catch a break.

Ofile: I am sorry my friend but i think that you need to sit down with J ustin and address all this. The baby already exists and it can't be returned. If you are staying then you both need to find ways to deal with the issue in future because it won't be easy. I can't tell you what to do. All i can tell you is that you are also important in all of this. Your feelings deserve to be considered.

Me: Yeah neh. Anyway enough about this depressing topic. Wena? What's going on in your life? Is there anything new?

Ofile: Owaii. Same old same old.

Me: Let's watch a movie.

Ofile: Are you not supposed to be at work?

Me: I sent my boss a message. I don't feel strong enough to face the world yet.

Ofile: Okay. I will stay with you in that case. What are we watching? I have just paid for my Netflix.

Me: Let me google and see if there is anything interesting.

Ofile:Cool. Do you want a glass of wine or more coffee?

Me: Wine will do.

At Carol's Office

Justin walked in confidently with a bouquet of flowers and a little box in hand. He greeted Kagelo who was sitting on his wife's desk.

Justin: Morning.

Kagelo: Morning Mr Seleke.

Justin: How are you doc? Can I see my wife?

Kagelo narrowed her eyes...

Kagelo: Isn't she supposed to be home ? She sent a message to say that she would be staying home because she is not well.

He cleared his throat and faked a smile...

Justin: Ofcourse. I just thought that she would come here because after i left, she sent a message to say that she was feeling much better.

Kagelo: Maybe she didn't want you to worry.

Justin: Yeah. I believe so. Well thank you doc. I will be heading out.

Kagelo: Have a good day.

He walked back to his car and called Carol's mum...

[02/07, 08:23] : Dear Carol

#10

He walked back to his car and called Carol's mum...

Mma Dineo: Mogwe

Justin: Hello Mme.

Mma Dineo: How are you my son?

Justin: I am well. How are you?

Mma Dineo: Erra i am fine.

Justin: Listen Mme, i am looking for Mma Seleke. I thought that she was at the office but she is not.

Mma Dineo: Then she is probably home because she is not here. I have not seen her in a week. Why don't you call her?

Justin: I have a surprise for her and i didn't want her to know that i am coming.

Mma Dineo: Go tshele bo Carol hle. What kind of a surprise?

Justin: (Laughed) Something with four wheels.

Mma Dineo: (Ululated) That's it my son. Monna wa rialo.

Justin: Emma. We will come and see you during the weekend. Send a list of what you need.

Mma Dineo: Thank you son. I will.

He hung up and headed home...

At Asa's office

Pearl closed the door then sat down...

Pearl: And?

Asa: And what?

Pearl: What happend?

Asa: The take-aways.

Pearl: What about them?

Asa: Did you bring them? The take-aways i sent you to get.

Pearl: Oh. They were taking too long so i asked them to deliver.

Asa: So what was the point of going there? Akere you could have ordered online.

Pearl: What did he say?

Asa: Heish mma. Pearl my life is so complicated. I don't even know where to begin.

Pearl: Talk to me. What is going on?

Asa: I am pregnant.

She bowed her head on the table and took a deep breath.

Asa: My friend i don't even know what to do.

Pearl: So you two have been seeing each other all this time?

Asa: No. I am in my second trimester. I must have conceived during the same time he got married.

Pearl: And what does he say?

Asa: He has accepted that the child is his and he will take care of us.

Pearl: And the wife? Will he leave her?

Asa: Heish Pearl. The man was here confessing his love for her. You should have heard him. It was as if he had forgotten that he has just broken my heart.

Pearl: He still loves you mme kana.

Asa: I doubt that. If he did then he wouldn't even attempt to talk about her around me.

Pearl: That man loves you. He is just saving face.

Asa: He married another woman right under my nose. How stupid do you think I am?

Pearl: I don't know why you don't see it but that man has eyes only for you. I also don't know why he married that woman but I believe he had his reasons.

Asa: Akere mme if he did then he would have told me.

Pearl: Amme have you taken your time to find out. Have you two sat down to discuss all this?

Asa: Not really.

Pearl: My point exactly.

Asa: So you really think that he loves me?

Pearl: I do. You should have seen his face when he walked out of here. He looked really happy.

Asa: Mme mma are mosadi wa mo stressa. (His wife is stressing him).

Pearl: Already? Shouldn't he be on honeymoon? My friend this might be the only chance you will ever get.

Asa: I don't know.

Pearl: Think about it.

Later that day

At J ustin's

After trying his wife's number for so long without any luck , J ustin gave up and went into the kitchen to prepare dinner. He couldn't think of where she could be. He knew that she was hurting and she needed some space.

At Ofile's

I put away my glass of wine then turned on my phone. There were so many messages from J ustin and my mother that made my head spin.

Ofile: Maybe you should go home. I am sure that he is worried about you.

Me: I doubt that he cares. He is probably playing happy families with his baby mama.

Ofile: And you two are still married. You can't hide here forever. You need to go home Carol. You can't hide here forever. Lenna hela i don't want to get into trouble. The next thing your husband will be here hunting me down.

Me: Are you kicking me out?

Ofile: I am not. I am just being honest. I don't want any trouble.

Me: How do i go back home and look him in the eye. My friend it hurts. It hurts so bad.

Ofile: I know but you have to go. Go and sit down with him. Find a solution to all this if you are staying. If you are not then le gone you still need to go home and tell him. Be fair my friend.

I looked at him and smiled. I couldn't understand how he always spoke sense even in tough situations.

Me: You are right. Let me get going. I will see you soon.

Ofile: Drink some water and sober up.

Me: (Laughed) I am not drunk.

Ofile: I know but still.

I went into the kitchen and got a bottle of water then came back to put on my shoes.

Me: Thank you for everything my friend. I will talk to you tomorrow.

I grabbed my bag and he walked me out.

At Mma Dineo's

Mma Dineo covered herself with a fleece then sat by the landline to call her daughter.

Dineo: Hello.

Mma Dineo: I have been waiting for your call.

Dineo: I am so sorry. I forgot that you had asked me to call you.

Mma Dineo: Okay. Have you talked to your sister today?

Dineo: No. Is something wrong?

Mma Dineo: Kana her husband called and asked me about her whereabouts.

Dineo: Did they have a fight?

Mma Dineo: That's what i sensed this morning when she called.

Dineo: What did she say?

Mma Dineo: Apparently the ex is pregnant with Justin's child.

Dineo: Where did she get that from?

Mma Dineo: He told her.

Dineo: So where is the problem? Did she want him to lie to her? Mama you need to talk to your daughter because if she keeps acting like this then very soon she will be divorced. Carol needs to stop acting like a child and grow the hell up.

Mma Dineo: She is your sister. Please talk to her. Justin is a good man. If he leaves her then who will marry her? Kana ebile she can not conceive. Nkabo a ikoba.

Dineo: I will call her tomorrow.

Mma Dineo: Please.

Dineo: Let's talk tomorrow. I need to get dinner ready.

At my house

[02/07, 08:23] : Dear Carol

#11

At my house

I threw my car keys on the coffee table and went straight to the kitchen. I had promised myself that i would try to work things out with my husband but seeing him only made me angry. I couldn't understand how i was expected to accept this child.

J ustin: Carol! Carol!

He followed me into the kitchen...

J ustin: Where are you coming from?

Me: (laughed) Really? You are really gonna ask me where i am coming from? Who asked you that question when you got another woman pregnant?

J ustin: Babe please... I am not fighting with you. I was just worried about you. You were not at the office or your mum's.

Me: So you are now keeping tabs on me?

J ustin: I am not keeping tabs on you. Like i said i

was concerned. I know i messed up and you are hurting My selfishness and stupidity have cost us so much. I just want us to sit down and talk about this. I love you and i don't wanna lose you.

Me: Does your babymama know that?

Justin: Yes. I had a chat with her today. Carol i love you and i don't wanna lose you. I will do anything to save this marriage. Please don't shut me out. Let's find a way to make all this work. We can agree on how i will look after this child and still save our marriage.

Me:My heart is breaking. It hurts so bad. When i found out about being the other woman, it didn't hurt this much. Knowing that another woman is carrying your child is like a death sentence. A child i wanted to carry. This child will forever be a reminder that i was a second option.

Justin: You are not a second option and you were never one. I married you because i wanted you. I just went about it the wrong way. My intentions and feelings were pure but my lies obviously took away

that. I still want us to have kids and grow old together. Every plan that we made, i want us to fullfill it.

Me: And what if i can't give you those kids? What if i can't bear any children?

I looked away as tears blurred my vision...

J ustin: Then we can find another way to have kids. Children are not always everything.

Me: That's easy for you to say because you have a child on the way. Yaanong nna i don't even have a single one.

He took my hand and held me in his arms as i cried...

J ustin: We will get through all of this. I promise. You look tired. Let's go and take a bath.

At Asa's

Kutlwano picked up the plate that Asa had put on the couch.

Kutlwano: Should i get you anything else? Have you taken your pills?

Asa: Why do you care?

Kutlwano: Ao mma!

Asa: You had quite a lot to say that made me think twice about you.

Kutlwano: I am sorry if i hurt your feelings but i was just being honest with you. We have always shared that and i didn't realise that it would hurt you.

Asa: Do you wanna see me happy?

Kutlwano: More than anything. My friend i want what's best for you.

Asa: If you did then you would support me. You more than anybody, know and understand that i love Justin and he loves me.

Kutlwano: Yet he is married to another woman?

Asa: Have you not made any mistakes in your life?

Kutlwano: Asa wake up and smell the coffee. The man married another woman right under your nose. A woman he has met not so long ago.

Asa: Apparently they are well off at home. He must have married her for her wealth.

Kutlwano: I didn't know that you were this naive. You and i both know that Justin has enough money. He doesn't need to marry a woman with money to survive. His company is doing very well.

Asa: Kare lo a di itsi dipata ts a banna ba batho.
(You know so much about the finances of other people's partners).

Kutlwano: I was just stating facts. That man is married. All you share is a child. If he wanted to marry you then he would have done so. Stop

breaking your own heart and move on my friend.

Asa: Maybe you should move out?

Kutlwano: What?

Asa: Maybe you should move out of my house

Kutlwano.

Kutlwano: The last time i checked we both paid rent.

Asa: You forget that the lease is in my name. I have lost interest in sharing with you.

Kutlwano: Yet you were the one that invited me.

Asa: And now i am the one that has lost interest in living with you. You are so negative and i can't take it.

Kutlwano: Emma. I will leave because i respect you and after all, this is your house.

Asa: You have a month.

Kutlwano: No. That's fine. I don't need a month.

Tota hela i don't wanna make you uncomfortable in your own house. I will move out by the end of the weekend.

Asa: Fine by me.

She rolled her eyes as her friend went into the kitchen.

Asa: For good riddance.

She took out her phone and texted Justin.

Asa: Looks like your son is gonna keep me up most of the night. I honestly can't wait for him to get here.

At my house

I laughed as my husband pulled his hilarious dance moves.

Me: Dance is not your thing my guy. Leave that to

us.

Justin: (Laughed) I don't agree with that.

Me: You know very well that i am right.

Justin: Oh yeah. Then come show me.

I stood up from the dinning table and took his hand as we jammed to some old school songs.

Justin: I got you something.

Me:(rolled eyes)Another pair of heels?

Justin:Well you are not too far off. This is definitely another pair of shoes but bigger and better than all the shoes i have ever bought you.

Me: Where are they?

Justin: I left them at the shops. You will see them tomorrow.

Me: That's not fair.

Justin: Well you went missing in action. You have

yourself to blame. I had bought you a hint box but i got rid of it.

I laughed and kissed him...

Justin: Maybe there is something you can do that will make me change my mind.

Me: What?

He looked at his pants and i laughed.

Me: You are kidding right?

Justin: Oh no. Do exactly what you did to me the other night in the kitchen.

I looked at him seductively and went down on my knees...

Justin: Not so fast. Take off your clothes.

And like a little girl, i obeyed. When we got to the bedroom, i always took the lead. Taking orders from him for the very first time made me so excited.

Justin: Sit on the table.

I wanted to decline but there was something about the look in his eyes that sent chills to my spine. Breathing heavily and dying to have him, i slowly tried to sit but before i knew it, he had carried me and put me ontop of the table.

Justin : Play with yourself.

Me: What?

I closed my eyes feeling very uncomfortable. I slowly moved my hand to my opening and lightly

circled my cookie jar.

Justin: I want you to look at me. Don't close those eyes.

Slowly soaking and getting aroused... I did as i was told. He sitted on the dinning chair and i on the dinning table like his servant. I began to get lost in the pleas ure. Moaning softly as he looked into my eyes.

He stood up and slipped down his boxers then pulled my legs apart. Moving in closer. I wanted him so bad that my legs began to tremble. I closed my eyes as he rubbed his c
van diesel on my opening.

Justin: Who said you could close those eyes?

I opened them and he pushed his entire being in my little cookie jar. Lost in pain and pleasure. I cried and gasped for air but that never stopped him. It probably gave him pleasure to see me at my weakest. Now thrusting in and out vigorously. Looking at his van diesel as it went in and out of my cookie jar. The smile that escaped his lips had me confused. I could never understand. He pulled out then watched me relax and catch my breath. Just as i was about to open my mouth, he shoved his van diesel aggressively back into my cookie jar.

Me: Ahhh...

I rolled my eyes. Nothing could stop the man. He began to move his waist as if he was drumming to some kind of beat that i didn't know about. Each time i tried to limit how far he could go, he gave me a look that told me to behave. I began to drift into pleasure, crying and moaning as the whole table began to shake. Everything feeling numb and sweet.

I cried even harder, taking off my wig and throwing it on his face. Laughter escaped from his mouth but it was a different kind of laughter. The one that blended in with everything.

Me:Uhhh...Oh Go....

I screamed as my whole body went into shock.. As if that would stop him, he kept thrusting. Harder and harder. I became worn out and began to beg him.

Me: Please cu... Please... I was about to lose my mind. I had never seen anything like this. The man looked like he was possessed. How much energy could one have. I finally gave up and closed my eyes as he went on. I could barely feel my thighs.

The following day...

.

.

Sorry fell asleep while editing. Morning

[02/07, 08:24] : Dear Carol

#12

The following day

I sat up and rubbed my eyes as Justin brought a tray with him.

Justin: Morning Sunshine.

Me: Hey

I could barely feel my thighs and my cookie jar was on fire....

Justin: I made you some breakfast.

Me: (Smiled) It looks yummy.

Justin: Made with lots of love.

Me: I see that.

Justin: So i was thinking that we can go pick up your pair of new cool shoes then go see your mum.

Me: Can we just stay home. Am really tired.

Justin: Come on. I already promised Mma Dee that we would come through.

Me: We can cancel. Am tired. I can barely feel my legs.

Justin: Come on babe.

Me: Do you even remember what happend last night?

Justin: That was nothing.

Me: Nothing? Justin you kept me up all night.

Justin: Ao mma Carol, just three rounds?

Me: Three long rounds that just didn't end. Kuku yame ebile ya uba.(my cookie jar is on fire).

He looked at me and laughed.

Justin: Let's have some Oros then. You will feel so much better.

Carol: Are you serious right now. Thera it's gonna take more than Oros to make me feel better. What can a glass of Oros possibly do to my aching cookie jar.

Justin: (Laughed) I meant one round of sex.

I widened my eyes...

Me: Hell no! Wena yaanong o batla go mphetsa monate.(You want to finish all my sweetness).

Justin:(laughed) Monate hao hele babe. Wena mme mma o monate o ka iris a motho diphoso. Waitlhela ekare nka kuwa ka idibala. Otl a mpolaya. (Never! You are honestly so sweet. At times i just

want to scream and faint.).

Me: (Laughed) Iya.

Justin: Eat and i will run the bath for you.

Me:Thanks babe.

At Ofile's

Nadia walked into her brother's room with an empty bottle of wine.

Nadia: Who drank my wine?

Ofile: Goodmorning to you too.

He greeted her as he made his bed.

Nadia: Who drank my wine?

Ofile: Don't you greet anymore.

Nadia: Hie Ofile. Who drank my wine?

Ofile: Ija... At times you forget that this is my house.

Nadia: And this was my wine.

Ofile: I will buy you another one. Let's go and have breakfast. I am famished.

Nadia: You didn't answer me.

Ofile: Nadia hlamma o sun ahh! (You are so troublesome). Carol is the one that had that wine last night.

Nadia: (Giggled) Tell me more.

She held her brother's hand as they walked out of the bedroom.

Ofile: Tell you more of what Nadia? Wena hlamma o maaka.

Nadia: I am just trying to establish what happend. Your crush had a whole bottle of wine. You can't tell me that nothing happend.

Ofile: Was there anything that was supposed to happen?

Nadia: Maybe.

Ofile: Well for your own information, nothing really happend. We spent the day together watching movies and catching up.

Nadia: J ust that?

Ofile: Yes Nadia. J ust that. Are you forgeting that she is a married woman.

Nadia: That visited another man and enjoyed wine with.

Ofile: She was having a terrible day and she needed someone to talk to.

Nadia: And that was your chance.

Ofile: She is still married.

Nadia: Yet she feels that comfortable with you? Stop being slow and stupid, act now! She will decide if she is still married or not. Clearly she is not happy where she is.

Ofile: You know i really love you but sometimes i wonder how we became siblings. You can't expect me to be that evil. Lenna hela i will be hurting myself. J ustin is all Carol talks about. I honestly don't believe in them as a couple but she clearly does.

Nadia: Does she?

Ofile: She married the guy after all.

Nadia: I hear you but maybe you should tell her how you feel and let her decide.

Ofile: We are not talking about this again. J ust get your ass in the kitchen and make us something to eat.

She rolled her eyes and went into the kitchen...

At Lereo's

Kutlwano put her feet on the table and sighed...

Lereo: Babe are you sure that you are ok?

Kutlwano: Yeah. Am good.

Lereo: What's eating you?

Kutlwano: I said that i was good.

Lereo: You know that's not true.

Kutlwano: Asa and i had fight.

Lereo: Am sorry babe but i am sure that you will fix things as usual.

Kutlwano: I don't know.

Lereo: Well you always do. You two have a special friendship going on.

Me: That's what i thought but she kicked me out of her house last night.

Lereo: What?

Kutlwano: Yep. I was just as surprised but it is what it is.

Lereo: Are you talking about the same Asa you

almost dumped my ass for?

Kutlwano: The one and only. Yaanong i am homeless.

Lereo: When does she want you out?

Kutlwano: She said i have a month but i have told her that i will move out by the end of the weekend.

Lereo: Am sorry babe.

Kutlwano: I don't even know what i will do. Where will i start from? Will i even get a house at such short notice?

Lereo: Honey calm down. You can come stay with me till you find a place of your own.

Kutlwano: I don't know. I honestly don't want to make you feel uncomfortable.

Lereo: Make me feel uncomfortable how? Kutlwano you are my woman and i would never allow you to suffer while i am around.

Kutlwano: What about your space?

Lereo: Don't worry about that. So are you wanna tell

me why you two were fighting?

Kutlwano: It's all got to do with the baby.

Lereo: What baby?

Kutlwano: You didn't know? Akere Asa is carrying Justin's baby.

Lereo: Please tell me that it's all a joke.

Kutlwano: I don't understand how he would not tell you.

Lereo: Me too

He swallowed a lump and kept a straight face.

Kutlwano: Am sorry that you had to hear it from me.

Lereo: Don't worry about it.

At the car dealership

Me: Can i open my eyes now?

J ustin: Before you do, i just want you to know that i love you. There is nothing i wouldn't do for you. I was supposed to give you this gift on our wedding day but it took longer to arrive.

Me: Can i open my eyes now.

J ustin: Let me give you a hint.

Me: Yeah...

J ustin: Additional rings. It's fast, sporty.

Me: Huh?

J ustin: Okay. J ust open them.

I opened my eyes then closed them...I must have honestly repeated the same process more than three times. My knees became so weak and i could barely stand. I could not believe what i was seeing.

Me: No way!

Everyone laughed as i cried and touched the car over and over again to make sure that it was real.

Justin: Go ahead and get inside. It's now yours.

Me: R8? How is this even possible?

Justin: Nothing but the best for my wife.

I stood in front of the car and started posing...

Me: Ntlerola hoo rra.

Justin: Before all that, are you happy with your gift?

Me: (Crying) Yes...yes

At Mma Dineo's

Dineo fixed the dinning table while her husband and

mother had some tea in the living room.

Mma Dineo: I wonder what J ustin wants to celebrate.

Tumiso: Maybe they are having a baby.

Mma Dineo: That would be a good thing. I have been telling Carol to get pregnant since day one but she never listens.

Tumiso: It's not always that easy. Maybe they have been trying.

Mma Dineo: Carol is young my son. If she can't make any kids now then it means she can't conceive.

Tumiso: Let's just wait to hear why he has called us together.

Mma Dineo: It better be worth our time.

Tumiso: (Laughed) I am sure it is. Patience Mme.

Mma Dineo: Nna kana ha ke batle mo go tshamekiwang. Those two should see how proud

you have made me. You have filled this home with enough grandchildren to take care of me. Mma ebile there is still space for more.

Tumiso: Let me go and help Dineo in the kitchen.

Mma Dineo: Okay my son.

At the dealership

I jumped inside my new car and drove off as my husband followed me. I couldn't help but shed some tears the entire way. This was me! Nna hela Carol wa Mma Carol! In a Audi R8.

I pulled to the side of the road as Justin's call came through.

Me: Carol speaking from her R8 hello.

Justin: (Laughed) You are crazy. Keep driving. We need to stop by wollies before we go to your mum's.

Mme ebile we are late.

Me: If you keep calling me then i will keep pulling to the side of the road because i don't wanna crash my new car.

Justin: Hee bathong. Areye mma (Let's go).

Me: I hope you can keep up. This thing is a machine.

I laughed as i sped off, leaving him behind.

At Asa's

After preparing some lunch, Asa called Pearl.

Pearl: Are you done?

Asa: Yes. I prepared all his favourites.

Pearl: Now call him and ask him to come over.

Asa: What do i even say?

Pearl: I don't know. Tell him that you are not well kana you are spotting. He will come running.

[02/07, 08:24] : Dear Carol

#13

Outside my mother's house

I parked outside then hooted countless times till everyone came out of the house. As soon as they saw my new set of wheels they all went crazy.

Mma Dineo: Well done son.

She admired the car and clapped her hands.

Tumiso: I have only seen this one on pictures.

Dineo: Not too bad.

I took off my shades and stepped outside the car.

Me: Surprise! Meet my new baby.

Mama and Tumiso hugged and congratulated...

Dineo: Next time we want a real baby.

I ignored her and opened the door for my mother.

Me: We will see you in ten minutes.

Justin: Enjoy

I fastened my seat belt and wore my shades.

Me: Hold on mum.

Mma Dineo: O kgwets e sentle mma.

They all laughed as we took off...

A few minutes later...

Justin muted his phone and cut Asa's calls.

Justin: Sorry i can't talk right now. Is everything ok?

Asa: I am not so sure. I have some terrible cramps.

Justin: Maybe you should go see a doctor.

Asa: I want to but i have no one to drive me there.

Justin: Give me a few minutes and let me see what i can do.

Asa: Thank you so much. I knew that i could count on you.

Justin: Don't mention it.

At Asa's

After contemplating on what to wear, she finally decided not to wear anything. Justin was hers and she would win him back at any cost.

On our way back...

Mma Dineo: So did you two sort out the little misunderstanding you had?

Me: Emma.

Mma Dineo: Good. That man is yours my girl. You can't just give him away as if he is some sort of prize. That ex will not give up without a fight. Let me tell you you can see that Justin is a good man. No woman will let a good man go just like that. She also wants the ring, the car, the house and the money.

Me: She already has the child.

Mma Dineo: And you can have the child as well.

Me: Mum please.

Mma Dineo: Carol ako o tlhatswe lesire, lenyalo lea tsamaya. Wa go bona kae monna o tsileng go go nyala? O batla gonna lehetwa? (Carol you need to give your husband children before he leaves you. Who is going to marry you if he leaves?).

I increased my speed and concentrated on the road...

Mma Dineo: Where are you rushing to?

Me: Mum please.

At Asa's

Asa threw her phone on the couch as soon as she

read J ustin's message.

J ustin: The cab guy should be there in less than twenty minutes. Please stay put.

Three months later

I laid back as J ustin rubbed my feet... The past few months had not been easy but having J ustin on my side was all i needed...

J ustin: So what did Kagelo say when you handed in your resignation letter?

Me: She was obviously sad but there are no hard feelings. She understands that this was a decision we took together.

J ustin: Am glad to hear that. I really can't wait for you to join the company.

Me: Atleast we will be working towards a common

goal.

Justin: Mr and Mrs Seleke take on the world.

Me: Yes please. Now please serve that icecream.

Just as he was about to stand, his phone rang. He looked at the caller identity and sighed.

Me: What is it?

Justin: Asa

Me: Take it.

He put the phone on loudspeaker...

Justin: Hello

Asa: Hey

Justin: Emma

Asa: I am sorry to call you at such odd hours but i

have nowhere to go. I have just been kicked out of the house.

Justin: What do you mean kicked out?

Asa: I haven't been paying rent for the past three months. I have nowhere to go. I know that it's a bit too much to ask but i was wondering if i could spend the night. I will figure out what to do tomorrow.

Justin: You know you can't just come here. This is my wife's house and we agreed that you would stay out of her way.

Asa: I understand. I wouldn't ask but i am desperate. I don't have anywhere else to go. If i was alone then i would figure something out but i am carrying your child. Le yone guest house, it's too risky. I don't know what i would do if this baby decided to come tonight. I am on my third trimester and i don't want to risk it.

I rolled my eyes and laid back...

Justin: Can't you stay at Kutlwano's for just today. I will talk to Mma Seleke.

Asa: I understand that you are married but this child is your flesh and blood. You can't run away from your responsibilities. I am not saying get back with me. I am just asking for a place to put my head, just for tonight. Mme legale rra i can't force you to be a father. I will figure out what to do.

You could tell that she was crying...

Justin: I am not ref...

She hung up... I knew that he was frustrated but he did everything to stay composed.

Me: So what are you gonna do?

Justin: I don't know.

Me: Let's let her stay the night. We can figure something out in the morning. If you don't do something, she will hold it against you in future. From what i have seen, she is very manipulative.

Justin: I don't know babe. I don't want you to be uncomfortable in your own home.

Me: I know but it's just for tonight. If anything happens to her then everyone will blame us. Let's go and pick her up.

Justin: Look at the mess i have created.

Me: Let's just go.

I got up and slipped on my shoes then grabbed his car keys.

At Mo Guest house

Tumiso turned off his phone and pulled Pearl

towards him.

Tumiso: We only have an hour before Dineo and the kids get back home.

Pearl: That's enough for me to show you what you have been missing.

Tumiso: Akere ontse o shiya. (You have been playing hard to get).

Pearl: I had to. You need to miss me at times. We can't see each other all the time gape i can't be doing your wife's job. Remember that i am not your wife.

Tumiso: Yet i spoil you.

She unbuttoned her dress and slowly took it off as he watched her impatiently.

At Dineo's

After putting the kids to sleep, Dineo sat in the living room and called her husband but his number did not go through. She went on her gallery and browsed through some of their old pictures when they were happy. How she longed for his love and attention. Although he had never admitted it, she knew that he was cheating on her. Even at that moment, she knew that he was on top of another woman. She looked up to block the tears but the pain was too much...

An hour later...

At my house

I carried Asa's bag to the guest room as she followed me.

Me: You can sleep here for tonight. The bathroom is nextdoor if you need to bath. We have already had

our dinner but i can make you something quickly.

Asa: Thank you so much for everything but i have already taken a bath. I also had dinner so i will be fine. I just want to sleep.

Me: Okay. Goodnight

Asa: Emma.

I closed the door on my way out and joined J ustin in the living room...

J ustin: And ?

Me: She says that she is gonna sleep. I think she is tired.

J ustin: This is honestly very uncomfortable. We need to find her a place to stay as soon as possible.

Me: We can help her with the rent till she gets back on her feet.

J ustin: She needs to explain to us how she failed to pay rent because as far as i know, her job pays well.

Me: I guess we will find out tomorrow.

Justin: Hopefully everything will be back to normal then.

Me: Yeah.

I changed the tv channel and concentrated on the programme that was airing.

Justin: Babe.

Me: Huh?

Justin: Remember what you promised me?

Me: What?

Justin: You said if i rubbed your feet then you would give me my night pill.

Me: But that was before she called. We can't do it tonight.

Justin: That's not fair.

Me: I am just trying to be considerate.

Justin: Tell me that you don't want me as much as i do...

Deep down i was dying to get naughty. A part of me wanted to wild out just to spite her. She had put us through so much and her tricks to win my husband back never ceased so maybe i needed to send a strong message to her.

Me: Okay.

Justin: Okay what?

I bit my lower lip and touched myself knowing that he would not resist. Before i knew it he was all over me.

.

.

.

Let's do this again tomorrow maybe

Remember to reach the target so that we can
#PresstheRepeatMode

[02/07, 08:24] : Dear Carol

#14

Justin: You have been keeping all this goodness away from me for days.

Me: Because i wanted to reward you all in a good time.

Justin: I deserve all of it.

Me: Mmm...Ke go efa yotlhe le bana ba yone gompieno.

He looked at me and laughed...

Justin: Oh Carol!

Me: That's exactly how i want you to call out my name when i spin your entire world around.

Justin: I like the sound of that.

Me: Today i want you to sit and behave.

Justin: Yes ma'am.

I sat ontop of him then stripped off my top...I knew that he would not resist. Soon enough,he would take matters into his own hands. He held onto my little waist with his other hand while the other one went for my bra. I slowly got off him and helped him stand. Both my hands working towards a common goal which was taking off every piece of clothing he had on. When i had achieved my goal, he moved towards his. Soon enough we were both completely naked and hungry for each other. He lifted me up then placed me on the couch before parting my legs and gently greeting the lips of my cookie jar with his soft lips.

Me: Uhhh...

Justin: I love you

The sincerity in his voice made me cry... I closed my eyes and softly moaned as he licked my delicate bud softly. I pressed down my hips in order to allow him to penetrate more but he backed off.

Justin: I want you on top of me...

I took a deep breath to gather some strength as he sat on the couch next to me.

In the other room...

Asa laughed as she read Pearl's messages.

Pearl: For all you know, the wife could be sleeping.

Wena just pretend like you are going to drink water. If he is still in the living room then you strike. Men are weak. All it takes is rubbing his D. The next thing you know, he will be all over you.

Asa: I don't know. What if she walks in?

Pearl: Then that's good. That woman is already shaking in her boots. The fact that you are there is not making things any easier.

Asa: I just don't know if it's all worth it. I mean Justin doesn't seem to care about me.

Pearl: Asa at times you need to get a man's attention. He is obviously with her most times, he has built a bond with her. All you need to do is to start planting doubts in his heart. Once the baby is here, it will do all the work for you.

Asa: She seems really nice.

Pearl: Do you want to be a single mother?

Asa: No.

Pearl: Exactly. Children born out of wedlock go through the most at the hands of their step mothers,

you need to protect your child.

Asa: You are right.

Pearl: Good.

At Dineo's

After taking a hot long shower, Tumiso joined his wife in bed...

Tumiso: Are the kids asleep?

Dineo: Yes.

Tumiso: How was your day? Did you enjoy the surprise i planned out for you guys?

Dineo: Mmm...

Tumiso: Are you ok?

Dineo: Where have you been all evening?

Tumiso: Mma?

Dineo: Where did you go after knocking off? The kids and i got here a bit earlier hoping to find you but you were nowhere to be found.

Tumiso: I was working as usual.

Dineo: Tumiso i will divorce your ass and take my kids with me. For how long should this go on? Even at your age, you are still running after every skirt.

Tumiso: Don't threaten me Dineo. If you want to leave then please do but you are not taking my kids with you. I don't know what you want from me because day in and day out, i work hard just so we can afford this lifestyle. If i stay home and look into your eyes all day then all of this could be gone. You need to decide wheather you want poverty or a teenage affair.

He got out of bed and grabbed his pillow.

Dineo: Where are you going?

Tumiso: I will sleep on the couch.

Dineo: Suit yourself.

At my house...

I held onto the couch breathing heavily as i humped up and down, moving my waist and bursting in pleasure. With every moan that escaped from my husband's mouth, i got motivated to go harder and harder...

Justin: Oh fuc...

He held on to my waist and began to thrust from under. Reaching to my g-spot. I tried to raise my body up as he thrust deep inorder to limit him but he kept pulling me down. Going in deeper and deeper, i found myself crying but that didn't stop him.

Me: Let's change positions.

I said as tears welled up on my face...

He held on tighter and increased his speed filling me up...

I caught my breath feeling relived but it was far from over.

A few minutes later i was kneeling on the floor as he stroked his van diesel and smacked the lips of my cookie jar softly. I drifted into pleasure and began to moan louder. As if my moaning was some sort of motivation, he increased his speed and i began to move meeting him halfway.

Meanwhile Asa stood by the passage watching the two in action. She knew just how good he tasted

and watching him with another woman broke her. She had never allowed him to have his way with her the way that his wife had. So many times she had rejected all those positions over and over again hoping that playing the good girl would get her the ring. She blocked her mouth with her hand as she cried.

Me: Uhhh...

Justin: I have missed all this...

We both moaned till we exploded at the same time...

Justin: Shit!

He pulled out and we fell to the carpet.

Justin: Carol hlamma o monate. Koore o e tshele eng nemma. (What do you do to this cookie jar.

You are so sweet).

Me: (laughed) And don't ever forget that or cheat on me.

Justin: I would be so stupid to do that. I have never meet anyone as sweet as you babe.

Asa tip toed back to her room making sure that no one could hear her...

The following morning...

Asa sat up on the bed and wiped her tears. She didn't understand how she made it through the night. The pain she was in had made her believe that she would go into labour at any moment.

In the dinning room

I waved my car keys around as Justin laughed...

Me: Tlabo kere please get me my laptop in my red R8 parked next to my husband's Range rover.

Justin: I feel for everyone at the office.

Me: I have always dreamt of being a corporate hot wife. I mean we had everything we wanted and needed when we were growing up but i have always wanted something of my own.

Justin: And i have always wanted a wife to build my empire with.

Me: Have you seen Asa today?

Justin: Nope.

Me: We need to talk to her and find out how we can help with rent. I know that she is carrying your child but this is a bit uncomfortable.

Asa: You don't have to worry, i have sorted things out, i will be going back home today.

We both turned around as she walked into the dinning room.

Me: Morning

Justin: Morning Asa.

Me: Please sit down. We are having breakfast.

Asa: Thank you so much but i will have breakfast at home. You can drop me off at my house.

Justin: How did you sort out the rent?

Asa: The company i work for has been going through some financial crises. They sent a message this morning to say that we would be getting all our back pays. I can now afford to pay all my rent.

Me: That's good. Let me finish eating up so that i can drop you off.

Asa: Emma.

Me: You may sit and wait for me.

She pulled a chair next to me and slowly sat down.
The entire time i had my breakfast, i could tell that
she had her eyes on my wedding band.

Later that day

.
. .
.

Do share, press the like button to appreciate the
insert so that we can #PressTheRepeatMode

[02/07, 08:25] : Dear Carol

#15

Later that day

At Asa's Office

Pearl gave her friend a glass of water then sat ontop of her desk as she listened to her narrating her story.

Asa: You should have heard him. He went on and on as if he had never had anything special with me. He told her that he had never met anyone as sweet as her. Even the things he did to her, he has never done to me.

Pearl: I am sorry that you had to go through all that but you have to hold on. Fighting for what is rightfully yours will never be easy my friend.

Asa: Well not anymore. I knew that i had lost him this morning when i looked at the rock on her finger and her car. I won't even mention her house. Justin is doing everything i have always wanted him and i to do with her.

Pearl: And do you honestly think that it's out of his free will?

Asa: Looks like it.

Pearl: Asa batho ba lowa. O seka wa lebala boloi.
(Don't forget that there is witchcraft). Do you honestly believe that you can meet a man in a few months abe a go nyala just like that. I am telling you that there is something that she has done to him. Think about it. He marries her within months, buys her a very expensive car then asks her to join his company. Don't forget that in all of this, he has left the woman that has been there for him through thick and thin. The one that knows all of his struggles.

Asa: I hear you but i honestly want all of this to end. I refuse to go on like this. Pearl it hurts. If this is my fate then so be it.

She wiped her tears and continued working...

At Mma J ustin's

Mma J ustin put down her phone and shook her head.

Mma J ustin: If your brother wants to kill me then he must do it himself. I am too old to be going through this kind of trauma.

Tebogo: What is going on?

Mma J ustin: How will we explain this pregnancy to Carol's family?

Tebogo: Mum stop talking in riddles and tell me what is going on.

Mma J ustin: I thought that your brother was smart but now i can see that you are all the same. None of you is smart.

Tebogo: I don't understand why i am getting dragged in all of this.

Mma J ustin: I know that you knew that Asa was pregnant.

Tebogo: Asa? Pregnant? Didn't you say that those two were not together anymore?

Mma J ustin: I don't care wheather they were together or not. I don't even care if she is expecting because i will never accept that child into my family. J ustin is a married man and she should have known that before opening her legs.

Tebogo: Mme?

Mma J ustin: What?

Tebogo: This is all your fault.

Mma J ustin: How is it my fault?

Tebogo: You failed to guide your son. As a mother, you should have shown him his mistakes from the day he told you that he wanted to marry another woman. I don't think that there is anybody to blame apart from you. All of this could have been avoided if your son did the right thing. Now he is married and expecting a child with another woman. He is a man and he knew what he was doing so let him dance to the music he has selected.

Mma J ustin: All of this is Asa's fault. If i was Carol, i would sue her for wrecking my marriage.

Tebogo: Do you even know how far along she is?

Mma J ustin: Gatwe she is seven months.

Her daughter looked at her and laughed...

Mma J ustin: I don't understand why you are finding this funny.

Tebogo: Carol and J ustin have not been married for that long. He probably got her pregnant way before the wedding. It was most probably around the time they were planning the wedding.

Mma J ustin: This boy is very stupid.

Tebogo: This boy just needs his mother to guide him. For once tell him the truth Mme. You are not doing him any favour by supporting his decisions that we all know are wrong.

Mma J ustin: What do you want me to do Tebogo?
Do you want me to tell the boy to divorce his wife?
Ke ire yang? (What should i do?)

Tebogo: That's not what i am saying. You know what you should do. What you should have done.

She stood up and walked away...

Tebogo: You know that i am right Mme.

At J ustin's office

J ustin opened all his drawers and cursed as he failed to find the documents Lereo had asked for.

Lereo: Are you okay man?

J ustin: Why do you ask?

Lereo: You look really frustrated.

J ustin: I just don't understand how i misplaced those documents because i put them in one of my drawers the last time you gave them to me.

Lereo: J ust relax and look for them again. I am sure that they are in there.

J ustin: I said they are not.

Lereo: Ok! What's bothering you?

He sighed and stood up if he was stretching.

J ustin: Asa is pregnant with my child.

Lereo: Oh. I thought that you two had broken up after the wedding.

J ustin: We did. She was already pregnant when i got married.

Lereo: And you went ahead and married another woman? Come on man!

J ustin: I didn't know that. Even if i had known, i would have probably married Carol. Lereo, Asa and i were never going to work out.

Lereo: You have big problems my guy.

Justin: Tell me about it. Kana yaanong Asa is acting like i am supposed to marry her.

Lereo: I heard that.

Justin: Kutlwano told you?

Lereo: Yeah. I was suprised when i first heard and maybe a little bit hurt. I know that i always lecture you about everything but that's because i care man. I just didn't expect you to keep such information away from me.

Justin: I am sorry that i didn't tell you. I was going through so much all at once. Asa is pulling all sorts of stunts. You won't believe that she spent the night at my house.

Lereo: (laughed) Did she pretend to be sick?

Justin: Ne mona you are laughing. Kana waits i i have problems bigger than this world. So she told us that she was kicked out by her landloard because she didn't pay rent for three months.

Lereo: And you believe her?

Justin: I still don't buy the story because this

morning she went back to her house claiming that it was all sorted.

Lereo: Be careful my guy.

Justin: I think i should go and talk to her.

Lereo: Before things spiral out of control.

In my office

I laid back on my chair and looked at my wedding photograph on my wall then back at my wedding ring. I couldn't explain the joy that i was feeling. The feeling of accomplishment! Although i was dealing with a lot, things were slowly falling into place.

More than anything, i was sure about my husband's love and commitment to our marriage.

A few hours later...

At Asa's

Justin sat down and looked around the apartment that he once called home. Nothing had changed and the energy was still the same.

Asa: Juice?

Justin: Mma?

Asa: Do you want some juice?

Justin: Thanks but i am fine.

Asa: Okay. So what is it that you wanted to talk about.

Justin: Your behaviour last night. Let's talk about that.

[02/07, 08:25] : Dear Carol

#16

At Asa's

Justin sat down and looked around the apartment that he once called home. Nothing had changed and the energy was still the same.

Asa: Juice?

Justin: Mma?

Asa: Do you want some juice?

Justin: Thanks but i am fine.

Asa: Okay. So what is it that you wanted to talk about.

Justin: Your behaviour last night. Let's talk about that.

Asa: Excuse me?

Justin: Asa i know you.

Asa: I know that.

Justin: If you knew that then you wouldn't have pulled the little stunt you pulled last night. You and i both know that you were never kicked out in the first place. I know that you are going through so

much right now and it's all my fault but this! This is too low... Asa how do we move past this? How do i right my wrongs? Ke ire yang? (What should i do?) I honestly don't know what to do anymore.

She looked at him and shook her head...

Asa: Move past it? Justin how do you move past such pain? Do you honestly think that this is something you can just fix? I gave you my heart and you broke it! Not only that, you embarrassed me. I can't even walk across the street without someone making nasty comments about me. It's easy for you to move past this because you are happy. Your life is perfect. Every night you go to bed with the love of your life. What about me? Not only am i broken, but i am also carrying a married man's child. I am going through a pregnancy alone. Do you understand how all of that feels? Every night i go to bed with not only a bleeding heart but an aching back and feet. I can't sleep at night because your child is up most of the

time playing. I was learning to live without you. I even convinced myself that i would find love again but here i am. Pregnant! While you go on with your life, mine has stopped. I can't go out on a date on even have a one night stand. Every night o sotha kuku, nna ke hano ke patisitse maoto(Every night you sex your wife, i am here closing my legs) because i obviously can't sleep around. For you, life is a party and for me, it's one miserable job. I am hurting. You broke me beyond repair. There is not a single cell or edge to fight for healing left in me. Justin Seleke you have destroyed me. To this very day, i don't understand why you went and married another woman right under my nose. You can't even tell me what i did to you. Every morning, i look at myself in the mirror to try and find that strong brave woman that used to live within me but i can't find her.

She closed her eyes as the pain pierced through her heart over and over again. Her battle with her tears was one that could not be won.

Justin: I am sorry. I take full responsibility for all my actions. What i did to you is very painful. I really wish that i could have talked to you and told you the truth before moving on with another woman but the truth is that i was also broken. Maybe you never saw my pain because men are expected to be strong. I put on a brave face every single day and did everything i could to save our relationship but i guess what they say is true. Once you see your woman in bed with another man you never heal let alone forget.

Asa: Don't use that as an excuse for what you did.

Justin: I am not. I am just trying to explain how i felt in that moment. Every night we went to bed, that day would play in my head over and over again. I did everything to move past it and forgive but i guess i never really did which was not fair. I should have walked away and saved all of us the pain and trouble. I should have let go when i met Carol but i couldn't. I didn't know how i would leave the woman that had been with me through thick and thin. The

longer i stayed, the more harder it became. I fell inlove with Carol, every single day the pain seemed to dis appear but little did i know that i was falling deeper and deeper inlove with her. At some point it felt good to know that you would finally feel my pain but i came back to my senses. I asked you to let me go. I begged you for the longest time but you refused without looking back. When you pulled that stunt and threatened to kill yourself, i knew that i couldn't leave you. There was no way that i would be able to live with myself knowing that i was responsible for your death.

Asa: So you stayed?

She fell on her knees soaking in tears...

Justin: Yes. I stayed hoping and praying that you would realise that our relationship was dead but each day you put in an effort and did your best to keep us floating. I didn't know how else to end things. On the other hand was Carol who was totally

clueless about our relationship. I did everything i could to make sure that she didn't find out. From the day i met her, i began to experience healing and i knew that i wanted to marry her. Mme yaanong i didn't know how i would do it without hurting you. In time i convinced myself that you would only accept that we were done if i was married.

Asa: So you went ahead and married her?

Justin: Yes and i will forever regret going behind your back because its done more damage. I knew what lies do to people yet i repeated the same pattern.

Asa: I didn't love him. I don't know what came over me. Being with someone else became exciting and i couldn't stop once i started. Babe our sex life was in shambles.

He looked down and wiped his tears...

Justin: And yet you didn't tell me. You failed to sit

down with me and discuss the problem. Instead of saving our relationship, you slept with my employee on our bed. Not only did you stop there but you went and told everyone that cared to listen about our sex problems.

Asa: (Crying) I am sorry. I am really sorry. I was young and naive. Now i am older and wiser. I know better.

Justin: I am also sorry that i let things go this far. I will forever be grateful for everything you did for me. Lenna hela i will never forgive myself for what i put you through. Mme hela we need to move on. We have a child on the way that we need to think about. We can't go on like this. Le ene hela ha re mo irele sentle.

Asa: Please just divorce her and let's work on our relationship. Let's raise this child together.

Justin: Asa please...Ke a go kopa, don't do this. (I am begging you).

Asa: Justin i can't do this on my own. I need you.

Justin: And i will be here all the way. You know that

i would never let you or this child suffer. You are the mother of my child and i care about you. I can never stop caring. We have come a long way. I need you to be strong for our child.

Asa: Go siame,don't divorce her. I don't mind. We can keep it between us. J ust don't leave me.

J ustin: I am sorry but i can't. I have already messed up. I love Carol and i can't be with you knowing that my heart belongs to another woman. If you want to go for counselling then i will be more than happy to pay for it. It's the least i can do for the mess i have created.

Asa: (Screaming) I am not crazy!

J ustin: I am not saying you are crazy. I just wanna see you heal. If you need anything please let me know. Once again, i am really sorry.

He stood up and hugged her before leaving ... She couldn't understand how he was able to live everyday while she found it difficult. The world around her kept spinning although her world felt

frozen. She wondered how the sun kept coming up in the morning and how people kept going. The pain inside her felt so big and she couldn't understand how it had not poured out into the world and everyone else.

At my house

I looked at my pregnancy test and sighed... I had everything yet i couldn't get the one thing i longed for the most. Everyday i closed my eyes and repeated the same prayer.

"Lord please give me a child".

The truth was that besides that prayer, there was nothing else i had uttered to the Lord. I didn't go to church much and when i did, i found it time consuming. Even growing up as kids, we never attended church except for the time when we were

given Christmas presents or when we knew that there was a special lunch. I didn't know who the Lord was. I heard people talking about him and give testimonies but i had never experienced him myself. If you ask me, he was too good to be true. If indeed he was real, he wouldn't let me go through this disappointment over and over again...

.

.

.

Goodnight, let's meet in the morning

[02/07, 08:25] : Dear Carol

#17

A week later

I closed my eyes as my niece played with my hair...
After a long day at the office all i wanted to do was sleep.

Montle: Aunty

I opened my eyes and sighed...

Me: Mma?

Montle: I am hungry.

Me: What would you like to eat?

Montle: A burger and chips.

Me: Okay go put on your shoes and let's go get dinner.

I picked up my phone and called her mother...

Dineo: Carol

Me: Hey

Dineo:Yes

Me: Do you know when you will be home?

Dineo: What do you want?

Me: Well i have Montle with me so i was just wondering what time i can drop her off.

Dineo: Ele gore ka i left Montle and the boys with Mama,how did she get there?

Me: I went past Mama's house after work and Montle was in tears when i left so i came with her to my place.

Dineo: And no one bothered to tell me? Carol those are my children. If you decide to take any of them with you, you let me know. You don't just pick them up as if they are yours. If you want kids to control then make your own.

Me: Ao mma! Kana kare Montle one a lela yaanong ebe ke hella ke tsamaya le ene. (The only reason i couldn't leave Montle behind is because she was crying when i left). I didn't mean to disrespect or offend you. Mama le ene doesn't seem to be coping alone with the kids. Le go mo imolla nne kere ke mo imolle.(I also wanted to take off a bit of pressure

from mama).

Dineo: I don't see where the burden is. I left my mother with her grandchildren. If you had kids of your own then maybe you would know that grandmothers are supposed to babysit their grandchildren.

Me: Intshwarele motho wa Modimo. (Forgive me) I will take her back now.

Dineo: Please. Le gone don't ever take my children without my permission.

Me: Emma

I hung up and took a deep breath as tears rolled down my cheeks. Having my body fail me was the most difficult thing and not having my family's support made it worse.

Montle: Aunty what's wrong? Why are you crying?

I turned around and found her standing by the passage.

Me: Oh. Something got into my eye.

I wiped my tears and got up grabbing my car keys.

Me: Grab your backpack. I am going to drop you at gran's after we get food.

Montle: But i want to sleep here.

Me: I know my baby but i have to go back to the office.

Montke: Ok.

At Asa's

Pearl sipped on her wine and changed the tv channel...

Asa: Thank you for moving in with me my friend. I don't know what i would have done alone?

Pearl: Ofcourse. That's what friends are for. I can't let you stay alone on your third trimester. It's not safe at all.

Asa: Yeah. You know sometimes i wish that mama was still alive. I am honestly clueless about a lot of things.

Pearl: What about J ustin's mum? I know you have broken up and everything but can't she help? Akere this is her grandchild.

Asa: Well i thought the same but it seems like she wants nothing to do with me. I really thought that she would be excited to hear that i was pregnant because she has been pestering me and J ustin to have kids for years.

Pearl: Don't worry about her, she will come around. Once she sees that baby she will even forget her precious daughter inlaw. I know that it's hard right now but remember that you are the one carrying

Justin's son.

Asa: Yet he doesn't want me.

Pearl: All that will soon change hlamma. I am telling you. Men love their sons too much.

Asa: I also can't wait till this little man is here.

Pearl: Ene mme is he helping you financially?

Asa: Yeah. He pays half of everything. The food, house and my hospital bills.

Pearl: You deserve it. Tota ebile he should pay for everything because you are the one caring his son.

Asa: I doubt his wife would allow that. I don't know but there is just something about that woman. She looks really nice on the outside but i can tell you that i am not convinced.

Pearl: And you need to be careful of her even after the baby is born. If the father wants to see him then let him do it here. You never know what she will do to him ka ebile she doesn't have kids.

Asa: You are right. Heela kana i am doing my maternity shoot in a week.

Pearl: Is everything ready?

Asa: Yes. I asked Justin to do it with me but he doesn't think that it's a good idea.

Pearl: He doesn't think that it's a good idea kana he is afraid of his wife?

Asa: Heish Pearl!

Pearl: Just let it go. Use this time to prepare yourself. Buy those essential oils and facial products then use them when you are in confinement. Drink lots of water and exercise then. Koore ere when you step out of the house ebe ole hot. Let him swallow when he sees you.

Asa: Yeah neh.

Pearl: Just relax. For now, don't call him. Don't run after him. Koore show him that you can do this life without him. Let him wonder about your life. He will come running himself.

At Wimpy

I gave Montle the receipt and grabbed my phone from my purse.

Me: Check how far our order is.

I made sure that she had left then took the call.

Justin: Babes

Me: Hey

Justin: I just got your message. Where are you?

Me: We are still waiting for our order in wimpy. Once we get it, i will drop her off then come home.

Justin: Come home, take a bath and let's go out for dinner.

Me: Why don't we stay home and maybe Netflix? I am so tired.

Justin: We don't need to be anywhere tomorrow so we can relax then.

Me: Eish. I don't know. I am really not in the mood.

Justin: That's why we need to go out. You need to cheer up.

Me: Ok. I will see you in a bit.

At Mma Justin's

Mma Justin smiled to the bank notification then put back her phone on the table and continued eating.

Tebogo: Abo a tsene madi. (I guess you have received some money).

Mma Justin: It's month end. My son and his wife have done what other kids do for their parents. Akere some people can not get jobs and contribute. All you ever do is eat my food and insult me.

Tebogo:(laughed) Mme the o rata madi ele ruri. Ke one a ka irang gore o ntshote yana. (Mama you love money. So you mean to tell me that money is the

reason you are talking to me this way?)

Mma J ustin: (laughed) Money makes the world go around.

Tebogo: So what are you going to do about Asa's pregnancy kana she is expecting a Seleke child. That child is our family. We can't just abandon him.

Mma J ustin: And you decide to ruin the mood.

Tebogo: I just need to know what you are going to do because you have not said a single thing about it.

Mma J ustin: I act on J ustin's instructions. He has not said anything yet and i can't act on my own. Kana this is his child.

Tebogo: You are the parent here.

Mma J ustin: So what do you want me to do? Should i move in with Asa and rub her feet every evening?

Tebogo: That's not what i said. Advise your son.

Mma J ustin: Tebogo my girl, just stay out of it. Everything is not always what it seems.

Tebogo: What's wrong is wrong Mme.

Mma Justin ignored her and continued eating.

Tebogo: If none of you won't support her then i will.
That woman is carrying my one and only nephew.

Mma Tebogo: I can't stop you. You are an adult.
Mme hela don't play with fire because it will burn
you.

At Mama's house

Dineo grabbed her daughter's backpack from me
and stood by the door.

Dineo: Montle get in the car.

Montle: Thank you for dinner aunty

I kissed her little cheek and gave her the take aways.

Me: You are welcome sunshine. Bye

She smiled at me and went to the car...

Dineo: Next time you want to practice to be a mum with my children please call me first and ask.

Mma Dineo: There is no need to be rude, i am the one that allowed her to leave with her because she was restless.

Dineo: Next time ask me. Goodnight.

She slammed the door behind her.

Me: I don't understand what i did wrong?

Mma Dineo: Ignore her. She can be a little bit crazy sometimes.

Me: I know but that's no reason to be insensitive. I may not have kids but that doesn't mean that i don't care about my sister's kids.

Mma Dineo: Le wena hlamma ako o ire bana ruri Carol. Look at how your sister treats you (Have kids my girl, look at how your sister treats you).

Me: She has no right to treat me that way. Le wena mama you should show her that it's not right.

Mma Dineo: Are you having any problems?

Me: I don't know mama. I am trying but nothing is happening.

Mma Dineo: Let me make some tea so that we can talk.

Me: Can i come over tomorrow. Justin and i have a date.

Mma Dineo: Make sure that you come so that we can get to the bottom of this.

Me: Emma

[02/07, 08:25] : Dear Carol

#18

At home

I looked at myself in the mirror and sighed...

Justin: You are just perfect my love. Thank you for everything.

He hugged me from behind as if he knew that i was falling apart inside.

Me: For what?

I forced a smile...

Justin: For loving me. For always being so supportive and forgiving.

Me: That's something you can't take away from love.

Justin: I know that you are going through so much right now but i want you to know that things will get better. We will have a child.

I held onto his hand and tried to keep it together.

Me: I don't know. I am scared Jay. Everyone says that i must relax and a child will come at God's time. I hear them and i understand that they might be right but my heart. My heart Jay! My heart is finding it hard to accept that. Knowing that your ex is carrying your child doesn't make things easy. I have forgiven you and i know that you can't change things but a part of me is hurting. A part of me can't help but feel like my body is failing me somehow. I can't help but feel like i am not woman enough. Everyone around me has kids. Even those that can't afford to have them. Why can't i carry a child? We have been trying for months.

Justin: I know and i understand. I have been here

before. I tried for many years and i had come to believe that i couldn't have kids.It's hard to keep the faith even when everyone assures you that things will fall in place mme hela nna i am not alarmed because in reality we should only be worried after a year.I know that it will happen. You are stressed and your body is under pressure, once you relax it will happen.

I wiped my tears and fixed my make up.

Me: Maybe.

Justin: Let's go out and have fun. I know that things have been a bit tense. Give yourself some credit and allow yourself to have some peace of mind honey.

Me: Ok. Let's go.

At Dineo's

Tumiso kissed his kids then picked his car keys.

Dineo: Where are you going? You just got home.

Tumiso: It's a Friday Dineo. I am going out with my boys.

Dineo: And what about me? What about the kids?

Tumiso: You have the kids and the kids have you.

Dineo: Yes but i am not married to the kids. I am married to you Tumiso. When was the last time we spent some time alone as a couple?

Tumiso: I don't know what you want because i am here every single day with you. I pay the bills and you lack nothing.

Dineo: Did you even notice that i am depressed?

Tumiso: Depressed waeng Dineo fridge e tlets e yana? Le Dstv e duets we. (How do you become depressed when the fridge is full and the Dstv is paid?) You don't have anything to worry about. Everything is fully paid. Depression is for people like us. The employed. We are the ones that are

always worrying about the bills and our dependants. Wena le di pampers you don't know how much they cost. (You don't even know how much pampers cost). All you ever do is send a list of the things you need. So please allow me to go out with my boys and distress. You can shout at me tomorrow.

Dineo: Kana nna i am not saying that you don't take care of us. All i am saying is that we miss you. It's been a while since we have been together as a family.

Tumiso: Let's continue with this conversation tomorrow.

She thoughtfully looked at her ring as he walked out. She might have been wearing the ring but it was clear that someone else had his love and attention.

At Asa's

Pearl rubbed her friend's feet while she waited for

her ride to pick her up.

Asa: You never told me who the lucky guy is.

Pearl: I have been meaning to talk to you about that.
Koore hela i was scared that you would judge me.

Asa: Me? Judge you? Hlemma i am the last person
to judge anyone. Have you seen my life?

Pearl: Do you remember Tumiso?

Asa: Your high school sweetheart?

Pearl: Yep.

Asa: What about him? The last time i saw him, he
was with his wife and kids.

Pearl: Well we never broke up.

Asa: Please tell me that you are lying.

Pearl: No. We tried but true love never dies my
friend. Even we can't fight it.

Asa: If you have been together for so many years
then why can't he divorce and get married to you?

Pearl: Because he has kids and he took vows. Till death remember.

Asa: He is already breaking them so he might as well as end the marriage. If he loves you that much then you deserve to be the wife.

Pearl: Everything is not always black and white my friend. There are a few grey shades in between. He can't just leave.

Asa: And you don't have a problem with that?

Pearl: Not even. Tumiso takes good care of me and i am the one that gets all his attention and love koore i have nothing to complain about. All the wife has is his surname and a lot of misery. This is why i keep telling you to relax. Justin will come back to you and his son. Have a little bit of mercy on the wife. Let her enjoy the little time she has with him because when he chooses true love, he will never look back.

Asa: Do you really think that he will come back to me?

Pearl: Relax my friend. I know for a fact that he will

come back.

Asa: I can't wait to give bath. I feel like i have been pregnant forever.

The following day

At my mother's house

I sat down while my mother made some tea.

Me: Are you sure that you don't want me to help you?

Mma Dineo: No my girl. Relax. I will manage.

Me: Ok.

Mma Dineo: Carrie

It had been a while since my mother had called out my name with so much love.

Me: Mma?

Mma Dineo: I know that you think that i don't love you.

Me: Do you blame me? Mama you have always been hard on me. Even when i needed your love and support, you would lash out on me.

She put down a tray of tea and cookies then sat next to me.

Mma Dineo: I know my girl. I also know that you might find all this hard to believe but all that is motivated by my love for you. My girl, i want what's best for you. I want to see you girls build strong families and age in marriage. You know how i held on till your father took his last breath. We were inseparable till the end.

Me: I understand that but that does not mean that you need to forget to love us in the process. At

times i feel like you value marriage more than you value us.

Mma Dineo: You will understand one day when you have kids of your own

Me: That's if i ever have any.

Mma Dineo: How long have you been trying for?

Me: Since we got married.

Mma Dineo: Are your periods regular?

Me: I think so.

Mma Dineo: You need to track them and be really sure.

[02/07, 08:26] : Dear Carol

#19

Mma Dineo: You see, sometimes when your periods are not regular, you take longer to conceive.

Me: I am already tracking my ovulation cycle.

Mma Dineo: Then track your periods as well and

start eating healthy. Drink lots of water, exercise and stress less. My girl, your body can pick up when you are stressed. You will be surprised at how so much can change when you are less stressed.

Me: I am trying but knowing that there is another woman carrying my husband's child kills me.

Mma Dineo: I know my baby. I understand the pain you are going through more than you will ever know because i have been here before. I may have never shared with you girls but i also struggled to conceive after your father and i got married. His mother assumed that i was the problem and she got him a girlfriend behind my back. A few months after they started their affair, she conceived and soon after that my life took a different turn. Your father changed completely. Iyoo ngwanake! When the baby was born, i wanted to burry myself in sand. Your father turned into someone i didn't know. Someone i grew to hate. Him and his mother bullied me till i allowed his concubine and son to move in with us. Each day i watched the man i loved fathering another woman's child. I grew bitter and

believed that God had closed my womb because he was punishing me.

I watched how she would at times laugh and shake her head as she narrated the story.

Me: So what did you do?

Mma Dineo: I became strong and stayed. I was not gonna leave because another woman had walked in. If i was going to leave, it would be because i honestly wanted to not because i was running away. Two years later, the woman that had been sent by my mother inlaw to disrupt the peace in my home left running.

Me: What do you mean she left running?

I sipped on my coffee and sat upright not wanting to miss a single thing.

Mma Dineo: Nobody knows even till this day. She packed her things and took her child while we were sleeping.

Me: J ust like that?

Mma Dineo: Yes. J ust like that.

Me: Did you two fight?

Mma Dineo: No. Not at all. I never said anything against her.

Me: Why would she leave just like that?

Mma Dineo: I don't know my girl but i still believe that God was acting on my behalf. A few months later i fell pregnant with Dineo.

Me: But you don't really believe in God.

Mma Dineo: To a certain extent. Let's leave my past and talk about you. The pain that you are going through, i know it. I understand it more than you will ever know.

Me: Then why did you send me away the other night?

Mma Dineo: Carol, i won't always be here for you as

your mother. I know that i will sound like a bad mother but i want you to learn to be your own strength. From today, you need to know that people can dissapoint you.

I know and i can see that J ustin is a good man. Maybe he has me fooled but right now i don't doubt anything about him. Something tells me that his ex only wants to destroy your marriage. Maybe my advise is very selfish but as i mother i only want what's best for you. I might somehow fail and get parenting wrong. At times i am harsh not because i don't care about you or love you. I am sorry that i put you under pressure to have a child. For me that's the only way.

Me: But i am failing.

Mma Dineo: Keep trying my girl. You will succed.

She put her coffee mug on the breakfast table and stretched her hand towards mine.

Mma Dineo: You need to be strong.

I didn't fully agree with Mama's parenting skills but for the first time in a very long time, i was grateful that she had given me this moment. It didn't matter wheather she was right or wrong. I was just happy to sit and have a conversation with my mother.

At Ofile's

Nadia laughed as her brother fixed his tie. Each time she tried to talk, she would just fall back into laughter.

Ofile: Spit it out!

Nadia:(laughed) Are you seriously going to wear a tie to a breakfast date?

Ofile: What's wrong with that? She needs to see that i am a responsible guy.

Nadia: And you still wonder why you are single? Let me teach you a thing or two about women bro. No woman wants an uptight man.

Ofile: And you know very well that i am not uptight.

Nadia: Dress to be addressed my guy. The way you are dressed right now screams uptight.

Ofile: So what do you suggest?

Nadia: Take off the tie and unbotton the first few buttons of that shirt, you will thank me later.

Ofile: She is a pastor's daughter for the record.

Nadia: Those ones are kinky. She will probably be all over you before the date even ends.

Ofile: Yeah.

He forced a smile...

Nadia: What is it?

Ofile: I am not sure if i want to go for this date.

Nadia: What's changed? You have been talking about it since yesterday.

Ofile: Nadia my heart belongs to another woman. I don't want to take another woman on a ride.

Nadia: I hear you but that ship sunk a long time ago. You need to forget about it and move on. You will never forget her for as long as you keep holding back. You had two options which was to either go after her till she gave in or move on. Akere wena you choose to be the bigger guy so please move on.

Ofile: You are right. I need to move on.

He took off the tie then did as he was told.

Ofile: I will see you later.

Nadia: Go have fun.

Two months later

Justin jumped out of bed and grabbed his car keys...I had never seen him so shaken.

Me: Are you sure that you don't want me to come with you?

Justin: No. I will let you know once the baby is born.

Me: Drive safely it's late.

Justin: Emma.

Me: Take a jacket and a power bank. You never know how long you wi...

Justin: Honey i need to go.

He rushed out before i could even respond.

At Asa's

Pearl knelt before Asa who was screaming on top of her lungs.

Pearl: Friend please, you need to get to the hospital. The baby might come anytime from now. I have already called Justin and he is on his way. He will meet us at the hospital.

Asa: (Shouting) I am not going anywhere without Justin. You better call him to come here and take me to the hospital because if he doesn't get here then i am not going anywhere. Akere ke irile ngwana o le ene. (He and i made this baby together.)

She cursed in between taking deep breaths...

Pearl: Asa please.

She sat down and wiped her sweat with the back of her hand.

Asa: (Crying) The baby is coming...Uhhh.

She got off the couch and paced around the house with the baby bag around her neck.

Pearl quickly dialled Justin.

Justin: I am on my way.

Pearl: Where are you going?

Justin: To the hospital. Akere you said that we should meet there.

Pearl: No no!

Justin: What? What is it Pearl?

Pearl: Go back home.

Justin: What?

Pearl: I mean come here.

Justin:(Shouting) Come here where?

Pearl: (Shaking) To Asa's. She refuses to come with me. She says that she is waiting for you.

Asa sat down and unpacked the baby bag...

Pearl: Justin please hurry. She has even unpacked the baby bag.

Justin: I will be there. Make sure that you are ready please. I know nothing about delivering babies.

She hung up and shook her head as she watched Asa packing the bag again... She looked a lot calmer but within a few minutes she had gone crazy again and started to unpack.

[02/07, 08:26] : Dear Carol

#20

At GPH

Justin cursed and paced around while Pearl sat

down anxiously.

Pearl: J ust sit down. Pacing around and cursing won't change anything. We still have to wait.

J ustin: Damm right it won't! Do you have any idea what could have happend if we had been here a few minutes later than we got here?

Pearl: You shouldn't talk like that. She will be fine.

J ustin: What on earth were you two thinking? How could you be so stupid? You should have come the moment the labour pains started.

Pearl: That was her call. She wanted to wait for you and there was nothing i could do.

J ustin: Wait for me to do what? Am i a doctor? Do i know anything about delivering babies. Le gone you sit there and tell me that it was her call. Oka emela motho gore aswe onts e ore it was her call.

Pearl: Iyoo! You would swear that i am the one carrying your child. I have already apologized. The person you should be shouting at is not even here.

Sit down! You are gonna drive me insane.

He frustratedly sat down and sighed...Not knowing what was going on in the labour room drove him insane. A few minutes later a nurse walked upto him.

Justin: Please tell me that she is fine.

Nurse: She is doing well.

Justin: And the baby?

Nurse: She hasn't given birth but she has requested for you to be in the labour room.

Justin: (confused) Are you sure that everything is fine?

Nurse:(Smiled) Yes. All she wants is your presence. Let's go, she is almost there.

He looked at Pearl and she gave him a thumbs up...The first thing that came to mind was his wife

but then again, this was not about any of them. It was about the baby. He took a deep breath and followed the nurse to the labour room.

At my house

I turned on my side lamp and sat up thinking about what my mother had told me. Feeling restless and lost. I picked up my phone and dialled Justin's number but it just rang. Reality was finally kicking in. The baby was here and a lot of things were bound to change. All i could do was hope that this change would not affect my marriage. I scrolled through the newsfeed on facebook before opening my whatsapp. I clicked on Mama's message and opened a picture that she had sent to me.

'FERTIPIL PLUS'

I read through the message she had sent then

responded back when i noticed that she was online.

Me: Still up?

Mma Dineo: I was just about to go to bed. I couldn't sleep. And you my girl?

Me: I also couldn't sleep. Justin has rushed to the hospital. The ex is giving birth.

Mma Dineo: Be strong my girl.

Me: So what are these pills?

Mma Dineo: It's just a fertility pill you can take for now while trying. It improves uterine lining and egg quality. You don't need a prescription. It's just a support pill.

Me: And if it doesn't change.

Mma Dineo: Then you go see a doctor to run tests. It's only been a few months. You start really worrying after a year of consistently trying.

Me: I just hope that there is nothing wrong with me.

Mma Dineo: Make sure that you take your husband

with you.

Me: But it's clear that i am the peoblem. He got another woman pregnant.

Mma Dineo: J ust take him with you. These days they run tests on you both.

Me: Emma. Do i need a prescription for fertipil?

Mma Dineo: No my girl. Let's talk tomorrow. I want to go to bed.

Me: Night night.

At the hospital

Justin held Asa's hand as she pushed...

Midwife: You are doing great. One last big push.

She screamed as she did her last push...

Midwife: Good going...

She picked the baby and showed him to his mother as he cried... It was in that moment that he felt complete. Hearing his son cry for the first time brought tears to his face.

Two days later

At Asa's

Justin assembled the cot while Asa laid on the bed with the baby...

Justin: Kante yaanong when is the helper getting here?

Asa: I honestly don't know. I thought that she would be here by now.

Justin: I hope she gets here sooner because i can't leave before she comes.

Asa: You can go. We will be fine.

Justin: I can't just leave. What if you need anything? When is Kutlwano coming? I haven't seen her around for a while.

Asa cleared her throat and held her son's tiny fingers as he slept.

Asa: I haven't talked to her in a while.

Justin: Any reason?

Asa: We are not friends anymore.

Justin: When did this happen? What did i miss.

Asa: There is a lot that you missed.

Justin: Hit me! Did you two have a cat fight? Was it about a man?

He put down the things he was holding and sat on the couch.

Asa:(Laughed) Some things never change. You still love some gist.

Justin: Hlamma tell me.

Asa: Please stop it. I don't want to laugh. I feel like i am about to rip these stitches apart.

Justin: I didn't know how dramatic you were till yesterday.

Asa: I am not dramatic. Labour pains hurt like shit.

Justin: If you could wait for me to come pick you up then you were not in pain. Asa kana you almost killed my son.

She looked at him and smiled...

Asa: Well he is fine. He is a strong little man just like daddy.

J ustin: He is but he looks really tired.

A s a: He is. It must be one hell of a job coming to this world.

He sat on the bed and picked him up...

J ustin: He is so tiny.

A s a: Put him down. The boy needs to rest.

J ustin: But he has been sleeping all day.

At home

I set the dinning table for the second time then finally decided to call J ustin.

J ustin: Hey babe.

Me: Hey. I thought that you would be home by now. I made lunch.

Justin: Oh am sorry. I was also hoping that i would be back by now but the helper is not here. I can't leave JJ and his mum alone but as soon as she gets here, i will be right over.

Me: Okay. I love you. Bye

Justin: I love you too honey.

I put the phone down and closed my eyes as tears rolled down my cheeks. It had not even been a week but i could already pick the change in my husband's voice. I had never seen or heard him that excited. All he talked about was the labour room and his son since the day he had been born.

At Asa's

Justin put his phone down then picked up his son again...

Asa: You can go. We will be fine.

Justin: I have already told you that i can't leave till the helper gets here.

Asa:I know but i don't want to cause any trouble for you. Your wife scares me.

Justin: My wife is not heartless. There is no way that she expects me to leave you alone with a new born. Asa you can't even walk properly. What if anything happens to you two? Do you think that i would be able to forgive myself?

Asa: Yeah neh.

She looked at him and smiled.

Asa:Put the boy down and go make me something to eat.

Justin: What do you feel like eating?

Asa: Anything you wanna make. Nna i am hungry. I haven't been able to eat properly in months.

Justin: I am a bit tired. Do you mind if i order in?

Asa: No. Not at all. Ebile i am craving some Nandos.

Justin: Let me get a family meal so that we can share. I am also hungry.

Asa: Just make sure that it's not anything spicy.

Justin: Emma.

He put his son down then picked up the phone...

At Mma Dineo's

Dineo packed the groceries she had brought with her then later joined her mother in the garden.

Mma Dineo: I was just about to come inside.

Dineo: Let's sit here. I could use some fresh air.

Mma Dineo: How are you?

Dineo: Am good. Can't really complain. Okae Carol?
(Where is Carol?) Haven't heard from her in a while.

Mma Dineo: My poor child. She called this morning
to update me about Justin's newborn.

Dineo: Kana Carol is such a cry baby. She needs to
be strong. This is marriage. You need to hold on.

Mma Dineo: Yes but it can't be easy on her.

Dineo: Ao Mama! You are becoming soft these days.
Don't baby her otherwise she will expect you to hold
her hand all the time she runs into trouble.

Mma Dineo: Enough about Carol. How are you?

Dineo: You know me. Strong as ever. I am holding
on.

Mma Dineo: Is he behaving?

Dineo:(Faked a smile) Yes. With a woman like me.
He is supposed to.

Later that day...

[02/07, 08:26] : Dear Carol

#21

Later that day

I kicked off my shoes and sat on the couch. Although i had remained calm, my inner self was at war. I was deeply hurting. Maybe i was just being jealous after all. I picked up my phone to dial Justin but he didn't answer. A few minutes later i heard his car pulling up. I looked at the time and took deep breaths. As the door opened, i prayed for a bit of strength.

Justin: Honey am home.

He put his car keys on the table and kissed me.

Me: Good evening.

Justin: I am so sorry babe. I waited all day for the

helper to pitch up but she never did. I was able to come back home because Asa's friend pulled through.

Me: We had plans.

Justin: I know and i am really sorry. Had i known that things would be like this then i would have went out to look for another helper.

Me: How sure are you that she has found a helper?

Justin: What do you mean?

Me:I mean it's been two days since she has given birth and this helper has still not pitched up. Isn't that a bit strange? Let me see...

I scratched my head...

Me: Without a helper, her baby daddy would be forced to stay with her.

Justin: What are you implying?

Me: Exactly just that. Your ex is always plotting.

Even when she should have been at the hospital, she waited till you came over to her house.

Justin: So you are now using what i told you against me?

Me: I am not using anything against you. I am just stating facts. I fail to understand how you can not see right through her. This is the woman that didn't have a problem sleeping under my roof.

Justin: I don't like your tone.

Me: Why am i not suprised? I saw this one coming.

Justin: Babe please. Can we not fight. I came here as soon as i could because i was dying to spend some time with you.

Me: And why do you think i took the day off?

Justin: I know. I am sorry that things turned out this way. If her helper does not pitch up in the morning then i am calling an agency to get her one.

Me: (Smiled) Good. I am starving. I have been waiting all day for you. Let me get our food.

He scratched his head and forced a smile.

Justin: Babe.

Me: Huh?

I stood up fixing my dress...

Justin: I have already eaten.

Everything in me froze...

Me: Eaten? Eaten what?

Justin: I ordered some food for Asa. It was a large meal so i ended up sharing it with her.

Me: Oh i see.

I tried to hide my disappointment but he could see

right through me.

Justin: But you know what,bring the food. I know that it's mouth watering.

Me: You don't have to eat because you feel bad.

Justin: My wife went through all that trouble to make me some food so i am gonna eat.

Me: Justin!

Justin: Mma Justin!

Me: Be very careful. That woman is very manipulative. Next time you will be spending the night at her place.

Justin: I know As a very well. I do admit that she can be very can be very manipulative but not this time. She is in pain and i doubt she has time for that.

Me: Pain?

Justin: I will never forget what i saw in labour room. I know that this might offend you but i will do anything to help her right now. The woman did so

much to bring my son into this world. After all that trauma, she doesn't have time for any tricks. You just need to stop being jealous and trust me.

Mw: How do i trust you when you leave me here in the morning ore you are going to drop off a few things only to come back home in the evening.

Justin: I was spending time with my son!

I held my waist and looked into his eyes. My husband had really changed in a heartbeat. The tone he used had me wondering if my worst fears had come true.

Me: What would i know? I don't have a son. I have never pushed a child out of my vagina and i know nothing about labour pains.

Justin: Honey please.

Me: No it's okay. Nobody sees you when you don't have a child. You can be a really good wife and a hardworker but when you don't have a child as a

woman, no one sees you. Even your own husband.

I held on to my last strength...I wasn't gonna cry. No!
Not this time.

Justin: I honestly think that you are overreacting.

Me: Overreacting? My husband has been gone since morning and when he gets home he tells me that he has eaten even though he knows that we had lunch plans.

Justin: Now you are being petty. You need to stop being jealous.

I clapped my hands and shook my head.

Me: I am dissapointed that you let her get to you this fast. If she can play you like this then maybe this child is not even yours.

Justin: Carol! Now you are going to far.

Me: I am going to lay down Rragwe Justin Jr. You can go back and play happy families but be very careful because that woman will ruin you. I will leave you and never come back.

Justin: Wa simolla akere? Kante keeng o ila kagiso yana? (You are starting? Why do you hate peace so much?)

Me: One day you will realise that i loved peace.

I walked out on him...

At Asa's

Pearl sat on the couch and sighed...

Pearl: What a day! I thought it wouldn't end.

Asa: That bad?

Pearl: Girl. I had to do my work and yours.

Asa: Sorry babes. You will be fine.

Pearl: And you two? How was your day?

Asa: (Smiled) My friend you are really smart. Kana Justin spent the entire day here.

Pearl:(laughed)Are you forgetting that i just saw him?

Asa: (laughed) Nnya tsala. Koore i just needed to remind you incase you didn't see him.

Pearl:(laughed) Banyana! How do i not see someone i walked past? I told you that it would work out. Wena just don't find a helper and he will be here again tomorrow.

Asa: Poor guy. He couldn't even move.Koore he was glued here.

Pearl: I told you that you need to trust me.

At my house

I sat on the floor crying and feeling sorry for myself. History had repeated itself. Who knew, maybe i

wouldn't even be as lucky as my mum. Maybe she would win. I clicked my tongue and got up.

Me: It might have run in the family but it runs out with me.

I wiped my tears and browsed through my phone looking for different agents. If this woman's helper wasn't coming then we would get her one. Play time was over.

Thirty minutes later

I walked into the living room and sat next to Justin.

Me: I have sent you three numbers of three agencies. They all have someone that can start tomorrow. All you have to do is pick a suitable candidate.

Justin: Thank you.

Me: Believe it or not, that woman had a plan when she called you to the labour room but never mind. Monna ke selepe ee mme nna same se rema nna kele nosi.

He looked at me and burst into laughter...

Justin: Ee tla kwano ke go reme ee...

I ran a few metres away from him and took off my dress then stood completely naked before him.

Justin: (Laughed) Some people just love sex. Koore you are even ready.

Me: I can put the dress back on if you like.

Justin: Hase gore wa lwala. (You must be crazy). Get your lunatic self over here.

At Mma J ustin's

Tebogo packed her bags even though her mother advised her against it.

Tebogo: I don't know why you are fighting with Asa so i won't even drag myself into your issues. Nna i am going to help her out. I am ashamed of how this family treats people. Koore you can't even pretend for the baby's sake.

Mma J ustin: If you want to go then go but please don't go and disturb the peace in my son's marriage. I have told you to stay out of J ustin's business but you won't listen.

Tebogo: This is not about J ustin. It's about doing the right thing. It's about the baby.

Mma J ustin: That girl is not who you think she is. Go in peace my girl. You will come back.

[02/07, 08:26] : Dear Carol

#22

A week later...

Tebogo checked the water temperature before she began to bath the baby.

Tebogo: I hope that you can see what i am doing. With new borns you need to be very careful.

Asa: (Smiled) Thank you for coming. I don't know what i would have done without you. Kana nna i just wiped him with wet wipes. Even the helper that Justin hired was useless.

Tebogo: Those ones know nothing about babies. I am surprised that he hired one after what happend with my daughter.

Asa: Am sure he just wanted to help me out.

Tebogo: If he wanted to help you out then he should

have convinced his mother to come here.

Asa: I am sure that he wanted to yaanong the problem is that he is a married man. He first consults his wife before taking any decisions.

Tebogo: And now he is a father. This is his flesh and blood we are talking about. That woman does not have kids, he can not make decisions based on what she says.

Asa: I hear you but i doubt that your mum would have come even if J ustin had asked her to. Kana these days she hates me.

Tebogo: Kante mme what happend? You two used to be really close.

Asa:That's a story for another day.

Tebogo: That's a story i would love to hear one of these days because more than anything i am confused. I don't understand how Mme switched off suddenly. Even to this day it breaks my heart. This is a child we all prayed for after the death of my daughter. Mme legale God knows it all.

Asa: I thought she would also be happy but i have accepted my fate. I don't think that there is anything that will ever break me again. After what your brother did to me.

Tebogo: It also hit me hard but men will always be men. God has answered your prayers concentrate on raising your little man. God will remember you.

Asa: I loved your brother with every part of my existence. I still do to this very day. Each time i look at my boy, i wanna fall apart. Tebogo we had plans, plans to raise kids together. When i told him about the pregnancy, i somehow had faith that he would come back to his senses.

Tebogo: Be strong my dear. We may always have our plans but God has the final ones. Justin made his choice and there is nothing you can do to change that. You will heal in time.

She rolled her eyes and took a few pictures of Tebogo bathing the baby then sent to Justin.

"Aunty to the rescue"

A few minutes later she smiled at her phone as she read his response.

Justin: Atleast my son will get to have a proper bath. This wet wipe technique worried me.

Asa: Mmeh kana it's not too different from what Tebogo is doing.

Justin: That might be true mmeh atleast Tebogo is using water.

Asa: Nnya Rragwe J J .

Justin: Wena tota you know nothing about babies.

Asa: The same can be said about you.

Justin: Mmm. Anyways how are you? Is everything fine? Do you guys need anything?

Asa: We have everything we need except you.

Justin: Not again.

Justin: You asked me a question and i answered you. What do you want me to do? Lie to you? Justin you haven't seen your son in two days.

Justin:I know but i told you that my wife is not well.She was only released from the hospital a day ago. I can't just leave her.

Asa: Is she really sick kana she is doing all this because she doesn't want you to see your child? Why would she get sick right after the birth of your son?

Justin: I don't like where this is going. Carol is nothing like you. Just because you scheme it doesn't mean that my wife would also do the same.

Asa: She is a woman. Never say never. She can afford to pay a doctor to fake her report and hospitalize her. Don't forget that you are dealing with a smart creature. The same creature that convinced Adam to eat the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden.

Justin: I will come see the baby tomorrow.

Asa:I am not forcing you to come and see your own

child. I was just telling you the reality of things.

At J ustin's

I walked around the living to stretch while J ustin sat down and watched me...

J ustin: How do you feel?

Me: I am fine babe. You don't have to worry about me ebile i am going back to the office tomorrow.

He looked at me for a while without saying anything.

Me: What?

J ustin: Nothing. I am just supri sed that you have healed so quickly.

Me: I honestl y believe that all my body needed was a break. I have been working too hard ever since i

joined the company. The stress that comes with it was too much.

Justin: But you have been coping just fine.

Me: I know right...

He thought about what Asa had said and shook his head.

Justin: Are you sure that you were not just looking for attention.

Me: Justin i had a fuc*ing panic attack. How the hell does one look for attention with such?

Justin: I am just checking. You know that you have been moody ever since the birth of J J .

Me: What were you expecting? No wait! Wouldn't you do the same if it was the other way around.

He kept quite and just looked at me as if i was crazy...

Me: I don't know why i am even asking this question because if tables were to be turned, you wouldn't be here. I would probably be going through a divorce and depression. There was no way you could have stayed. It breaks my heart that you think so little of me yet i am here with you. Every single day, i fight for our marriage and try to be as supportive as i can be even though deep inside of me i am falling apart. No one sees the inner battles i face daily because i am a woman. I am supposed to be strong and keep my home.

J ustin: I am sorry.

Me: It's fine J ustin. You are now a father, your mind and everything about you is different.

J ustin: I didn't mean to hurt your feelings.

Me: Oh don't worry about my feelings. I am sure that you have other important things to worry about.

J ustin: Can i make you anything to eat?

Me: Thank you but i was just about to cook so relax.

Justin: The doctor said you should just take it easy.

Me: What doctor? Akere golo fa i am just pretending just so you give me attention.

Justin: Babe am sorry. I didn't mean it that way.

I grabbed my phone and went into the kitchen.

At Dineo's

After bathing the kids, Dineo gave everyone their food then went into the bedroom and quickly dressed up...

In the living room

Tumiso: I will be there in thirty minutes. Ok bye.

Dineo stood behind him and laughed...

Tumiso: And now?

Dineo: I am surprised that you made plans for tonight yet you don't have a babysitter.

Tumiso: What on earth are you talking about?

Dineo: I am on way way out.

Tumiso: Have you seen the time? And besides what do you expect me to do with these kids?

Dineo: You figure that out yourself. Those are your kids my friend. What do you think i do when you leave me with them?

Tumiso: Dineo i am not in the mood to play your games. I have a meeting.

Dineo: Then cancel it. Sala le sekwele sa gago. I have things to do and people to see.

Tumiso: Please don't test my patience.

She kissed her kids and grabbed her car keys.

Dineo: Don't wait up for me.

Tumis o: Dineo!

She ignored him and walked out...

At Asa's

Pearl stood by the door for a few minutes before going into the room...

Asa: Is she gone?

Pearl: Yeah

She closed the door and went in.

Asa: I thought she would never leave.

Pearl: Kante when is she leaving?

Asa: Mma lenna i don't know. I am really dying to ask her that.

Pearl: I thought that her presence here would help somehow but it seems like it is messing up our plans because these days Justin barely comes here.

Asa: I thought the same. Yaanong ene she is just telling me about moving on and being strong.

Pearl: You need to get rid of her.

Asa: How?

Pearl: I don't know my friend. Come up with a plan. You are smart.

At Newie's

Dineo sighed as she read Tumiso's message.

Newie: And?

Dineo: He is fuming. He wants to know who am sleeping with.

Newie: (Laughed) Now isn't that something. I told you that he will go crazy. Let him feel what you have been feeling all this time.

Dineo: I don't know about this my friend. I don't wanna ruin my chances of fixing my marriage.

Newie: That's the problem. Tumiso is behaving this way because you let him get away with it. Let the man have a taste of his own medicine for once.

Dineo: He must be sweating buckets.

Newie: Good! That's what we want. Now please forget about him and let's have fun.

[02/07, 08:27] : Dear Carol

#23

The following day

I placed Justin's breakfast on the dinning table and

grabbed my handbag and work files.

Justin:Are you not going to eat?

I turned around...

Me:Morning. I have already had my breakfast. I need to get to the office.

Justin:Are you avoiding me?

Me:No. I have a few things to attend to. Remember that i haven't been to work in a few days.

Justin:Yes and you need to take it easy.

Me:Oh no. Don't worry about me. I am not sick. I am just looking for attention.

Justin :Babe i am really sorry for saying that. I never said you were not sick. I was just asking.

Me:I know that we have not been married for too long but i thought that you knew me by now. Justin

i don't scheme. If i want something,i ask for it nicely.

Justin: I know. It's just something that Asa said.

Me:(Laughed) Tsena wena Rragwe J J le Mmagwe J J . Funny how things quickly change mme legale it is well. Have a lovely day.

I kissed his forehead then headed out...

At Dineo's

Tumiso called his wife for the hundreth time but her phone did not go through. He dialled his mother inlaw and instantly hung up. If it turned out that Dineo was not with her then he would have a lot of explaining to do. He sat down and sighed running out of options. There was no other way. The kids were going to school and he didn't know where to start.

At Newie's

Dineo anxiously looked at the time while having her breakfast.

Newie: Is the food not good enough?

Dineo:(Smiled) I didn't say that.

Newie: Then why do you keep looking at the time?

Dineo: The kids have to get ready for school. If i don't go home now. They will be late.

Newie: Those kids are with their father. Stop worrying.

Dineo: Tumiso knows nothing about getting kids ready for school. He has never had to do it in his entire life.

Newie: Then let him learn. Dineo you need to teach this man that you also have a life. Those kids are yours together. He also needs to help you. Let him spend some time with them and get to know them.

If you keep babysitting him then what will happen once you are gone? Don't tell me about your mother because Mma Dineo has limited time on earth. She has lived her days gape le ene she is too old to be running behind the kids. Let's not even mention your sister because you two are far from having a relationship.

Dineo: Newie my kids need me.

Newie: And you need some time off. You are not supermum so stop trying to be one. Tumiso will manage just fine. Now let's eat.

Dineo :You wouldn't understand. Kana wena you are not married.

Newie:That's true and i am happy on my own thank you. Quite frankly i would rather be alone than to be in an unhappy marriage.

Dineo:There is no perfect marriage.

Newie:True but some marriages are not worth it. If i was you, i would just divorce.

Dineo:I have kids with that man. More than anything

i have invested ten years in that marriage. Tell me that you don't expect me to throw it all away.

Newie:For your own happiness? Yes i do.

Dineo:And what about our families? Do you understand that marriage is not just about two people?

Newie:From what i see here, you are the one burning alone.

Dineo:I was just ok with you saying let's eat so let's just eat.

At the office

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. I couldn't understand how Justin could doubt me. I had never given him any reason to after all. With everything that had happened. I became very curious about Asa so i quickly went on facebook and started stalking her. Tears welled up on my eyes as i came across a picture of Justin holding his son that she

had uploaded a few days ago.

I laid back and analysed the picture. Anyone could tell that the man was happy from just looking at him. I zoomed in to have a look at the baby but i could hardly see his face or features as the picture was taken from a distance. A knock interrupted me. I wiped my tears quickly and sat up straight.

Me:Yes

Lereo walked right in...

Lereo: Goodmorning...

Me:Morning Lee. Can i help you?

Lereo:I am looking for J ustin. There are a few things i need to discuss with him before giving the team the go ahead to start working on the pitch.

Me:Oh. I see.

Lereo: How long do you think it will be till he gets back?

I forced a smile...

Me: Give him twenty minutes or so.

Lereo:Thanks

Me:Cool.

As he stood up a crazy thought came to mind...

Me:Lereo!

Lereo:Mma.

Me: Can i ask you something?

Lereo:Yeah sure.

Me:Please sit down.

Lereo:Is everything ok?

Me:Yes. Yes everything is fine.

He sat down and looked around the office. I could tell that he was uncomfortable.

Me:Please don't tell my husband that we had this conversation. I need to ask you what you know about the relationship Asa and my husband had.

Lereo:I am sorry but i can't have this conversation with you.

Me: Please.

He looked into my eyes and i knew that he could see my pain. There was no way of hiding it after all.

Lereo: What do you wanna know?

Me:What kind of relationships did they have?

Lereo: This is a conversation you should honestly

be having with him.

Me:Please

Lereo:You didn't hear this from me.

Me:Ofcourse.

Lereo:For years the two were inseparable. They had a Bonnie and Clyde type of love. We all desired that kind of love.

Me:So what went wrong?

Lereo:People change. I guess they both did. In the end Asa cheated on him with someone that was his employee at the time.

Me:Where is he?

Lereo:He quit his job because he and J ustin couldn't work together anymore.

Me:When was all this?

Lereo:I am sorry but i can't share more than i have shared right now. It's not my place.

Me: I know that you and my husband were close at some point.

Lereo:I am sorry i can't tell you more than i have told you.

Me:It's fine. I understand. Thank you for all your help.

Lereo: Please don't tell him you got it from me.

Me: I wouldn't.

Lereo: I know you women. Once you attack him, you would have forgotten all that.

Me: (Laughed) Not me.

Lereo: Good.

Me: Have a good day.

Lereo: You too.

At Dineo's

After the kids left for school Tumiso picked up after them. He shook his head as he looked at the mess they had made. He couldn't understand how his

wife coped. J ust one morning and it was driving him insane. He picked up his phone and texted her.

Tumiso: Please come back home so that we can talk. I have taken the rest of the say off.

At Ofile's office

Ofile shook his head as Carol's call came through.

Ofile: So you still remember my number?

Me: Hie friend.

Ofile: Carol.

Me: Thera my life has been hectic. I have actually been meaning to call you.

Ofile: And my text mess ages?

Me: I was going to respond back. J ust that i haven't found the time to. Tota it's been busy.

Ofile: Am afraid am busy as well right now.

Me:My friend please. I need some advice.

Ofile:Listen i have to go.

Me: I think that there is a possibility that J J is not Justin's. Turns out that the e...

Ofile:Bye Carol.

He hung up on me... I really needed someone to talk to but i didn't know who. My mother and i were building our relationship but we were not there yet so i didn't trust her completely. I thought of my mother inlaw and smiled. Maybe she was all i needed after all. This was a matter that needed a serious conversation. It was very sensitive hence i needed to approach it with caution. I picked up my handbag and left the office.

At Dineo's

Dineo walked into the living room and greeted her frustrated husband.

Tumiso: I thought that you wouldn't come back home.

Dineo: This is still my home after all.

Tumiso: Where did you go last night?

Dineo: I went out to see a friend.

Tumiso: But you knew that i had no one to help me out.

Dineo: You always leave me without anybody to help me out. Kana Tumiso lenna i get tired just like you.

Tumiso: But you are home all day.

Dineo: Doing what? Cleaning after you and your kids.

Tumiso: But not all day.

Dineo: Yes because i have make sure that you guys find food when you get back. Tota if you feel like i do nothing around the house then get a maid and start paying her. I will go shopping all day.

He shook his head...

Dineo: And if you wanna divorce my ass as you always say then go ahead. Nna kana i am not an idiot. I saved up all the money that you have been throwing at me when you felt guilty about cheating. I have invested some of it so even if i walk out with nothing, i will still afford this lifestyle. Koore i am set mo eleng gore i don't need a job. My future is bright hun.

Tumiso: Why are you talking to me this way?

He asked softly...

Dineo: I was just telling you something you don't know.

Tumiso: Dineo are you cheating on me?

Dineo: I don't know. Shouldn't you try and find out?

Tumiso: I swear that you will regret it if you are cheating on me.

Dineo: Pearl will also follow me.

Tumiso: Who is Pearl?

Dineo: She is not important.

Tumiso: You are the one that mentioned her.

Dineo: Look i need to bath. I had a long night.

Later that day...

At Mma J ustin's

[02/07, 08:27] : Dear Carol

#24

At Mma J ustin's

I grabbed the shopping bags i had brought with me

and locked the car before walking into the compound. So much was going through my mind all at once and i didn't have any idea how things would turn out but there was no backing out. I was determined to go ahead with this.

A few minutes later

My mother inlaw handed me a cup of tea then sat next to me with hers in hand.

Mma J ustin: I know that it's hot but nothing cools you down like a cup of tea.

Me:(Smiled) My mother says that all the time.

Mma J ustin: And she is very right anyway how are you my girl? Is everything ok?

Me: Emma i am fine thank you.

Mma J ustin: And your husband?

Me: He is also fine.

Mma J ustin: Your face tells me a different story. The fact that you came all the way to Mogobane during the week also alarms me. What is it? Is J ustin sick?

Me: No Mme. It's nothing like that. Everything is fine. I honestly just needed someone to talk to.

Mma J ustin: Then you came to the right place my girl. This is your home and i am also your mother. You should feel free to come and talk to me whenever you want.

Me: Emma, thank you.

Mma J ustin: There is no need to thank me my daughter. Do you still remember what i said to you when we welcomed you here?

Me: Emma

Mma J ustin: Good. And even to this very day, i still mean it ngwanaka. You can talk to me about anything.

Me: Heish. I don't know where to start.

Mma J ustin: Start anywhere you feel comfortable to

start. I can see that you don't look happy. Talk to me. What is bothering you?

Me: I hope that i am not out of line. If i am, i apologize. As you know, J ustin has a newborn baby with his ex girlfriend.

I observed her closely and there was something about her body language that told me that she was not interested in what i had to say.

Me: I hope that i am not offending you.

Mma J ustin: No my girl. It's just that this issue breaks my heart. I might have not said anything but i have been wondering how you are coping. I know that it can't be easy all.

Me: Emma. So much has changed ever since this baby got here. Le ene J ustin, he has changed. I feel like it's only a matter of time till i lose him to Asa.

Mma J ustin: That can never happen. It shouldn't happen.If at all it happens then i will know that my

son is a fool.

Me: It's only a matter of time. Even if it's not now, mme hela it will happen because those two share more than a past. They now share a child.

Mma Justin: A lot of people share a child but that did not get them back together.

Me: That's true but with this one it's different. The mother is already using the child to win my husband over. I am also getting tired.

Mma Justin: And what if this is not his child? Have you thought of that?

Bingo! I had her where I wanted her and I could tell that she knew something...

Me: According to Justin, the dates make sense so I doubt she lied.

Mma Justin: Carol!

Me: Mma

Mma J ustin: Asa is a very smart girl. A wa nkutlwa?
(Do you hear me?)

Me: Emma. (Yes ma).

Mma J ustin: Whatever we discuss here ends here.
Do you understand?

Me: Emma.

Mma J ustin: I know that a lot of people believe that my son is a bad person. Some even believe that he is a cruel two timer that used Asa and married a rich woman leaving her high and dry. Not many people know the truth because your husband has never told his side of the story. Even i didn't know this but the real reason why they never worked out was because she cheated on him with someone that worked for him.

Me: I didn't know this until today. All i knew was that their relationship was not in a good space.

Mma J ustin: Not only did she cheat but she aired their dirty laundry for everyone to see.

She looked at the door as if she was expecting someone then whispered.

Mma Justin: Apparently she was not happy with their trips to Jerusalem.

I narrowed my eyes...

Mma Justin: He was driving at a speed that did not please her in the bedroom.

Me: Ohh...

Mma Justin: I heard this from my friend who was told by her son so imagine how many people knew about their personal issues.

How come my husband had never told me all this? Even when i had threatened to leave, he still protected her.

Me: He has never told me any of this.

Mma J ustin: No man will tell you that a woman cheated on him because he failed to perform. Men have pride my girl.

Me: We might have our suspicions but there is also a possibility that this child is his.

Mma J ustin: It will take the angels from above to convince. The truth is that i am not convinced at all my daughter. J ustin and Asa have been trying to have a child for many years yet they failed. Look at this carefully, she cheats, gets caught and J ustin marries someone else then a few months later she claims that she is carrying his child. You people can participate in that little circus of yours but i refuse to be dragged in.

Me: So what do i do? Mma help me. I am about to lose my husband.

Mma J ustin: I want to help you my girl but i don't know how because your husband has never involved me in his issues.

Me: Please Mma.

Mma J ustin: I am sorry my girl but my hands are tied. Why don't you have a child of your own kana you are not ready?

Me: I am ready. We are trying but nothing is happening.

Mma J ustin: Have you seen a doctor?

Me: Not yet.

Mma J ustin: Start from there my child. Find out what the problem is. Maybe it's not even you. Who knows.

Me: Are you saying that there is something wrong with J ustin?

Mma J ustin: No. I honestly don't know but that's something that has crossed my mind. I honestly pray that it's not the case but that's a possibility. Akere ware you two have also been trying?

Me: Emma.

Mma J ustin: Observe the pattern and tell me if you don't think that it's a possibility.

I took a deep breath and scratched my head... I had never thought of it that way but how would i prove it?

Me: How do i go on about it without ruining my marriage? That man loves his son and choosing between me and him might be a very simple task for him. I can't push him away because i will be handing him over to Asa.

Mma J ustin: Convince him that you think you might have a problem then suggest testing. He will feel obliged to support you and take the tests with you.

Me: I hear you but wouldn't it be better to ask him to test as well from the word go.

Mma J ustin: You need to be smart my girl. If he figures out that all this is about him then you might really lose him. Remember that you are trying to save your marriage here.

Me: Emma.

Mma J ustin: With men you need to be very smart. Even with my suspicions as his mother, i have not

been able to say anything to him because i don't want to push him away. When you get back home, don't tell him that you were here or even hint that we had this conversation. Be support and don't stop him from seeing the baby. No matter how sad or angry you get, don't be moody when he talks about the baby. Gatwe areng Phandu?

Me:(laughed) Eyes on the ball.

Mma J ustin: Exactly! Eyes on the ball my girl.

Me: Emma.

Mma J ustin: Let's go into the kitchen and make something quickly.

At Dineo's

Tumiso put his wife's handbag and shopping bags on the couch then waited till she had settled down.

Tumiso: Would you like anything to drink?

Dineo: Some juice would be nice.

Tumiso: With ice?

Dineo: Yes please.

Tumiso: Babe?

Dineo: Yes.

Tumiso: What should i make for dinner?

She held back her laughter and kept a straight face.

Dineo: You are making dinner?

Tumiso: Emma.

Dineo: That's a first.

He bowed down shamefully..

Dineo: Why don't we order something for dinner? I am sure that the kids would like that.

Tumiso: Whatever you want. Let me get the water.

She took out her phone and texted Newie...

Dineo: Guess who is slaving after me

Newie: Your darling husband?

Dineo: Yes

Newie: After last night, i saw that one coming.

Dineo: I should sleep out more.

Newie: Watch how he behaves.

As soon as she heard his footsteps,she put her phone down...

At Justin's office

Khumo put his phone on silent and grabbed his

food.

Khumo: Thanks for lunch man. Things are so hectic at the office that at times i forget that i have to eat.

Justin: Late lunch.

Khumo: Yes.

Justin: I was also looking for an excuse to see you. The last time we saw each other was at the wedding.

Khumo: I have been meaning to come and see you but between work and the building project, things are so hectic.

Justin: I understand. Lenna hela things have been so hectic.

Khumo: I bet. So how is marriage man?

Justin: (Sighed) It's exactly what they say it is.

Khumo:(laughed) Already?

Justin: My life is honestly complicated. Between a newborn and marriage, i am barely coping.

Khumo: Fuc*! So this is why you were in such a hurry get married.

[02/07, 08:27] : Dear Carol

#25

Khumo: I bet. So how is marriage man?

Justin: (Sighed) It's exactly what they say it is.

Khumo:(laughed) Already?

Justin: My life is honestly complicated. Between a newborn and marriage, i am barely coping.

Khumo: Fuc*! So this is why you were in such a hurry to get married?

He looked at his friend and laughed...

Justin:No man! Where do i even begin? See what happens when you don't check on your friends. I am not talking about my wife.

Khumo: You nasty motherfuc*er. Who is she and why am i only hearing about her now?

J ustin: Dude calm down. I am talking about Asa.

Khumo's jaws dropped when he noticed that his friend was serious.

Khumo: A girl fu*ks you over and you get her pregnant. How the hell is that smart? The same lunatic that threatened to kill herself when you wanted to leave?.

J ustin: Dude i know but it's not like i can do anything to change the turn of events.

Khumo:I told you to cut ties with that girl. Now you are in it with her for life.

J ustin: And you think i don't know that? That night was supposed to be our last chapter but she got pregnant instead.

Khumo: You are screwed! Now there is no way to cut ties with her.

Justin: Not only that, it's affecting my marriage.

Khumo: I can imagine. How is Carol taking it?

Justin: Am surprised that she has not divorced me yet.

Khumo: You got big problems my guy.

Justin: Tell me something i don't know.

Khumo: And your mum? How is she taking it?

Justin: She has not said anything yet akere you know how she is. She barely interferes in my business.

Khumo: Sometimes i wish i could trade parents. Mine crops up in my issues at every chance she gets.

Justin: The fact that she has not said anything bothers me. Kana Mme has been pestering me and Asa to have a baby for years. At some point she even took Asa to her church for prayers. I thought she would be over the moon about her grandchild but she seems cold.

Khumo: Maybe she doesn't wanna find herself

caught in between.

Justin: Yeah maybe but it's still a bit odd. Kana Tebogo seems to be the only one that has accepted this child. My mother is in Mogobane yet she has not asked me to come pick her up so that she can come see her grandchild.

Khumo: Have you suggested it yourself?

Justin: No but i thought she would as a grandmother.

Khumo: I hear you.

Justin: There is just so much going on in my life. While i deal with all of this, my wife has to battle with the fact that she is taking too long to conceive.

Khumo: And now that another woman has given you a son, the pressure triples.

Justin: I don't understand why it has to triple because i have never complained on any given day.

Khumo: It's not about that. To her, your ex gave her the one thing a wife wants to give her husband.

Justin: I have no idea how i will deal with all of this.

Khumo: You need to step up and be a man my friend. Protect your wife without failing your child.

A month later

I closed my eyes to hold back my tears. No matter how strong i tried to be. It became really hard to block out the pain.

Doctor: As i was saying, the ultrasound suggests a possible blockage on your fallopian tubes.

Me: What does that mean? Does it mean i am barren?

My husband held on tight to my hand while i fought an inner battle that i knew i had lost. I lost control and my tears won the battle as well.

Justin: So what do we do?

Doctor: I am going to refer you to a specialist for further checks. They might recommend a laparoscopy.

Justin: And me?

Doctor: All your results are clear. Everything seems to be in order.

I closed my eyes as another arrow was directed at me. I fell apart and failed completely to keep it together.

At Asa's

Tebogo kissed her nephew's little cheeks before giving him back to his mother.

Tebogo: I will be on my way out. If you need me then don't hesitate to call.

Asa: So there is really nothing we can do to

convince you to stay for a few more days?

Tebogo: (Smiled) I have been here for too long. I am sure that Mme also needs me even though she would never admit it. Kana she is getting old.

Asa:(laughed) Always staying strong for everyone.

Tebogo: You know her too well.

Asa: Yeah.

She looked to the other side as her smile faded away.

Tebogo: What's wrong?

Asa: I just miss her. I miss the relationship we used to have. More than anything my heart bleeds for J J . His grandmother has not come to see him ever since he was born. I know that J ustin is a married man but i was hoping that she would be excited about the birth of her grandchild. Also given the relationship we once had. Kana nna to this day, i still wonder what i did to her. She just stopped

calling me and ignored my calls.

Tebogo: I also don't know what her problem is because she never tells me anything. Maybe you should ask J ustin.

Asa: He also says that he doesn't know.

Tebogo: She will come around.

Asa: I hope so because i want my son to have a relationship with his family. I know that he will always come last in his father's family. Nna kana i have no family mme ebile i am already used to being on my own but i can assure you that there is nothing nice about it.

Tebogo: J ustin will come around. Be patient with him. I know my brother too well. His son is very important to him. I have noticed how he looks at him with so much pride. Once he sees through his wife, things will turn around. Be strong.

She wiped her tears and kissed her son.

Tebogo: I am gonna stay for just a day.

Asa: (Smiled) Thank you.

Tebogo: J ust one day. Bring him here and rest. I will call J ustin later.

Asa: Thank you so much. You have always been the sister i never had.

In the parking lot

I took off my wig and turned on the air conditioner.

J ustin: Are you okay?

Me: How can i be ok? J ustin i will never have kids.

At that particular juncture i didn't care wheather my make up was ruined or not.

J ustin: Babe please calm down. You heard what the

doctor said, we have options.

Me:(Crying) Calm down? J ustin you have a child and i don't. I might never have one so please don't tell me what to do.

J ustin: I know that you are hurting but nothing has been confirmed yet. We need to remain positive.

Me: No J ustin. I am too young to be barren. This was not even about me. This was supposed to be the happiest day of my life. We were supposed to find out that J J is not your child and enjoy our marriage.

J ustin: What?

He turned off the engine and looked at me attentively.

J ustin: What do you mean we were supposed to find out that J J is not mine?

Me: That's not important right now. I now have to deal with Asa and her brat for the rest of my life.

He shook his head and breathed heavily.

Justin: Carol what exactly are you saying? Are you suggesting that you had doubts about JJ being mine?

Me: You didn't?

Justin: How can i? That boy is mine and i don't doubt it for a second.

Me: There was a possibility that you could have been infertile. Remember you told me that you and Asa tried for six years. When the same pattern repeated, i was convinced that you were the problem hence why i asked you to take these tests with me.

He opened the Windows and got out of the car...

Justin: Fu*k!

I could tell that he was angry so i also got out of the car.

Me: What?

Justin: Who the hell am i married to? You schemed behind my back?

Me: I didn't scheme.

Justin: What do you call what you did? Carol i am so dissapointed in you.

Me: Dissapointed? What the hell did you expect me to do?

Justin: You could have talked to me and been honest.

Me: And you think we would be here? Akere Asa is the only person you listen to these days.

Justin: So if my results were different then you would have been celebrating?

I kept quiet...

Justin: Answer the fuc*ing question.

This time his tone had changed. This was a side i had never seen.

Me:I didn't say that.

Justin: You said that a few minutes ago. Akere ware it was supposed to be the happiest day of your life. Waitsi kana. So i married a woman that would rather see me miserable than happy. Le gone gao swabe.(You are not even ashamed of yourself).

Me:(crying) No i am not. I am not ashamed. I was only trying to save my marriage from that bitc*. I did what i had to.

Justin: That woman that you are insulting is the mother of my son and you need to accept that.

I opened the car and got my bag then began to walk.

Justin: Where do you think you are going?

Me: I will see where to go. In the meantime you can go and see your son and girlfriend. Akere nna i am of no use to you. I can't pop out any babies.

He clicked his tongue...

Justin: Get back in the car.

I ignored him and continued walking...

Justin: Carol get back in this fu*king car! I will not ask you again. You schemed not me. Stop acting like the world owes you anything. This behaviour of walking away when we have disagreements is not cute. If you are not ready to be a wife then tell me and stop acting like a five year old. Do you think

that you are the only one that's hurting?

I got back in the car and burst into tears as he drove out of the hospital.

[02/07, 08:27] : Dear Carol

#26

Later that day

Justin: I know that you are scared and a lot is not looking good right now but we have to be positive. Let's just book an appointment with the specialist and take it from there. I made you a glass of homemade ice tea to calm you down. When you are done, go to bed and rest. I am going to see my son. I will see you in a bit.

I kept quiet and grabbed the glass of icetea.

Me: Thanks.

Justin: While you sleep, i want you to think about what you did. Lying to me like that and pulling up crazy stunts behind my back. What you did today has left me with so many questions. I love you Carol but your behaviour leaves me wondering what kind of a woman i am married to. I am left wondering if you will ever accept my son. Will i be able to bring him here without worrying about what you will do to him? Have you really accepted his existence?

I looked at him and took a deep breath...

Me: I won't sit here and defend myself because the truth is that no matter how i reason with you, you won't see things from my side. At the end of the day i am the one going through all this therefore i am the only one that can understand it better. I may act crazy and do things in the completely wrong way but i am not capable of killing or harming your son if that's what you mean. Yes i am finding it hard to

accept this boy because everything concerning his birth is questionable to me. I can't help what i feel. Not only that but this is a child that was conceived while we were together. I learnt that you were with his mother even when we got married. While i try and deal with the fact that you lied to me the entire time we were together upto the alter where we took our vows,i learn that she is pregnant. At a time i am also trying to conceive. From her pregnancy till the birth of this child, this woman has never respected my marriage. At some point she even spent the night in matrimonial house.Forgive me if i am acting like a five year old for wanting a bit of peace in my marriage. Forgive me for suspecting that this child might not even be yours.I was only using logic. The woman cheated on you before after all.

He picked up his car keys and stood by the door.

Justin: You are dealing with a lot Carol. Tla ke go imolle wets ho.(Let me help you). The only person

that can investigate the DNA of J J is me and his mother. I messed up. Hell i fuc*d up and hurt you and i am really sorry for that. I am married to you now and i love only you. Asa is the mother of my child but this is something she knows. I have never hidden it from her. I don't know where i keep failing you.

Me: You keep protecting her. You come to her defense each time without failure. Even when she is wrong, you never see it. You keep failing me because you can't see that she wants to ruin our marriage. When she says jump, you ask how high. That's how you are failing me.

J ustin: Everything i do is for my son. The only person that will ruin this marriage is you Carol. You and no one.

He walked out...

In Ghanzi,Tautona Hotel

Pearl took off her dress and quickly slipped on her swimwear...

Tumiso: Do we have to really go put for a swim?

Pearl: Yes we do. We can't come all the way from Gaborone to Ghanzi just to stay indoors.

Tumiso: Let's stay in for now. We can go out later.
Hlamma kana i missed you.

Pearl: Yet you never bothered to see me.

Tumiso: You know very well that my wife is keeping an eye on me.

Pearl: And what do you want me to do with myself while i wait on you?

Tumiso: I give you enough money to keep yourself entertained.

Pearl: And you think that money will keep me warm at night? I am tired of sitting around and waiting for your calls. I also need someone while i wait for you.

Tumiso: You knew what it meant when you decided to stay with me.

Pearl: We will see about that. Let's go out for a swim
rra, we can't have sex all day.

Tumiso:(laughed) Isn't that what we came here for?

She ignored him and trotted outside.

At my house

I locked the door then sat by the landline to call my mother inlaw. I couldn't think of anyone else to talk to.

Mma Justin: Hello.

Me: Hello Mma.

Mma Justin: My girl. I have been waiting for your call. How did it go?

I kept quiet and tried to find the right words but at the end of the day even the right words could not change the truth.

Me: It's his child.

She kept quiet...None of us said anything for a while.

Mma J ustin: I am sorry my girl. Are you fine?

Me:Emma

I tried hard to sound strong but my emotions betrayed me.

Mma J ustin: Forgive me for even asking.

Me: I am the one with a problem.

Mma J ustin: Ngwanaka i know that nothing will

make you feel better right now and it's hard mme
hela be strong. Remember everything you were told
by the married women that welcome you into this
family?

I kept quiet...None of the things they had said could
heal my heart that was bleeding.

Me: I might not have kids and the truth is that i don't
know J ustin's stand anymore. It's only a matter of
time till he goes back to Asa.

Mma J ustin: Don't talk like that my daughter.

Me: It's the truth. He even told me that he doesn't
know who he married le gore i might hurt his child.

Mma J ustin: Where did all that come from? Is that
boy losing his mind?

Me: He found out that i planned these tests to prove
that J J was not his.

Mma J ustin: How?

Me: I told him.

Mma J ustin: Oh Carol! My girl i told you that you need to use wisdom when dealing with this. You can't have your husband believe that you are the enemy here.

Me: I was angry and hurt.

Mma J ustin: You should have just kept quiet. Men are not moved when it comes to their children especially if they have been longing for them. This might even push him into Asa's arms.

Me: What's done is done.

Mma J ustin: Where is he?

Me: (Sighed) He went to see her.

Mma J ustin: Now listen to me. Not every marriage survives especially when it comes to issues of children born outside wedlock. You have to be strong and smart. If that child is J ustin's then we have no choice but to accept him. I am not saying he should move in with you but you have to be supportive. J ustin can not see you as another

battle he has to win.

Me: And what if i can't have any kids?

Mma J ustin: What did the doctor say?

Me: I still have to see another specialist.

Mma J ustin: Take it from me,sometimes delay does not mean denial. Hang in there.

Me: Emma.We will talk. I have to go.

Mma J ustin: Every marriage has it's own troubles. Be strong.

Me: Bye.

I put the phone down and began to sob...

At Ofile's Office

Mmapula picked up the take away packs and threw them in the bin as soon as they had finished eating.

Ofile: Thank you so much for lunch. I have been chasing deadlines for the entire day. I barely had time to go and get anything.

Mmapula: Next time just order in. You need to eat.

Ofile: You are right about that but i also need to work.

Mmapula: Tell you what, if you can't go out for lunch, just call me and i will send something over.

Ofile: I will remember that.

Mmapula: Akere you know that i charge.

Ofile: Ao Pulie!

Mmapula: I am running a business my guy.

Ofile: You can't even pull any favours for your boyfriend?

She blushed and looked to the other side avoiding eye contact with him.

Mmapula: Boyfriend?

Ofile: Yes.

He stretched his hands to hers across the table then held them both.

Ofile: I am probably too old fashioned and i know nothing about romance. I dont know how this goes but i know that you make me so happy. Ever since i met you, my life has been so bright and colourful. You are the first person i think of when i wake up and go to bed. Your corny jokes make me happy. Our long walks in the park and our dates where we do nothing but sit and look into each other's eyes.

She tried so hard to hide her excitement by acting cool.

Mmapula: So we have been on dates?

Ofile:(Smiled) Yes. So this is me making it official. It's probably not in the most romantic way or in a way you pictured it but yeah. I want you. I want you by my side. I wanna wake up knowing that you are mine. I wanna get in my car in the middle of the night and come over. I wanna love you openly and do life with you.

Mmapula: It took you long so long.

Ofile: (Laughed) I didn't wanna scare you off.

Mmapula: You are an amazing guy and i wanna be with you too.

Ofile: So that means that we are exclusive?

Mmapula: (Laughed) Yes.

Ofile: So o mosadi wame hela go serious? Waitsi kana. I can't express how happy i am right now.

At Asa's

[02/07, 08:28] : Dear Carol

#27

At Asa's

Justin picked up his son from the baby cot and sat down...

Justin: Little man grows every single day. He wasn't this big when i last saw him.

Asa: You haven't seen him in a while.

Justin: That's true but i have been busy of lately.

She looked at his face and she could tell that he was distressed.

Asa: Problem in paradise?

Justin: What?

Asa: You don't look happy.

Justin: That's not true. I am just tired.

Asa: You seem to forget that i know you too well.

Justin: (Sighed) There is too much going on in my life. I don't know how to deal with everything.

Asa: Your wife?

Justin: And you. Asa the truth is that you are also not making things easy for me. I know that it must be hard having to go through all this without a partner but i am here. I will always be here. You just need to understand that i can only be there as a father. I have a wife and there will be boundaries. None of you deserve to suffer because i created this mess but at some time we have to accept the circumstances. We can't hold onto the past forever.

Asa: Uhu! Yaanong nna where do i come in? How is it my problem that you are having problems with your wife.

Justin: I never said i am having problems with my wife.

Asa: You don't need to say it. Any fool can tell that you are not happy.

Justin: I want my wife to accept my son. The more you make things difficult for me is the more she will resent him mme kana my home is JJ's home. He needs to be able to come home to see me when he needs his father. Le ene Mma Seleke she needs to have a relationship with him.

Asa: Have a relationship with him my foot. Maybe all the money you are giving me is fooling you. I popped this baby alone. Wa nkutlwa gore kareng? I went through those labour pains alone. If your wife wants to be a mother then she can make her own kids because i am not sharing my son with anyone. Whether she accepts him or not, it's not my business.

Justin: Akere mme you understand that she and i are married therefore we share everything. Even the money i give you, i have to go through her first.

Asa: Justin!

Justin: Mma

Asa: Why are you here?

Justin: I am here to see my son.

Asa: Please do that and leave. I am not interested in listening to your marriage principles. I am not the one that's married here.

Justin: I just want all of us to have peace.
Gompiano yana Carol is investigating the DNA of our son which she wouldn't be if you were not trying to prove a point daily.

Asa: She is what? Why would she do that?

She cleared her throat and did everything to keep composed.

Justin: She wants you out of our lives and she believes that the only way is if JJ is not mine. Asa i want some peace. JJ also needs to grow up in a peaceful environment with parents that get along.

Asa: And you? What do you think?

Justin: I know he is mine.

Asa: Yes he is. Listen i didn't know that it was that bad. I will tone it down.

Justin: That's all i want.

Asa: I don't my son to grow up with doubts as well.

A week later

At Pholo Clinic

I relaxed and took a deep breath as Kagelo took my blood pressure.

Kagelo: Do you wanna tell me why your blood pressure is so high?

Me: Are you asking as my doctor, ex boss or friend?

Kagelo: Both.

Me: Where do i begin?

Kagelo: You know that i always tell you that the beginning is a great place to start.

Me: You already know that Justin and i have been trying to conceive. Not so long, his ex gave birth.

Kagelo: Why does it sound like there is more?

I took a deep breath and forced a smile...

Me: I found out that the reason their relationship never worked out was because she cheated on him. The mother and i came to a conclusion that there was a possibility that the child was not his.

Kagelo: Why would the mother think that?

Me: Apparently the two had been trying to conceive for six years. When i told her that i was also struggling. She saw a pattern and we were both convinced that Justin was the problem. I convinced him to come for tests with me only for his tests to come out clear. My ultrasound suggests that my tubes are blocked.

Kagelo: Now that's a lot to take in. Have you taken further tests?

Me: No. I am yet to see a specialist.

Kagelo: That's good. I have seen worse. You still have a chance of having your own kids.

Me: I hope so.

Kagelo: Take it from me. I am doctor and i have seen a lot of my patients with the same problem having children of their own. I know that it's scary but nothing is impossible with God.

Me: Here we go again.

Kagelo: You might not believe in God but he is there and he sees what you are going through.

Me: God is the last thing on my mind. Tsala so much is going on at my house. Justin found out that i took him for tests to prove that the child is not his.

Kagelo: Shit! How the hell did he find out?

Me: I told him.

Kagelo: Tell me that you are kidding.

Me: No. I know that it was stupid of me but i was

angry and really hurt.

Kagelo: My friend you lack emotional intelligence. You can't tell such things to a man especially to one that believes without a doubt that the child is his. There were many ways to plant seeds of doubt in his heart without making it so obvious. Now he believes that you are the enemy. There is no way he will believe anything you have to say. He will probably also find it hard to trust you around his child.

Me: I know but how do i move on? What do i do next?

Kagelo: Now that depends on what you want as Carol. Do you want this marriage to work or do you want to walk away?

Me: I love my husband and i obviously want our marriage to work out.

Kagelo: I see. Wanting this marriage to work out means accepting this child and supporting your husband. You have both broken each other's trust and you need to build it somehow if you are going to stay married to each other.

Me: How do i accept a child who's mother does everything to destroy my marriage?

Kagelo: Nnaka, you need to change your direction. What is happening right now is exactly what that woman wants. She wants you to fight amongst yourselves so that your husband runs into her arms. Change your game plan.

Me: It's not easy.

Kagelo: Nothing comes easy.

At Asa's

Asa closed her bedroom door before making a call to Pearl.

Pearl: Baby Mama.

Asa: Kante yaanong you have moved to Ghanzi?

Pearl: I am fine thank you. How are you and the baby?

Asa: You should have been back a few days ago.

Pearl: Let me enjoy some time away with my man. You know very well that his bitter wife does everything to keep him away from me when we are in town.

Asa: What about us?

Meanwhile Tebogo walked with a load of laundry to Asa's room.

Pearl: Akere you two have Justin's sister.

Asa: The only reason I have asked her to stay longer is because she does everything for free around here. I honestly want her gone.

Pearl: Nnya mma just leave me alone. I want to stay for another week.

Asa: I need you my friend. So much is going on here.

Tebogo stood by the door to eavesdrop.

Pearl: (laughed) Need me my foot. Will you take care of my needs?

Asa: On a serious note. I need your smart ideas kwano. Kana J ustin's wife suspects that J J is not his and apparently she is looking into it.

Pearl: What did she say?

Asa: I really don't know but J ustin mentioned it to me.

Pearl: And J ustin?

Asa: He doesn't have any doubts.

Pearl: My friend we need to move very quickly. This could just be the beginning. That woman will do everything in her power to convince J ustin otherwise.

Asa: I doubt he would listen to such rubbish. Kana J ustin loves his son.

Pearl: And what if he asks for a paternity test?

Asa: He can't ask for one. He shouldn't even ask for

one. This is why you need to come back home.

Outside

Tebogo turned back to the spare room with the laundry she had. She couldn't believe what she had just heard. Did her mother know the truth? Was that the reason why she was so cold towards Asa? She tried to calmly collect her thoughts. Maybe she didn't understand the conversation. She found herself battling with so many things at the same time.

At Ofile's

Nadia winked at her brother as Mmapula disappeared into the kitchen with the dishes.

Nadia: I like her. She is a nice girl. A bit young but i

really like her.

Ofile: I think i am falling inlove. She is everything that i have always wanted.

Nadia:You deserve to be happy.

Ofile:And i am so happy. Happier than i thought i would be. I still can't believe that i was crying for a married woman not so long ago.

Nadia: That's life.

Ofile: I don't know what i did to deserve her.

Nadia:Don't mess it up. If you hurt her you will have me to deal with with.

Ofile:I thought we were siblings.

Nadia:That aside. She is so young and innocent.

Later that day

[02/07, 08:28] : Dear Carol

#28

Later that day

At home

I threw some rose petals into the foot spa and switched it on. Everything in the room was well set and the aura was exactly what i had wanted. I looked around to see of i had left out anything before i went to get J ustin from the living room.

Me: Hey

J ustin: Hey

I sat ontop of him and teased him...

J ustin: How was your day?

Me: Not too bad. How was yours?

J ustin: Hectic but i survived.

Me: That's why you need a spa day.

Justin: (Laughed) What? Isn't it a bit too late to go to a spa?

Me:(laughed) Well i brought the spa home.

Justin:(laughed) You are crazy. How the hell did you manage to invite therapists over at this hour?

Me: Am the therapist.

Justin: Ok. This one is gonna be interesting. So where is this spa?

Me:(Smiled) In the bedroom.

Justin: Ahh that's why you have been there since i got back home.

Me: Yeah. I know it's been kind of tense so i thought we could do something to lighten up the mood.

Justin: I would like that.

Me: So how do you feel?

Justin: I am a bit exhausted but am good.

Me: No like how do you feel? How are you doing

with everything that's been going on? Be honest with me.

He looked at me and sighed... I could tell that there was a lot that would be said...

Justin: This phase that we are going through has honestly brought on a range of difficult emotions.

I got up and took his hand.

Me: Let's go to the bedroom. We can talk there...

At Asa's

Tebogo packed up all her things and called her mother...

Mma J ustin: So you finally remembered that you have a mother?

Tebogo: Hello Mme.

Mma J ustin: How are you?

Tebogo: I am fine.

Her mother could pick the distress in her voice.

Mma J ustin: Are you sure?

Tebogo: I think that i have been away for too long. I actually miss being home.

Mma J ustin: Then come back akere i didn't throw you out.

Tebogo: Emma. It's already late. I was thinking of spending the night at J ustin's. I will take a bus in the morning.

Mma J ustin: Tebogo!

Tebogo: Mma

Mma J ustin: Tebogo you are my daughter and i know you very well. My daughter please don't interfere in your brother's marriage. It's no secret that you don't like his wife and you are still hurt by what happend between him and Asa but please my girl just stay out. Don't go to his house and disrupt the peace there. That is Carol's home.

Tebogo: Ao mme! Is that what you think of me?

Mma J ustin: You are ny daughter and i know you better.

Tebogo: This time you are wrong.

Mma J ustin: We thank God if i am indeed wrong because i don't want to see my children fighting.

Tebogo: I will see you tomorrow.

Mma J ustin: See you then.

Tebogo: Bye.

She picked up her bag and went to Asa's room.

Asa: Hey aunty. So you are finally done bathing?

Tebogo: And i am all packed up.

Asa: Packed up?

Tebogo: Yes. My bags are packed.

Asa: (Smiled) Ao mma Ntebo! I thought we agreed that you would only leave when Pearl gets here.

Tebogo: Why? So that i can continue working for free?

Asa: What?

Tebogo: Yes. I know that you want me here only because i work for free.

Asa:(laughed) Where is that coming from?

Tebogo: For everyone's sake i hope that J J is my brother's.

Asa: What are you talking about?

Tebogo: So you are really going to pretend that you don't know what i am talking about?

Asa: I am not pretending. I don't know what you are

talking about.

Tebogo: That's fine. The truth always comes to light so it's fine. If you think you are playing anybody for a fool here then its fine. I came here out of the goodness of my heart and i don't regret it. I did it for this little boy. I don't regret any of my efforts. If you thought i was a fool for rendering my help then you are wrong.

Asa: I honestly don't know what you are talking about. If you want money then just ask. Don't accuse me of all these evil deeds.

Tebogo: Nnya mma it's fine. God will bless you.

She picked up J J from the crib and kissed him before she left... Asa began to tremble as she remembered her conversation from earlier on with her friend.

At home

I sat on the other chair and watched my husband relax.

Justin: This thing is so cool. I think I might even fall asleep.

Me: Kana mme I have been asking you to dip your feet in there after the long days at work.

Justin: I honestly didn't think that it works.

Me: Now back to what we were talking about. I asked you how you feel about everything that we are going through.

Justin: Yeah.

I played some soft music on my phone and sipped on my glass of wine while I listened to him.

Justin: I am hopeless. I am scared, I am angry at myself, I am stressed. Like I said I am just processing so many emotions at once.

Me: Okay.

We both kept quite for a while.

Justin: (Cleared throat) And how do you feel?

Me: Huh?

Justin: How do you feel? I mean i know that you say you are scared most times but i wanna understand.

I forced a smile and gulped on my wine...

Justin: Slow down.

Me: (Smiled) Yeah neh. Well i am scared. I think above all the other emotions, i am scared most times. I know that everyone says that i have a shot at being a mother but i can't help it. I am scared. You will probably perceive me as weak but i am scared. Anything is possible. As much as you people want me to stay positive. The truth is that it

could go either way. No one really knows what will happen. There is a chance that i might never carry my own kids. You see when you have over ten pregnancy testers pilling in your bathroom that scream Negative, it's not easy. It's not easy to be positive. You over analyse things. To top it off, your ex gave you a son. A son i failed to give you. You probably don't see it as failure but i do. I am a woman and to me i am supposed to give you children. I am your wife, seeing another woman give you an heir i long so bad to give you, breaks my heart. You see i am scared because each time, you have failed to protect me where that woman is concerned. I am scared that if i don't give you any children, you will get tired and leave me in the end. I am angry! I am angry at myself, i am angry at you and at God. I am angry that my body is failing me. Angry that you gave your seed to another woman that's not me. Angry that God is allowing me to go through all this. I feel alone! Sure i have people around me that care but everyone keeps telling me to be strong and do things differently simply because it's not them in this position. There are so

many things i don't want to mention.

He scratched his head and took a deep breath.

Justin: I am sorry that you are going through all this. I am sorry that i am hard on you.

Me: And i am sorry that i went and did everything the wrong way. I wanna accept that you have a child and he is a part of you but the truth is that it's not easy. I can't promise that it will happen overnight but i will try. What i did will not happen again.

Justin: I want you to know that i love you. I choose you and it will always be you. Even when you are in doubt. I love you Carol. Marrying you was not a mistake.

Me: I love you too.

Justin: It won't be easy but i believe that we can and we will get through this. I am not pushing you but i hope that some day you can have some kind of

relationship with J J .

Me: I would love that.

J ustin: He is mine but he is also yours.

I watched how he would smile and brighten when he spoke about his son.

Me: So what's he like?

J ustin: Who J J ?

I nodded my head...

J ustin: Do you wanna see a picture of him?

Me: Yes please.

He grabbed his phone from the side table and opened his gallery.

Justin: I took this picture a few minutes just after he was born.

Me: He was so tiny.

Justin: And scary too.

Me: (Laughed) A little ugly too.

He swipped through the pictures...

Justin: And this was taken when he turned a month.

Just as he was about to show me another picture, a call came through...

Justin: Let me take this. It's my sister.

Me: Okay

I went into the bathroom to grab some towels while he took the call.

Justin: Tebby

Tebogo: Hie. I am outside

Justin: Outside?

Tebogo: Outside your house.

Justin: Uhu! I am coming.

He hung up...

Justin: Babe

I got back with a towel.

Justin: Kana my sister says that she is at the gate.

Me: Gate? As in our gate?

J ustin: Yes.

Me: Is everything ok?

J ustin: I hope so. Let me go open up.

Me: Here. Wipe off your feet first...

[02/07, 08:29] : Dear Carol

#29

I turned off the music and the candles then joined
J ustin and his sister in the living room...

Tebogo: I am sorry to come unannounced.

J usti : Is everything ok? Is J J ok?

I rolled my eyes and stood up.

Me: Can i get you anything to drink?

Tebogo: Some juice would be nice.

Justin: The juice can wait. Nna fa fatshe re utlwe gore mathata ke eng. (Sit down so she can tell us what the problem is).

I reluctantly sat down...

Tebogo looked at her brother and sighed. Every part of her was dying to tell him about Asa's conversation but she remembered her mother's words. What if she was wrong? Was it even her place?

Justin: Tebby

Tebogo: Huh?

Justin: What's going on?

She forced a smile and quickly thought of an excuse.

Tebogo: Nothing. I just had a disagreement with

Asa about how she is supposed to do certain things for J J .

J ustin: So you left in the middle of the night?

Tebogo: I didn't want to make her uncomfortable in her own house.

Me: Makes sense.

J ustin: Next time just make sure that you call.

Me: I will get that juice.

I stood up and left the two. There was just something about J ustin's sister that made me uncomfortable. I couldn't really point out anything specific but i got the feeling that she didn't like me very much.

The following day

I closed my eyes as Tebogo said the Grace before we had breakfast.

Justin: Amen!

Me: Amen! Let's dig in.

Justin: Sorry babe. I am gonna have to run. I have a pitch in an hour and i was hoping to catch up with the team before that.

Me: And what about your breakfast?

Justin: I will grab a muffin and and a fruit.

He responded to me while picking them and grabbing his things.

Justin: Tebogo i will see you later.

Tebogo: I am going back to Mogobane today.

Justin: Ao! So soon?

Tebogo: Tota kana i have been away for a very long time. I am sure that Mme needs me as well.

Justin: Come on. Stay the night, i will speak to her. I

am sure that she will be fine. One more night won't hurt. Le rona allow us to bond with you kana yang babe?

Me: Yeah sure.

I faked a smile then took a bite from my food.

Tebogo: (Smiled) Ok. J ust one night.

J ustin: It's settled then. I will see you later. I have to run.

He kissed me and left...

Tebogo: The food is really nice.

Me: Thank you. I am glad that you are enjoying it.

Tebogo:Nice house.

Me: Thank you.

Tebogo: I am suprised that J ustin can afford such a

house.

Me: Why is that?

Tebogo: It's just that he complains a lot about not having enough money all the time.

Me: Oh.

Tebogo: Kana legale you bought it yourself?

Me: I am not following.

Tebogo: (Smiled) Well we all know that you are well off and you can afford any house you want. Le the fancy wedding you two had, there is no way that my brother can afford it. I mean why else would he get married to you?

Me:Is that what he told you?

It was no secret that she didn't like me. She honestly failed tremendously to even hide it. Even when i tried being nice to her, she couldn't help but find something to put me down.

Me: I don't know how you missed it but this house was bought by your brother. I didn't even contribute a cent. All the wedding expenses were on him. The car that is parked outside was also bought by him as a gift to me. Who ever said i was well off clearly has the wrong girl. My parents are the one's that are well off. Nna ke Carol hela yaka o mpona. (As for me, i don't have anything much). He pays off everything and makes sure that i have all i need. The only reason the dude married me is because he loves me. I know that you blame me for the break up between your brother and Asa but the truth is that i had nothing to do with it.

Tebogo: That may be the case but even after you found out about the damage he did, you didn't act. You are a woman, you are the one person that should have seen that what he did was wrong.

Me: And who said i didn't see that it was wrong?

Tebogo: What did you do about it?

Me: Kante mme gone what was i supposed to do? Was i supposed to leave my husband? I forgave a

man i love and moved on. I don't see anything wrong with that.

Tebogo :Asa may have played a role in her break up and somehow messed up but i honestly don't trust women like you.

I stood up and shook my head.

Me: Women like me? Women that clean up really well and take themselves seriously? Kana ga wantlhoela sepe Tebogo.

Tebogo: You may be able to fool everyone but i always see through women like you.

Me: It's honestly not my fault that Asa cheated on your brother and messed up. Stop looking for someone to blame. Have a great day and please feel free eat whatever you want akere yiu brother also makes sure that the fridge is full.

I grabbed my car keys and bag then left...

At Asa's

Justin kissed his son and gave him back to his mother.

Justin: I don't have much time. I have to get to work quickly but i couldn't do that without coming here.

Asa: (Smiled) That's so sweet of you Daddy.

Justin: Gatwe what's going on between you and Tebogo? What did you two fight about?

Asa: You know how women are. It was nothing serious.

Justin: I hope that she didn't upset you.

Asa: So she didn't tell you about our disagreement?

Justin: She just said that it had to do with certain things for the baby.

Asa: It was really nothing hectic. I don't know why

she had to leave.

Justin: Whatever it is, i hope it doesn't affect my son in any way. I know that my mother is still a bit cold but JJ needs to know his family.

Asa: I agree. I will call her and iron out things with her.

Justin: Thank you. One more thing.

Asa: Yeah.

Justin: I would like to introduce my wife to JJ one of these days.

Asa: I can't say that i am happy about it but it was bound to happen. There is nothing i can do. She is a part of your life and i accept that.

Justin: Thank you so much. I never thought that i would hear you say that.

Asa: I know that a lot went wrong between us but i still care about you. You are the father of my child and i can never stop caring. We have fought and it's honestly enough now. We need to start focusing on raising our little man. Justin this child needs a

stable environment.

Justin: I agree. I also care about you Asa. I know that i hurt you and we are no longer together but that doesn't make us enemies. Let's find a way to co-parent.

Asa: Now we start on a new slate.

Justin: Deal. I need to go. I will see you guys later.

He smiled at his son and stood up.

Justin: Be good to your mum.

Two years later

At Ofile's

Mmapula looked at herself in the mirror as Nadia zipped her from behind.

Mmapula: Oh my word! This is the dress. I am definitely getting this one.

Nadia: You look spectacular nnaka. I also say this one.

She wiped her tears and laughed at the same time.

Nadia: (Smiled) I assume that these are tears of Joy.

Mmapula: I didn't think that i would live to see this day.

Nadia: Well you are here now baby sis. You get your happily ever after.

Mmapula: I couldn't ask for a better man. Your brother is everything i have ever wanted in a man and i am so grateful. You are also the best sister inlaw. You have accepted and loved me from day one. Am grateful for all that you do for us.

Nadia: (Smiled) You are gonna make me cry. You

are an amazing woman Pulie and my brother loves you. You make him so happy. From the day that you came into his life, things have changed. I no longer worry about him. Even though we don't have a mother, i know that he has a mother in you. I love you two so much and i want you to be happy.

Mmapula: I love you more.

Nadia: Come. Let's go and show the ladies.

At my house

I wiped my tears and looked up...Feeling very hopeless and emotionally fatigued.

Me: I am honestly tired. I don't know what to do or say anymore because it seems like nothing i do or say will change things between us. Constantly complaining about the same things really hurts. I have come to a point where i have accepted things just as they are because i have constantly asked

you where the problem is. For months i have had to beg and ask you and all i got was that you are tired. I have made up a lot of scenarios in my head and i had to come to terms with the fact that if you ain't getting it here then you are getting it from somewhere. Given the little things that i have picked out, i can tell that you are comfortable with how things are. I have also realised that no matter how loud or hard you fight, you can't force someone to be attracted to you. Many times i have stood in the mirror and wondered if there was something wrong with me and that was very painful. Today i am setting you free Justin. I will no longer force or beg you to have sex with me. Akere you want us to live like brother and sister so let's live like that.

.

.

.

So sorry for the late post. Forgot phone i use for inserts at a different place. Only getting it now.

[02/07, 08:29] : Dear Carol

#30

Justin: I do admit that our sex life is not so great but so much has happened in the last couple of months.

Me: Let's not sugar coat it Justin. You have constantly deprived me sex for the last couple of months. I don't remember the last time we were intimate and when i talk about intimacy i am not just talking about sex. When was the last time you held my hand or even kissed me out of nowhere? When was the last time we cuddled? Where did it all go wrong? Ke sentse hakae ke baakanye because i miss my husband. I miss our relationship. We were so close and we had the best sex life.

Justin: Carol you can't expect sex to be consistent in a relationship or marriage. That was then. We had just met but as time goes on it becomes monotonous. Sex is not the only thing in a relationship that is used to strengthen love.

Me: That may be the case but sex is a big part of a

relationship that you can't dismiss. You can't stay for an entire month without even touching me and expect me to be ok. Justin i may be a woman but i also have needs. I get horny too. I am also slowly losing a part of me because the only time we ever have sex is when i initiate it. I feel like i am forcing myself on you. This is killing me and i can't go on like this anymore because i keep blaming myself for something that's not even my fault.

Justin: Akere mme we talked and agreed that we would fix things.

Me: That was a month ago but nothing has changed. The other time you said you were using sex to get a message to me because i had abandoned my wifely duties yaanong i have tried to correct that. I am not big on house chores but i try and get stuff done for you just like you want. I asked you if there was anything that was wrong kana anything you were not happy with but you claim that all is well.

Justin: I am just emotionally exhausted and i am processing a lot.

Me: And how come i don't know anything about this?
Justin i am your wife. The one person you are
supposed to trust.

Justin: I don't want to burden you.

Me: I want you to know that once i detach
emotionally, there is no turning back.

Justin: Emma

I picked up my car keys from the table...

Justin: Where are you going?

Me: I need to grab a few things for dinner.

Justin: Ok

Me: Later

Justin: Cool

At Asa's

Asa put J J to sleep then tip toed to the living room.

Pearl: Is he asleep?

Asa: Yes finally!

Pearl: The boy has so much energy.

Asa: I know i used to complain when he cried a lot as an infant but now the boy is showing me flames. Toddlers are not easy to deal with.

Pearl: (laughed) I told you that you would miss those times. Kana yaanong you can't control him. He runs around and breaks whatever he sees in the house.

Asa: Mma! I can't wait for his father to come pick him up tomorrow so that i can get a break.

Pearl: Maybe we can finally plan an outing.

Asa: Akere mme you know that i am never certain. I can only make plans once his father has picked him up.

Pearl: I thought that he spends time with him every

weekend without fail.

Asa: Heish mma so much has happend. Kana le wena you have been so scarce ever since you fell pregnant.

Pearl: Ao akere mme you can always call and tell me if there is any new development.

Asa: I wanted us to discuss this in person because it's a very sensitive issue.

Pearl: Had you told me then i would have long come to see you.

Asa: I know babe but i didn't want to disturb your peace.

Pearl: So what happend?

Asa: (Smiled) The other night J J was sick so i called his father over because i was panicking. Akere you know how he gets when he has his asthma attacks.

Pearl: And?

Asa: It took a while for J J to fall asleep. When he finally did, we were both tired so we fell asleep on

the couch. I woke up at two in the morning feeling very wet and horny. I was a hundred percent sure that even if i made any advances on him, he would turn me down. Mme mma ka pelo ke pelo, i started touching him and before i knew it, we were making out in the living room.

Pearl: Yes girl. Now you are one step close to getting your man back. All you have to do is make sure that he keeps coming back for more.

Asa: That's the thing, he keeps coming back but to see his son and he doesn't show any interest in me.

Pearl: You think so?

Asa: I know so.

Pearl: So why does he keep coming back?

Asa: He says that his son is his sanity. Sometimes he comes over then takes J J to his room and lays down with him for a while before leaving.

Pearl: Did you talk about what happend?

Asa: Yes. He said that it was a mistake and it would never happen again. I got morning after pills the

next day.

Pearl: You did what?

Asa: I had to. I couldn't fall pregnant.

Pearl: So you blocked the only way of getting back your man?

Asa: Pearl nna kana i am not ready to have another child. J J is already showing me flames, now imagine another child.

Pearl: But that's the thing. You wouldn't be alone in this. You would have J ustin.

Asa: Till his wife sues me.

Pearl: There is no way that J ustin would choose his wife over you and his two children. Hela hao bona ane a go rotetse yana go raya gore o santse a go rata. (The fact that yall had it raw means that he still loves you).

Asa: I doubt.

Pearl: I bet he is not getting enough from home. Wena keep seducing him. Men are not that strong. He will eventually give in.

Asa: We will see about that.

Pearl: Keep trying.

Asa: Enough about me. Let's talk about you and Tumiso. How are things?

Pearl: Let's just say that the man is not far from being mine.

Asa: Yes girl. So how did you go about it?

Pearl: Remember that i am carrying his child.

Asa: But he has kids already.

Pearl: You forget that this is me we are talking about. I make things happen kana tsala.

Asa:(laughed) Let's grab something to eat in the kitchen so you can tell me more.

They giggled as they went into the kitchen.

At my mother's

Mma Dineo held my hand and kissed it.

Mma Dineo: You have to be strong my girl. I know that it is not easy but you need to hold on. This is just a test in your marriage . It will pass.

Me: For how long mama? How long do i hold on for?

Mma Dineo: For as long as you can. My girl, marriage is hard. Only the strong will survive.

Me: If J ustin had to deal with the same thing, would you tell him to be strong or you would be scolding me?

She kept quiet and sighed...

Me: I can assure you that if i was the one treating J ustin this way, all hell would break lose. Everyone would be on my case about how i am depriving a man that paid for my lobola his conjugal rights. Even when we got married, everyone was telling me not to close my legs for my husband. Did anyone

ever tell him not to deny me sex as well? Will i be wrong to cheat on him?

Mma Dineo: Please don't speak like that my girl. I know that it must be hard but please be patient.

Me: For how long mama? How long? I am not even in my thirties but here i am already being deprived sex. Is this the life i am going to live? Nnya mma nna i can't. If it was something else then i would hold on but now it's sex we are talking about here. I am too young for this. I refuse!

Mma Dineo: Carol ngwanaka marri...

I stood up and wiped my tears...

Me: Thank you for the talk but i think it's best i leave. I came here looking for comfort but all i am getting is encouragement to accept that i am not happy and move on.

Mma Dineo: That's not what i was saying, all i am saying is th...

Me: It's okay. I understand that some things are only wrong when done by women. If it's a man then it's not a big deal. We have to just hang in there.

I walked out even before she could respond...

Thirty minutes later...

Outside Ofile's house

I turned off the engine and called Ofile. Not knowing where to turn to. I somehow knew that he would take his time to understand me.

Ofile: Hie Carol

Me: Hey

Ofile: How are you?

Me: Good and you?

Ofile: I am good thanks. How can i help you?

Me: I am outside your house. I could really use a friend right now.

Ofile: Sorry to dissapoint you but i am not at my house. I went to see my tailor with the boys.

Me: Tailor? Are you attending something? I could drive there now if you want.

Ofile: I am getting married in a month so we are here to try on our suits.

Me: Married?

Ofile: Yes

Me: Oh i didn't know. Why didn't you tell me?

Ofile: Carol you and i haven't talked in a long ass time. I didn't think that it was necessary since we are not close anymore.

Me: Oh i see.

Ofile: I hope you recover from whatever it is that you are battling with. I would love to chat but i have so much to do. Bye!

He hung up on me...J ust like that! J ust like that and i had lost my friend. I couldn't believe how cold he was towards me. Was this the same guy that used to run whenever i needed him? The truth is that i had never been there for him but whenever i needed him, i expected him to jump. Knowing that i had no control over him anymore hurt.

[02/07, 08:29] : Dear Carol

#31

A week later

J ustin closed his eyes as he quickly downed his shoot...His friend looked at him and shook his head.

Khumo: That's enough man. Getting wasted won't solve your problems. You need to be sober in order to think straight.

Justin: It won't solve them but atleast i can forget about them even if it's just for tonight.

Khumo: I still stand by what i said, you can't tell Carol about what happend.

Justin : I have to. I have to tell the truth. Khumo i can't stand lying to my wife. Each time i look at her, i feel so guilty. I can't even touch her anymore. Who knows maybe she will forgive me if i come clean.

Khumo: You really think so?

Justin: Yes.

Khumo: Then you are stupid. We are talking about the woman that forgave you and stayed even after your ex pitched up claiming that you were still together at the time you married her. The same one that stayed and made it work even after another woman gave you an heir. My guy women have a breaking point. They might love unconditionally but they also get tired. If she finds out that you went back and slept with the same woman she will leave you. Wa utlwa gore i haven't even mentioned what she will do when she finds out that you two had raw

sex? This time just forget your principles and be realistic.

Justin: I can't keep it in any longer. It's eating me up. Khumo i love this woman. Looking at her in the eye every day and pretending that nothing happend kills me. It's also killing her. She is no longer the same Carol. She will get mad and probably give me a hard time but i know my wife, she will forgive me and we will move on.

Khump: Take it from me. I am talking from experience.

Justin: Our experiences are different.

Khumo: Listen to me for once.

He took out a few notes from his wallet and placed them on the table.

Justin: I need to go home to my wife. That should be enough to cover our bill.

Khumo: Buddy you don't wanna do that.

Justin: Cheers man!

At my house

I looked at myself in the mirror and applied my mask. Kagelo had drawn a day to day skin routine for me and i was determined to get it right...

Bonye: So how have you been?

Me: I have been great and you? Are you settling in well?

I washed my hands and picked up my phone going all the way to the kitchen.

Bonye: So far so good. I have been away for a really long time so it's not easy. Spain is so different from Botswana and at times i wonder why i relocated back here.

Me: Home is where the heart is babes.

I opened a bottle of sparkling wine and filled my champagne flute.

Bonye: What's that noise?

Me: Oh i was just opening a bottle of sparkling wine.

Bonye: And you didn't care to invite me?

Me: Sorry friend. Mme kana i told you to set up a proper date so that we can catch up.

Bonye: As soon as i have attended to all the things that i need to attend to,i will send you an invite.

Me: I would love that.

Bonye: Speaking of invites, did you get one to Ofile's wedding?

I cleared my throat and ignored the question...

Me: Are you attending?

Bonye: Most definetly. Are you?

Me: I would love to but i can't just rock up.

Bonye: What do you mean you can't just rock up?

Did he not invite you?

Me: No...

Bonye: I don't understand. How?

Me: Let's just say that it's complicated. A lot has went down.

Bonye: (Giggled) Did anything happen between you two?

Me: What do you mean did anything happen between us? Akere you know that we are just friends.

Bonye:Oh come on. The guy worshipped the ground you walked on.Infact i used to think that you two would get married.

Me: That was when we were young. He got over me in time.

Bonye: He never did. He just respected you and the poor guy probably didn't want to get hurt again.

Me: Get hurt again?

Bonye: Remember how you made fun of him when he told you that he would marry you one day.

Me:(Laughed) I didn't think that he was serious.

Bonye: He was but that's not important anymore. You are both happy. That's all that matters.

If only she knew what i was going through.

Me: That's right. I hope that the woman he is marrying is a good woman. He is a good man and he deserves someone genuine.

Bonye: He loves her very much and i believe that she is a good person.

Me: Really? So you two talk?

Bonye: Every now and then. He also brags all the time about her on his whatsapp statuses. The guy

is genuinely happy.

Me: We haven't talked in a while.

Bonye: What's going on?

Me: So much was going on in my life and in the end, i neglected our friendship. Now he wants nothing to do with me.

Bonye: You must have really hurt him.

Me: I did and now i don't know what to do because i think i have lost him forever.

Bonye: J ust call and apologize. Ofile is not the kind to hold on to grudges.

Me: Maybe.

Bonye: If you apologize genuinely then there won't be any need for him to reject the apology.

Me: Yeah neh. Bona friend let me go and take off this mask i have on my face. We will catch up tomorrow.

Bonye: Night babes.

Me: Night hun.

I took the last sips from my wine glass then went into my room to wash my face before heading out.

At Ofile's

Mmapula kissed her fiancé and picked up her bag.

Ofile: Do you really have to go nemma? Can't you tell them that something came up?

Mmapula: Am sorry babe. I can't miss this meeting. Remember that i was not available for the last one. They would literally kill me.

Ofile: Okay. I understand. J ust go and show face then come back home.

Mmapula: I will have to attend the party or else the girls won't attend my bridal shower.

Ofile:(Smiled) We can have our own bridal shower.

He grabbed her waist and kissed her moving his hands to unbutton her pants but she pulled back.

Mmapula: Sorry buddy, not tonight. I have to go. I love you.

Ofile: I love you too. Have a great time and drive safely.

Mmapula: I will.

Ofile: I can talk to Nadia.

Mmapula: (laughed) I will see you later.

He walked her out and closed the gate as she drove off. As soon as he locked up and sat down, a call came through.

Ofile: Hie Carol.

Me: Hie.

Ofile: How can i help you?

Me: I just wanted to apologize for the way that i treated you. I know that i was not there for you as a friend and i hurt you.

Ofile: Okay. That's cool.

Me: I am really happy for you. I hope that she makes you happy.

Ofile: She does.

In the car

I connected my phone to the radio and selected our favourite song then played it while we talked.

My face above the water

My feet can't touch the ground

touch the ground

And feels i can see the sands on the horizon

everytime you are not around
Slowly drifting
drifting away
And it feels like i'm drowning

Ofile: Wait! Is that Mr. Proz?

Me: (laughed) Yeah.

Ofile: I haven't listened to that song in a really long time.

Me: Bonye sent it to me a few days ago.

Ofile: Man! We used to go insane when they played this song in the club. We would play it in the car all the way from there till we got home.

Me: And when you guys dropped me off, i would refuse to get off the car.

Ofile: (Laughed) Wena you were crazy!

Me: Those were the days.

Ofile: We had a ball. Those times we used to hang

out at Dros in Molapo.

Me: Before everything in Gabz changed.

Ofile: Nako tsa bo Dj Kuchi. (During the times of Dj Kuchi.)

Me: So what are you doing?

Ofile: Watching tv.

Me: Let me take you and your fiance out for drinks at Dros.

Ofile: Maybe next time. She just left.

Me: Well how about you? I am literally three minutes away from your place.

Ofile: (laughed) Wena you are sneaky. So you were on your way here this entire time we were talking?

Me: (laughed) You have five minutes.

Ofile: I am not staying for long.

Me: That's fine. See you now.

Ofile: Cool

At my house

Justin parked his car outside then rested his head on the steering wheel and analysed the outcome of what he wanted to do and in the end it was all that he wanted to do. What choice did he have? His actions were haunting him and there was no peace in his house. His wife was going to be very angry without a doubt but he was hoping that they would be able to work things out. Whatever it took! He was determined to go all the way.

Outside Ofile's

I got off the car to greet him briefly before we left...

[02/07, 08:30] : Dear Carol

#32

Dros, Molapo Crossing

I fiddled with my food hoping to regain my appetite but failed immensely. The pain and loneliness i was feeling could not be shifted by anything. Not even the good music that was playing...

Ofile: Are you okay?

I forced a smile and pushed my food away from me.

Me: Yeah. I am okay. The vibe in this place is no longer the same. I don't know what's changed but even the food no longer tastes the same.

Ofile: I think the food is great.

Me: So do you love her?

He looked at me and smiled...Although he had not answered me yet, i already had an answer. It was from the way his face radiated when i asked about

her.

Ofile: Very much.

Me: What do you love about her?

Ofile: I love everything about her. I love the way she loves me, i love the fact that she is my woman. I love the way she looks at me. The way she is so mature and considerate. I love how she loves me.

Me: Lucky girl.

Ofile: I am the lucky one. When i met Pulie, i had no idea that i would ever be able to love again.

Me: Why is that?

Ofile: Let's just say that i spent most of my adult life loving someone that didn't love me back or appreciate my presence.

Me: Oh

I sipped on my cocktail and did everything to keep a straight face. Bonye had been right all along. The

man did really love me. It was only a pity that i had been very ignorant.

Ofile: But that's not important now. I have found a woman that loves and appreciates me and i am happy.

Me: I am happy for you.

Ofile: Thanks. So how is J ustin?

I looked away to hide the pain in my eyes but i couldn't keep up anymore. I wiped my tears with the back of my hand and forced a smile.

Me: J ustin is fine. He is just fine.

Ofile: Carol!

Me: Hmm

Ofile: Are you okay? What's going on? Why are you crying?

Me: I think i wanna leave this place.

I held on to my glass of long island cocktail thinking long and hard before downing it as if i was drinking juice.

Ofile: Easy.

Me: I think i am gonna leave.

Ofile: Wait up. Let me pay the bill first then we can leave together.

Me: No. I can't stay here. You will find me in my car.

Ofile: Ok. I will come and talk to you as soon as i have cleared the bill.

Me: Cool.

At J ustin's

After trying to call his wife without any luck, J ustin

finally gave up and sat down to think things through. Maybe his friend was right after all. What if she really did leave him? What about their dreams? What about their love? On the other hand there was J J . Would Carol ever welcome him into her home if she knew that her husband had slept with his mother? There was no way that he would ever be able to choose between his wife and son.

He picked his phone and called Asa...

Asa: Hello

Justin: Mmagwe J J

Asa: How are you?

Justin: Good and you?

Asa: Am ok.

Justin: Can i talk to J J ?

Asa: He is asleep.

Justin: Already?

Asa: Akere he plays a lot so he is tired.

Justin: Okay. I will call in the morning.

Asa: Justin?

Justin: Mma?

Asa: Are you okay?

Justin: Yes. Why?

Asa: You don't sound okay.

Justin: I guess i am just tired that's all.

Asa: Okay. Night

Justin: Asa?

Asa: Rra.

Justin: I am going to tell Carol the truth.

Asa: Do you think that's a good idea?

Justin: I have thought about it all week and i honestly can't stand lying to her. It's eating me up.

Asa: I understand. Tota if you feel like that's what you need to do then do it. I am all about the truth and if i was in your shoes, i would have probably

done the same thing.

Justin: Yeah.

Asa: I hope you know that it's not gonna be easy.

Justin: Yeah. She might even leave me.

Asa: I doubt. If she stayed and accepted JJ then she will forgive you. The fact that you are gonna tell her the truth will also work in your favour.

Justin: So you really think that i should tell her?

Asa: Absolutely. The truth always has a way of coming out Justin.

Justin: You do know that she will also give you a hard time?

Asa: I know but we did her wrong. We have to take responsibility of our actions. As the mother of your child, i will be here to support you all the way.

Justin: Thank you. Let's talk tomorrow.

Asa: Bye.

At Maindeck, Mainmall

Nadia stood up to make a toast...

Nadia: I wanna make a toast...

The ladies stopped talking and listened attentively.

Nadia: To friendship. To achieving our dreams together and securing the money bag. When we started secret pearl society, i was not sure that it would bear any fruits. Tota ebile i had given it less than six months but it's been two years and it's still a success. This month we are giving away our savings to Pulie. Our bride to be. We hope that whatever we have given you will also help as you prepare for your wedding. As the secret pearl sisters, we wish you all the best and we hope that nothing changes after the wedding.

They all laughed...

Lolo: Heee! Kana women are something else. She will be telling us that she has to ask her husband first before paying her contribution forgetting that when we started our society, her husband was not involved.

Tumi: (Laughed) Otle o reetse when we are supposed to meet. She will be narrating stories about how she has to cook for her husband before she comes.

Omphile: (laughed) You guys will never understand till you get married.

Nadia: (laughed) She is defending the 'My husband' tendencies because she knows that this is what she does all the time.

Mmapula: Wait till i am legally married. I am going to my husband you guys to death.

Nadia: (Laughed) I am so happy for you. I can't tell you how happy i am. My brother did well with you.

Molapo, Parking lot

Ofile: What's going on with you?

Carol: I am just feeling a bit emotional today. That's all.

Ofile: You are gonna have to do more than that to convince me.

I took a deep breath and kept wiping my tears that didn't seem to stop...

Me: I think i made a mistake.

Ofile: Then fix it. What kind of a mistake is it?

Me: I married the wrong man.

Ofile: What?

Me: I want out. Offy i am not happy anymore. It's like we are forcing things. I don't remember the last

time we had a real conversation or even laughed together.

Ofile: Carol calm down. These things happen. I am sure you are just hurt.

Me: No. I am being honest right now. I let a good man go and got married to the wrong one and now i am miserable.

Ofile: (Confused) There was another one?

I took a sighed and closed my eyes... How did i not see that Ofile was the one all along? How did i miss it?

Me: You!

Ofile: What?

Me: I should have given you a chance. I should have married you. Not J ustin.

Ofile: I don't know why you are talking this way but the truth is that it's too late for all that.

Me: No it's not. I can still get a divorce. Don't marry her. You know that we belong together. I was so stupid that i missed it but now i know.

He looked at me and shook his head...

Ofile: Don't do that! Don't do this Carol!

The authority that came with his voice suddenly made him very attractive. This was a man that had been my friend all my life and i still couldn't understand how i failed to see him as a partner all those years. I turned to him and held his hand. The cologne he was wearing, made it very difficult for me to back down.

Me: You and i love each other. I just didn't see it. Please give us a chance. Offy i can make you happy.

He looked to the other side and though he tried to keep calm i could see that he was angry.

Ofile: Carol who the hell do you think you are? For years, i loved you. I was there for you through thick and thin. At one point i confessed my love to you hoping that we could build something together. I had hope that you would see how much i loved you all those years. Even when you would get into new relationships, i stayed and waited on you because i believed in us. I believed that you would realise that i was the man for you. No matter what it took or how long it would take, i was going to wait for you. Even when you were planning your wedding Carol. I waited! I was hurting but you couldn't see that. You found a way to brag about him every chance you got knowing very well how i felt about you.

Me:(Crying) I made a mistake.

Ofile: Get over yourself. You made a decision that i respected. Even on the day that you were vulnerable at my house, i respected you I wanted to tell you to

leave him and give us a chance but i respected you. Wipe those crocodile tears and respect my decision as well. I am getting married to Mmapula and that's not going to be changed by you or anyone. I am finally happy and you wanna ruin that. For what Carol? You had your chance and you choose Justin so please leave me alone.

He tried to let go of me but i held on tightly to his hands...

Me: You are making a mistake by marrying her.

Ofile: And that's my mistake to make. I have moved on and i am happy. I wasn't going to wait forever Carol. I am sorry that you are hurting but please respect decision.

I finally let go of him and wiped my tears.. For a few minutes, none of us said anything...

Me: Listen i am sorry. I don't know what got into me. I want you to be happy and if she makes you happy then i support you all the way.

Ofile: Thank you. I need to go home.

Me: Let me walk you to your car.

Ofile: I will be fine. It's late.

Me: I insist. After embarrassing myself like that , i could really use some air.

He laughed as he opened the door and got out...

Ofile: This little sporty right here is a beast.

Me: Thanks. She aims to please.

We chit chatted about this and that till we got to his car.

Me: Forget about what i said.

Ofile: Gone mme what's going on my friend?

Me: It's a long story. So much has happend.

Ofile: I understand but i think you need to sit down with your husband and talk things through.

I leaned against his car as we spoke...

Me: It's honestly too late for that. The truth is that my marriage long ended even way before it began. This man married me while with another woman that gave him a son. I stayed hoping that our love would get us through but even that is not enough. What's left between us is that marriage certificate we signed. We now live like brother and sister. I don't remember the last time we were intimate. Total gone i have to beg him to sleep with me.

Ofile: I am so sorry that you are going through that.

Me: It's okay. I should have left when the ex was pregnant.

Ofile: Do you think she is the problem?

Me: Yeah. They are probably sleeping together. Why else would a man stay for more than a month without touching you yet you sleep on the same bed.

Ofile: So it's that bad?

Me: Yeah.

Each time i talked about it, i couldn't help but cry.

Ofile: Am sorry my friend.

I moved in and he enveloped me in his arms as i cried. For a few minutes, it all felt better. It was as if the pain had been taken away somehow. He slowly let go...

Ofile: It's getting late.

Me: Yeah.

We looked into each other's eyes as everything came to a standstill. Nothing seemed to matter in that moment. I moved closer to him and planted a kiss on his lips.

Our bodies pressed together heatedly. Breathing heavily as our lips greeted each other. I could taste our shared breath and even feel the thud of our combined heartbeat. Warmth blossomed in my chest, sparks igniting as he leaned in close. The smell of his cologne was dizzying, butterflies dancing in my stomach. Everything felt so right till he pulled back.

Ofile:(Sighed) I am sorry Carol but i can't do this. I love Mmapula and i am marrying her. This was a mistake. Go home and fix things with your husband.

Me:But we...

Ofile: There is no we. You are hurting and all you want is comfort. Once you have fixed things, you won't be filling this way. Please respect my decision

just as i respected yours. Don't turn my life upside down just because yours is a mess.

Me: Night

I walked back to my car wishing that the earth could just swallow me. I had never been so embarrassed in my entire life...

An hour later

At my house

[02/07, 08:30] : Dear Carol

#33

An hour later

At my house

I threw my myself on the couch and kicked off my shoes while J ustin paced around shaking his head.

J ustin: Have you seen what time it is? Since when do you go out till late without saying anything to me? Le gone why did you switch off your phone?

Me: My head is pounding. Keep it down.

J ustin: Kare where are you coming from?

This time he raised his voice at me.

Me: And i said my head is pounding. Can you just keep it down. I don't understand why i need to tell you where i went. Who are you?

J ustin: Are you drunk?

Me: I am not drunk. I am asking you a fair question.

J ustin: I don't know what you took out there but you better slip out of it and remember that i am your husband.

Me: (Laughed) And now you are my husband? Tell me how this husband role of yours works my friend because i am confused. Ha gotwe perform your duties as a husband you fail. You only remember that indeed you are my husband when it suits you.

Justin: Carol are you talking to me like that?

I ignored him and took out my phone from the bag.

Justin: Nare Carol wa jola? (Are you cheating on me?)

Me: Would i be wrong to cheat on you? Akere o mpolaisa nopa. You don't even wanna touch me. Clearly there is someone else you are sleeping with that satisfies you. Lenna ke bone gore ke kope metsi kentshe lenyora. (I also decided to find someone).

Justin: Who is he?

His face suddenly changed and a part of me was

so happy to see the pain he carried in his eyes...Maybe he would finally understand how i felt.

Me: Someone that understands that i have needs. Someone that makes love to me better than you have ever made love to me.

He sat down and laid back on the couch...I had never seen my husband so defeated. He tried to fight back his tears but nature took it's course.

J ustin: How long have you been sleeping with him?

Me: For a very long time.

I celebrated within, realising how he couldn't handle the pain. I wanted him to suffer.

J ustin: (Emotional) Did you atleast use protection.

Me: There was no need.

He became a different person that i didn't know. One that scared me more than anything. Within a few seconds he had jumped on the couch i was sittted on. Everything soon became blurry as he strangled me.

Justin: (Shouting) So all this time i have been feeling guilty about sleeping with Asa kante you are also sleeping around?

I kicked and struggled till he let go of me...

Justin:(Breathing heavily) Otlā nkgolega Carol!
(You will get me into trouble Carol).

I coughed and caught my breath trying to make sense of what he had just told me. So i had been

right all along. The man that had promised to protect, love and be faithful to me had went and broken our wedding vows. He didn't just sleep with anyone but with the same woman that had given him a son. It became quite clear to me that whatever he had with Asa would always resurface. The fact that he had put a ring on my finger clearly meant nothing to him.

He got up and quickly brought me a glass of water...

Justin: Drink this.

My entire world came crushing down as i looked at him kneeling before me. God knew how much i loved this man! I loved him with every fibre of my being but our marriage didn't seem to work.

Justin: I am so sorry. I didn't mean to do that. I don't know what got into me. I am really sorry babe.

Me: (Crying) You slept with her?

Justin: It was a mistake. It happened once. It was on the night that JJ had his asthma attack. It all happened so fast and before I knew it we had slept with each other. Babe we were both scared that night. We thought we were gonna lose him. I was also not thinking straight. I swear that I have never cheated on you before that or even after. It was a once off and Asa knows that.

Me: (Crying) Did you use protection?

He bowed his head and swallowed a lump.

Justin: It all happened all so fast.

Me: So you didn't use protection?

Justin: Baby I am sorry.

Me: Is this why you haven't touched me in a long time? Is this the reason that our marriage is hanging on a thread?

Justin: Babe listen.

I stood up and faced him.

Me: For the record, i didn't sleep with him or anyone. Ever since i laid my eyes on you, i have never looked back or even looked at any other man. When i took those vows, i meant every word of them.

Justin: Babe i am sorry.

Me: No. I am sorry. I am the one at fault here. I am the one that came along and took you away from the woman you love and belong with. I am the one that didn't want to see the red flags even when they were there. I failed to let you go even when i knew that it didn't work out. Forgive me for my selfishness because it's the one that brought us here.

Justin: We can fix this and make it work. Baby i love you.

I held on to the little strength i had left and tried so hard not to fall apart.

Me: I don't know what took me so long to see this but the truth is that we will never work out. Our marriage was built on lies from the beginning and it will never be able to survive anything. We might love each other but sometimes love is not enough. Sometimes love is toxic. I mean look at how we are destroying each other. J ust a few hours ago i was ready to sleep with another man just to numb the pain. Ha go bereke! (It's not working out).

J ustin:Please don't say that. We will be fine. We just need to stick together.

Me: I am sorry but i can't anymore. I can't watch myself transform into someone i am not all in the name of saving my marriage. I miss Carol. I miss me J ustin. The woman that was so carefree and happy to live. All i ever do these days is think about how to save our marriage and please you.

At Pearl's

Pearl cradled her tummy while Tumiso rubbed her feet. The house was so peaceful and this cosy little set up reminded her that she wanted more.

Pearl: I wish that you didn't have to go.

Tumiso: I know but if i don't then my wife will get suspicious.

Pearl: Tumiso i need you to be honest with me.

Tumiso: Emma.

Pearl: Will you ever leave her? I mean will you ever come back to me?

Tumiso: Akere we are together ne babe.

Pearl: You know what i mean.

Tumiso: But i have already explained to you the situation at hand. Dineo and i have three kids and we are married in community of property. If i leave then it means i lose out on everything.

Pearl: What about me and this baby? What about us?

Tumiso: I will always be here for you and this child. You will never lack anything for as long as i am alive.

Pearl: And if you die?

Tumiso: I am here now. Let's not even talk about death. Tota even if i was to die, you two will be taken care of.

Pearl: I am giving you a month to think about what you want.

Tumiso: You already know what i want. I made it very clear to you when we started this. I don't understand what's changed.

She pulled her legs from him then stood up and trotted to the bedroom.

A week later

At Mogobane

I fixed my headwrap and sat comfortably next to my husband. It had been a week since i had moved in with my mother inlaw. Although my husband and mother inlaw had begged me to return home, i had stood my ground. I glanced at my mother and i could see the disappointment on her face. My sister and uncle couldn't really be bothered. You would swear that they were forced to attend the meeting.

Mma J ustin: My elders and my children, i have called you here today to discuss the wellbeing of our children. About a week ago my daughter inlaw moved in with me. I took my time to find out what the problem was by calling both children to hear their side of the story since my daughter had indicated that her husband was the problem. When my son got here, he admitted to everything that his wife had accused him of. Because to me, it was something that could be fixed, i decided to deal with

it internally by asking the two to forgive each other. I have tried but failed. I found myself with no other option but to call you all here because today my daughter is talking about divorce.

Mma Dineo: Maybe we can start by hearing both their sides.

Justin's Uncle: I agree with Mma Dineo.

Mma Justin: Carol my girl please start since you are the one that first came to me for help.

I cleared my throat and looked around the room as all eyes were on me.

Me: Dumelang gape bagolo. (Greetings) Tota hela i have nothing more to say. The only issue here is that i want a divorce.

Everyone shook their head and mumbled.

Uncle: Mma Dineo do you see what i meant when i told you to re marry. These daughters of yours no longer see the importance of marriage because they think that being single is easy.

Justin's uncle: Calm down. Let us hear what she has to say.

Me: I love my husband very much and i know that somewhere in his heart, he knows that. This is a man i thought i would grow old with and even have kids with. Coming to this decision is the most difficult thing i have ever had to do but if we don't go our separate ways then one of us will die of a heart attack. Our marriage has been a lie from the beginning. Justin got married to me while with another woman. When i was supposed to be on honeymoon, this woman pitched up in our lives and i came to know all this. You can imagine how devastated i was but i still found a way to forgive and love my husband. As if that was not enough this woman fell pregnant with my husband's child while i dealt with the trauma of not being able to give him a child. I still went out of my way to forgive

the man i love. I even accepted his child into my home even though it was not easy. Instead of being grateful that i stood by him through all this and even loved his son like my own, he went and slept with this boy's mother. Bathong for months i begged my husband to sleep with me. For months i longed for his touch. I blamed myself for this and even tried so hard to be a better wife but that was not good enough.

Justin's Uncle: My son, do you have anything to say?

Justin: There is nothing much to say because my wife is right. Everything that she has said is the truth. All i am asking is that she forgives me and comes back home. I know i did her wrong and i know that it will take a long time for her to trust me but i love her and i don't want to lose her. Mma Seleke i am so sorry for all the pain that i have caused you. To my parents as well, i am truly sorry for the way i have behaved.

Mma Dineo: I have heard both my children and above all i am grateful that they were both honest with us. What i see here is a couple that can still fix

their marriage and be happy. My son what you did was very wrong but i command you for being very honest. Motho wa ikoba. I can see that you love your wife very much and i am happy that you want to fix things. Carol my girl, every marriage has it's own challenges. Each person has their own burden to carry. It's such a pity that yours had to be infidelity but you are not alone my girl. My son wants to carry this load with you. He wants to heal with you. I know that you are still very hurt but i am pleading on his behalf. Please forgive him. As your parents we will also be here to help you two to carry the load.

Justin knelt before me and rested his head on my laps. He held onto me as we both broke down and cried...

Mma Justin: Oh my children! I know that it is not easy especially for you Carol but i ask that you reconsider your decision my girl. This man really

loves you. He loves you so much.

Mma Dineo turned to the other side wiping her tears that she didn't want others to see.

Dineo: Nnaka all this is part of marriage. I can promise you that from this moment going forward, your marriage will be stronger. Nothing will ever be able to separate you two.

Justin's Uncle: Marriage is not easy my girl. You can't run away because another woman wants to destroy your home. You need to be strong and show her that you are a strong woman. O mosadi wa dikgomo ngwanaka ebile o gorositswe le penne mang le mang a bona. Monna o wa gago one a go kokoanyeditse batho. (You are his legal wife. You were welcomed into this family after this man married you and took vows before people and God).

I held my husband till we were both calm... No one

said anything till he got up and sat down.

Me: I have heard you my elders. I want you to know that i love and respect all of you. Each one of you have a very special place in my heart and i consider each advice important. I forgive my husband...

They ululated and praised me.

Mma Justin : Mosadi wa rialo ngwanaka!

I cleared my throat and they all continued listening, now in a better space.

Me: I forgive my husband and i also forgive myself . I love him so much but i also love myself. I value myself and because of that i am choosing to be selfish by putting myself first. I still want a divorce. I am not fighting and i hope that someday my

husband and i can both heal.

Everyone's jaws dropped as i said my piece...

[02/07, 08:30] : Dear Carol

#34

I cleared my throat and they all continued listening, now in a better space.

Me: I forgive my husband and i also forgive myself. I love him so much but i also love myself. I value myself and because of that i am choosing to be selfish by putting myself first. I still want a divorce. I am not fighting and i hope that someday my husband and i can both heal.

Everyone's jaws dropped as i said my piece...

Mma Dineo: I don't know who is putting such ideas in your head but in this family we do not divorce. Divorce is for weak women. Your husband has apologized and he realises his mistake.

Dineo: Nnaka wena ebile you are lucky to have such a humble and honest man. The fact that he has apologized should be easy to forgive. In marriage there are times you forgive them even when they are not sorry.

Mma Justin: My daughter please. I know that this is just pain and anger talking. If you need to take some time to think about this then please do but don't make decisions when you are still angry and hurt.

I looked my husband and closed my eyes. I couldn't bare to see the pain he was in. I still loved this man with my entire being in fact i wanted to stay but reality had set in. I had to leave in order to save us both. We were toxic for each other and somewhere in his heart, he knew it. Maybe if Asa and her son

were not in the picture things could have been different.

Justin: I know that i have wronged you Mma Seleke but please think things through. Think about everything we have been through together. Surely you can't just let it go.

Me: I am not leaving you because i don't love you. It will take me a really long time to get over our love. The love i thought so highly of. The one i never thought i would lose.

Justin: Then why are you leaving?

Me: I am leaving because of everything we have been through.

His uncle stood up and took off his hat...

Justin's Uncle: Mo lese motlogolo. Mo lese! Gape ha se gore o montle. Ga ke itsi le gore nne a turisetswang ale matepe yana. (Let her go my

son. Let her go because it's not like she is pretty. I still don't understand why we paid so much money for her bride price when she is so weak).

Mma Justin: Spiro please!

My uncle: Yaanong loa re nyatsa! Loa re nyatsa!
(Now you are going too far).

Justin's Uncle: The truth is very bitter. There is nothing really special about your daughter. Our son did her a favour by marrying her and now she thinks that it was the other way around. It's clear that she was not raised well. This is not how a wife should behave.

My mother clicked her tongue and stood up.

Mma Dineo: What do you know about marriage yourself? Are you even married? Do you have any children?

Justin's Uncle: Your daughter is a failure. She failed her marriage.

Mma Dineo: (Shouting) If anyone is a failure here, then it's you. At your age you still don't have any children.

Justin's uncle: It's better to be without children than to bring failures into this world.

Mma Justin: (Shouting) Heii! Heii! This is my house not the zoo. Shame on all of you for behaving like children.

They all kept quite...

Mma Justin: I called you all here so that we could help our children but instead you are here to cause more trouble. At your age you are still behaving like this. What exactly are you teaching these children?

My Uncle: Ausi a re tsamayeng. Re lese go gogwa gogwa hela. Nna kana ha re ba ntlu ya lehuma. (My sister let's leave. We will not be treated like some poor fellows while we are not.) I am not suprised that my niece wants a divorce. Imagine being

married into a family like this. What kind of a husband can come from such a family.

They stood up and took off without a care. I couldn't help but feel like everything was all my fault. My decision was affecting everyone and i didn't like it...

Later that day

At Mma Dineo's

Dineo put a tray of tea on the table and sat down.

Bogosi: Motlogolo don't you have anything stronger than this? After the day we had, we need to calm our nerves.

Mma Dineo: So you have started drinking again?

Bogosi: No. I haven't started drinking again. My

heart is just sore after that meeting. If i don't have a drink i will collapse. Waitsi ruri re kile ra latlha ngwana! (We married our daughter off into the wrong family). I am not even sure if i will be able to put my head down tonight.

Mma Dineo: Dineo my girl please bring us a bottle of wine.

She sighed as her daughter disappeared into the kitchen...

Mma Dineo: Abuti what happend today is really sad. What my daughter is going through pains me. We married her off just yesterday and today she wants a divorce.

Bogosi: And she is so young.

Mma Dineo: That daughter of mine is so stubborn.

Bogosi: J ust like her mother.

Mma Dineo: (Laughed) That is not true. Nna i can listen.

Bogosi: Don't you remember that you also gave the Morule family a hard time.

Mma Dineo: (laughed) But in the end i stayed and fought for my marriage. Abuti Carol is so young and there is a lot that she doesn't understand. You don't just walk away from marriage. That man may have his flaws but even when he talks, you can tell that he loves his wife.

Bogosi: Let's just hope that she will change her mind. That family annoys me but i can see that their son is humble.

Mma Dineo: And very responsible. The only problem is that uncle of his.

Uncle Bogosi turned and totaly lost interest in what his sister had to say as soon as his niece walked into the room with the bottle of wine.

Bogosi: Open up and serve us. what is taking you so long?

Mma Dineo: Please dilute mine with some red grape juice.

Bogosi: Heelang! Metaele yeo ya bogologolo tala eya bonwa. (Who still does that these days?)

Dineo: (Laughed) Malome bathong!

Bogosi: What is it? Fill that glass up. I am still very furious. Did you hear what that man said about my niece. Hewee hewee she is not even beautiful. Look at my sister. She has aged but she is still beautiful so tell me how she can have ugly kids.

Mma Dineo laughed as her brother took a sip from his wine then filled the glass again.

Mogobane, Mma Justin's

Mma Justin: Spiro what you did was very wrong and embarrassing. I called you today so that you could help me but instead you come here and get everyone angry. The things you said were not

neccesary.

Spiro: I don't know why you called me infact i wish that you could have not called me for this nonsense. I don't understand why you called us here to come and beg that girl. I won't even talk about her mannerless family. If Carol wants to leave my nephew then please let her. She has failed to keep him happy. Even after two years she has not given him any children. Let her go so that J ustin can raise his child in peace. As for me i am ready to negotiate Mmagwe J J 's lobola. Let that girl go.

Mma J ustin: Spiro are you listening to yourself kana you are just saying all this for fun? Do you even know what kind of a person that woman is or you just want to marry my son off to anything and anybody. Tota le gone J ustin doesn't need another wife. My son already has a wife. I am sure that they can still fix this.

Spiro: Not where there is a baby involved. J ustin and that woman will always be together somehow. No matter what Carol does she can not break the bond those two have.

I cleared my throat and walked into the living room with my suitcase.

Mma Justin: My girl.

Me: Mme.

I looked at Justin's uncle and sat down.

Me: Malome

Spiro: Yes

Me: Thank you so much for all that you have done for us. I know you want what's best for us but the truth is that we have tried and it's not working out.

Mma Dineo: Stay a few more days so that we can figure this out together.

Me: I am sorry Mme but i have to go.

Spiro: Bye Bye my girl.

Mma J ustin stood up and walked me out.

Mma J ustin: Don't listen to Malome. That one says whatever he feels like saying without thinking.

Me: I will call you when i get home.

Mma J ustin: Where are you gonna stay?

Me: I am going back to my house. I may be angry but J ustin and i still have so much to talk about. As much as this is a family affair. This issue is between us. We need to find way foward together concerning the divorce.

Mma J ustin: My girl please think things through. Please don't allow the devil to destroy your home.

Me: I am sorry Mme but there is no turning back. I have made my decision and i wish that you can understand some day.

I put my bag in the car then hugged her... So much

had been said about this woman but ever since i had come into her home, she had done all she could to welcome me. For the past two years we had built a relationship that i had always longed for. One that i didn't even have with my mother.

At Asa's

Justin looked at his son and wiped his tears. How could someone bring so much joy in your life and still have the potential to destroy your life at the same time. This little boy was meant to bring only happiness in his life. He kissed him and picked up his car keys and left the room. On his way out, he bumped into Asa in the passage.

Asa: Leaving already?

Justin: Yeah

He looked to the other side and wiped his tears.

Asa: Are you okay?

Justin: Yeah.

She took his hand and lead him to the living room.

[02/07, 08:31] : Dear Carol

#35

At Asa's

At Asa's

Justin looked at his son and wiped his tears. How could someone bring so much joy in your life and still have the potential to destroy your life at the same time. This little boy was meant to bring only happiness in his life. He kissed him and picked up his car keys then left the room. On his way out, he

bumped into Asa in the passage.

Asa: Leaving already?

Justin: Yeah

He looked to the other side and wiped his tears.

Asa: Are you okay?

Justin: Yeah.

She took his hand and lead him to the living room.

Asa: What's going on? Are you okay?

Justin: I am good thanks. I am just going through stuff.

Asa: What kind of stuff?

Justin: I would love to stay and chat but i need to

get going. I will let you know when i am going to pick him up on Friday.

Asa: That's fine but i don't think you should be driving in this state.

Justin: Enjoy the rest of your evening.

Asa: Cool.

She watched him thoughtfully as he walked out...

At Dineo's

Dineo closed her eyes as her husband massaged her shoulders.

Dineo: That feels so good.

Tumiso: You are so tense. The knots around this area are crazy.

Dineo: I am not surprised. I had a really long day.

Tumiso: I am sorry i couldn't come. How was the meeting?

Dineo: I have never seen anything like that.

Tumiso: That bad?

Dineo: Malome Bogosi and Thabiso's uncle almost killed each other.

Tumiso: That doesn't sound good. And Carol?

Dineo: That one couldn't even be bothered. She insists on getting a divorce even after her husband confessed and apologized.

Tumiso: Did she catch him?

Dineo: No.

Tumiso: Then he is an idiot. How does he confess and take blame just like that. I don't blame Carol for wanting to leave him. No woman wants to stay married to an idiot that can't think.

Dineo: Meaning?

Tumiso: You don't confess to a crime that you have not been caught doing.

Dineo: Maybe not every man is a liar. The poor guy was just trying to make things right. The only person that should be blamed here is Carol. She is weak. She should stay and fight for her marriage. If i had an honest man like that i would stay and fight for my marriage with everything i have. The world is full of weaklings that want to be called men.

He cleared his throat and increased the pressure.

Dineo: Ouch! That's too much pressure.

Tumiso: Oh sorry.

Dineo: I think it's okay now.

Tumiso: Should i run the shower for you?

Dineo: Yes please.

Tumiso: Dinner will be ready in a few as well.

Dineo: Hmmm! So where do you wanna go?

Tumiso: What?

Dineo: I know that when you behave like this, it's usually because you wanna go out.

Tumiso: I was hoping to go out with the boys for a drink.

Dineo: We will see.

She followed him to their bedroom...

At Mogobane, Mma Justin's

Tebogo shook her head as her mother updated her about the meeting they had...

Tebogo: And what did Justin say?

Mma Justin: What could he say akere he messed up.

Tebogo: So she wants a divorce for real?

Mma Justin: I want to believe that she said that out of anger but she seems really serious about it.

Tebogo: Do you honestly think that Asa is responsible?

Mma Justin: Who else can be responsible? Akere nna when i told you about that woman, you didn't want to believe it.

Tebogo: Kante Mme what happend? What did Asa do that lead to how things are now?

Mma Justin:What do you mean?

Tebogo: I mean how did Justin marry someone else instead of her?

Mma Justin: He probably changed his mind. Akere men change their mind all the time.

Tebogo: No! I mean the real reason. Mme i know that you know more than you are telling me.

Mma Justin: I don't know anything. You know that your brother doesn't ever tell me his business.

Tebogo: I know that there is something that you know and that's the reason you don't like Asa.

Mma Justin: Ok let me put it this way. I loved Asa like my own daughter. People can attest to that. I

had no doubt that she would one day become my daughter in law and i waited for that day. I waited for the day she would give me grandchildren. At some point i even put pressure on them.

Tebogo: So what changed?

Mma J ustin: She hurt my son in a way that no parent can ever forgive you for hurting their children that way.

Tebogo: Mme? Do you ever have doubts about J J 's DNA?

Mma J ustin: Honestly?

Tebogo: Yes.

Mma J ustin: There was a point i did but those doubts have been cleared. Why do you ask?

Tebogo: Nothing. J ust checking.

Mma J ustin: If there is something you know, it would help everyone if you spoke now.

Tebogo: I am going to get started on the pots.

At My house

After i packed all things, i joined J ustin in the living room...

Me: I am all packed up.

J ustin: You don't have to leave. I can find a place of my own till we sort things out.

Me: Thank you but i can't. This house has so many memories that will never let me heal or move on.

J ustin: I know what you said earlier on but are you sure that there is no other way around this?

Me: Sadly there isn't. I am want a divorce.

J ustin: I can't force you to stay in this marriage especially after what i did to you but the truth is that i don't want a divorce. I love you Carol and i don't want this marriage to end.

Me: I don't want it to end either but it's for the best. Please don't make things any harder. I don't want to

fight with you nor do i want this process to be painful.

J ustin:Then stay. Don't leave me.

Me:I am sorry but i have to. I will leave in the morning.

J ustin: And what about work?

Me: That's what i wanted to talk about. I was hoping that i could keep my job till mothend.

J ustin: You don't have to leave the company. That company is also yours. Remember that we are married in community of property so everything i own is yours.

Me: That's the thing. You built that company on your own and i don't expect you to give me half of it or anything. J ustin i wanna start over and for me that means leaving everything behind.

J ustin: And how will you survive?

Me: We can agree on my benefits and maybe arrange a little package so that i can start something of my own.

Justin: Just like that?

Me: Yeah.

Justin: I don't know what to say except that i am a fool. I am a fool for cheating on you and for losing you.

Me: I hope that someday we can both completely heal. I love you and i have no doubt that you love me but we are not yet in a place where we can be together. We need some time away from each other. Some time to heal and find ourselves.

I found myself crying as he looked up to block his tears.

Me: I am gonna sleep in the guestroom. I will see you in the morning.

I patted his shoulder and just as i was about to walk away, he pulled me by the hand towards him and held me in his arms. Gosh! I still loved this man.

Even with the tough decisions i had made, his arms still felt like home.

I began to relax as his hands caressed me slowly.

*

*

*

You are 1,366 away from reaching target. The link is on the previous post. Go like the page. Thanks

Do the right thing and let's continue

[02/07, 08:31] : Dear Carol

#36

I patted his shoulder and just as i was about to walk away, he pulled me by the hand towards him and held me in his arms. Gosh! I still loved this man.

Even with the tough decisions i had made, his arms still felt like home.

I began to relax as his hands caressed me slowly. Before i knew it, he flipped me to my back and gripped the hem of my cotton dress then ripped it straight up from the neck. It had been a while since he had touched me like that. Though my mind was sending all the red lights, my body couldn't be bothered. I turned around and held on tight to him as we kissed. His tongue seeking and wreaking havoc inside of my mouth. I rewarded his advances with a ferocity equal to his, as ailing with mine. Sucking his lower lip as he sucked my upper lip. We groped for each other... It had been too long and i was hungry as a starving wolf.

Got Spicy

The following day

Justin smiled at the nicely set breakfast table...
Whatever his wife had made smelled good. He
pulled a chair and sat down but there was no sign
of Carol. Just as he was about to call for her, his
phone rang.

Justin: Hey you. I was wondering where you are.
The food smells nice. Come let's eat.

Me: Hey

Justin: Thank you for last night. I know that it will
take a while for us to heal but after last night i am
hopeful.

Me: (Cleared throat) I won't be joining you for
breakfast. I am sorry if all this is confusing but what
happend last night does not change anything. I still
want a divorce. I took my stuff this morning.

Justin: What do you call what happend last night?
Come on Carol. Stop playing all these games.

Me: I am sorry to confuse you but what happend

last night was just a moment of weakness.

Justin: And the breakfast? What are you playing at Carol?

Me: I thought you would appreciate a proper breakfast before going to work. I am sorry for upsetting you.

Justin: What about us? What about our marriage?

Me: Bye Justin.

He cursed and clenched his fists as the call disconnected...

At Kagelo's Office

I sipped on my coffee and laid back on the chair...

Kagelo: So you are really going ahead with this?

Mev (Sighed) Yes.

Kagelo: Are you sure that this is what you want to do? I mean it's a big decision. It will change so much in your life.

Me: I know friend but i am sure. I mean i am honestly sad that our marriage has to come to an end but it's for the best.

Kagelo: Divorce is a big deal and i just wanna make sure that you know what you are doing. I wouldn't want you to have any regrets later on.

Me: Well i am sure.

Kagelo: Then i support you all the way.

Me: Thank you. That's all i need for now.

Kagelo: So have you guys decided on what you are gonna do with the living arrangements?

Me: Yeah. I moved out. That house holds so many memories. Staying there will only make things difficult for me.

Kagelo: Do you need a place to stay? If you do then you come stay at my house till you find a place of your own.

Me: Thanks my friend but another friend of mine already offered.

Kagelo: That's fine however you are always welcome to come stay at my house whenever you want.

Me: Thank you my friend. I need to go to work.

Kagelo: If you need someone to talk to then you know where to find me.

Me: Thank you my friend.

At Bonye's Office

Nadia noted all that Bonye was telling her on her diary...

Bonye: That should be all.

Nadia: Let me know if he needs to have anything changed before the end of the week.

Bonye: I doubt there is anything that he will change.
Wena you can go ahead with everything.

Nadia: Thanks for helping me out. I doubt that i
would have been able to plan this wedding alone.

Bonye: Ofile is my friend and i am sure that he
would do the same for me.

Nadia: Yeah neh. You guys have come a long way.
Funny how life works out. I honestly thought that
Carol would be here with us ordering us around and
telling us what Ofile wants.

Bonye: (Laughed) That's true. Those two were
really tight. I also thought that when this day comes
they would have each other's back.

Nadia: Either way. I am glad my brother has finally
found his happy ending.

Bonye: I am also happy even though i have always
thought that it would be with Carol.

Nadia: Clearly God had other plans. She choose a
rich guy over my brother.

Bonye: Now that's not fair. Ofile never really showed

Carol that he wanted her. He might have hinted it but he was never direct about it.

Nadia: Well it doesn't matter now. I hope she comes to the wedding and sees the kind of man she played with.

Bonye: I doubt she will. Carol is going through a lot at the moment. It can't be easy dealing with a divorce.

Nadia: What? A divorce? Since when?

Bonye: It's very recent. I hope that you don't go around telling people because this is very personal.

Nadia: You know that i would never do that.

Bonye: Good.

Nadia: Bonye?

Bonye: Yeah

Nadia: I hope that Carol doesn't make any moves on my brother now that she is lonely.

Bonye: Why would she do that?

Nadia: We all know how women get when they are

lonely and going through stuff.

Bonye: This is Carol we are talking about. She would never do that.

Nadia: Good. Well let me get going. I still need to go see the lady that is doing the deco.

Bonye: Cool. Let me know if there is anything else you need help with.

At Pearl's

After calculating and making budgets, Pearl picked up her phone and called Tumiso.

Tumiso: I thought we agreed that i would be the one to call you from now on.

Pearl: We didn't agree on anything. You were telling me.

Tumiso: Pearl you can't just call at any time. What if i am with my wife?

Pearl: And what if i need your help? Are you forgetting that i am pregnant?

Tumiso: I asked you to text me if there is anything you need.

Pearl: I will send you the budget for the baby's things in a little bit.

Tumiso: Is that all?

Pearl: Yes.

Tumiso: So how much is it?

Pearl: Thirty thousand.

Tumiso: Excuse me!

Pearl: Thirty thousand!

Tumiso: I heard you the first time. I just don't understand what all that money is for kana you have added the medical bills?

Pearl: No. That's for all the things i need to get before this baby gets here. The baby stroller will take up most of the money.

Tumiso: How much is it and where did you see it?

Pearl: It's eight thousand at Babies R Us.

Tumiso: Eight thousand for a stroller. Are you kidding me? Does it come with a complimentary babysitter?

Pearl: No. I also need to get the baby rocker, cot, electric breast pump, electric sterilizer and other things.

Tumiso: And what do you think I am going to tell my wife? Pearl I can't just take thirty thousand out of my account total gone the baby doesn't need all those expensive things.

Pearl: I am the mother here. If I say the baby needs all these then the baby needs them.

Tumiso: Mmm it's going to be impossible because I can't just take out such a huge amount.

Pearl: I don't know how you are going to do it but that's how much I need. If you can't give it to me then I will personally ask from your wife.

Tumiso: I don't know what kind of game you are playing but it will not end well.

Pearl: We will see about that.

He clicked his tongue and hung up on her...

Pearl: Hello

At Justin's Office

After trying so hard to concentrate on work, he finally accepted that it was impossible. All he could think about was his wife. He couldn't understand how she could possibly throw away what they had together without trying. He had made some mistakes but there had to be a way to work things out. He went insane from just thinking about the night they spent together. How was he supposed to let go when he loved her so much? Whenever he closed his eyes, flashbacks from the previous night filled his head. How would he survive till the end of the month with her around the office.

A soft knock interrupted his thoughts... He looked towards the door and took a deep breath.

Justin: You may come in.

Loago walked in and dropped a file on top of his table.

Loago: Boss

Justin: What's this?

Loago: The file you requested for a few minutes ago.

Justin: Huh?

Loago: Bodibe Account?

Justin: Oh. Ok thanks man.

Loago: Are you ok?

Justin: Yeah sure.

Loago: Ok cool.

He walked out leaving him pondering to his thoughts.

Later that day

At Dros

I looked around the almost empty restaurant and sighed... Being at the office did not help at all. The entire time i was there i kept hoping that Justin would not come into my office.

Voice: Hey you. Fancy bumping into you here.

I turned around

[02/07, 08:31] : Dear Carol

#37

Later that day

At Dros

I looked around the almost empty restaurant and sighed... Being at the office did not help at all. The entire time i was there i kept hoping that Justin would not come into my office.

Voice: Hey you. Fancy bumping into you here.

I turned around and smiled...

Me: Hey

Ofie: Can i join you?

Me: Yeah sure.

He pulled a chair and sat down...

Ofile: Late lunch?

Me: Yeah. I needed a break from the office.

Ofile: Same here

Me: Nice...

None of us said anything for a few minutes. After what had happened the last time we were together, things just felt awkward.

Me: About the other time, i am re...

Ofile: It's ok

Me: Not it's not okay. Allow me to finish. I am really sorry. It was very selfish of me. I was in a bad space.

Ofile: Forget about that. How are you doing? Did

you guys sort things out?

I forced a smile...

Me: Yeah i am good. I guess it was not meant to be. We are getting a divorce.

Ofile: What? I am so sorry to hear that. Was there not a way you two could fix things? I mean i don't know anything about marriage but shouldn't you atleast fight for it?

Me: Ofile some things are hard my friend. I love my husband. I really do but i can't keep competing with his baby mama. Those two were together for years and they now share a child.

Ofile: Ngwana has e ring kana Carol. (A child does not automatically mean marriage).

Me: That may be the case but those two have some unfinished business. From the day that woman came into our lives, Justin has failed several times to keep her in her lane. Koore she doesn't respect

me or this marriage.

Ofile: And how is that J ustin's fault?

Me: Typical men! So you are really going to ask me that?

Ofile: Yes

Me: It's J ustin's fault because he is the one married to me. In a relationship your partner should be the one to teach others how to treat you. Because you don't know this, i am teaching you this and i want you to understand me. If anyone ever disrespects your wife then it's because they saw you doing it first.

Ofile: I hear you.

Me: Good.

Ofile: I am sorry that you are going through all this.

Me: It's cool. I will be fine.

Ofile: If you ever need a friend then don't hesitate to call me. I know that so much has went on but i will always be here for you.

Me: Thanks my friend. Anyway enough about me.
How are the preparations for the wedding going?

Ofile: Nadia and Bonye are taking care of everything.

Me: That's good. If you need my help or input on anything then just shout.

Ofile: Why don't you give Nadia a call and see if there is anything you can help with?

Me: I will do just that.

At Mma Dineo's

Dineo picked up her bag and kissed her mother.

Dineo: I need to go. I will see you tomorrow.

Mma Dineo: But you just got here.

Dineo: I know mum but something urgent came up.

Mma Dineo: Are the kids okay? Is everything fine?

Dineo: Everything is fine. I need to go.

She rushed out and got into her car then drove off.
A few minutes later, she pulled to the side of the road and called her husband.

Tumiso: Hie honey

Dineo: Do you have something to tell me?

Tumiso: (laughed) Something like what?

Dineo: Like who Pearl is.

Tumiso: (Giggled) Pearl? I have no idea who that is.

Dineo: I see.

Tumiso:Babe are you okay?

Dineo: Well i will be after my meeting with Pearl.

Tumiso: Pearl? Meeting?

She could tell that he was panicking...

Dineo: Someone by the name of Pearl just called a few minutes ago requesting to meet me. Are you fine?

Tumiso: (Cleared throat) Yes, yes. Look babe, something came up. Let me call you back.

Dineo: Okay, bye.

At Tumiso's Office

Tumiso loosened his tie and quickly dialled Pearl's number...

Pearl: Hello Daddy

Tumiso: What the hell do you think you are doing?

Pearl: What are you on about?

Tumiso: Where the hell did you get my wife's number and why on earth are you meeting up with her?

Pearl: I am simply doing what you failed to do as a father. I am securing this child's future.

Tumiso: Come on Pearl. You are not playing fair.

Pearl: Nothing is fair in this life.

Tumiso: You do realise that if you show up to your little meeting with Dineo then she will tear you apart. Not only that but she will also sue you for all the money you don't have. By the time she is done with the both of us, we won't have a cent to take care of that baby you are carrying.

Pearl: I will take my chances.

Tumiso: Come on Pearl.

Pearl: Chat later. I don't want to keep my sister wife waiting.

Tumiso: I will do an EFT.

Pearl: Thirty thous and?

Tumiso: Yes.

Pearl: Good. Now do you see how easy that was?

Tumiso: And Dineo? What are you gonna do about

her?

Pearl: How about you worry about the EFT and i worry about that?

He went into his laptop and quickly transferred some money into her account.

Tumiso: I have just transferred half of the money into your account. You will get the other half once you have cancelled your meeting with my wife.

Pearl: Deal.

Tumiso: Now call her and cancel.

He hung up and paced around the office...

Main Mall, Spar

Kutlwano bent to pick up the pack of pads she had

dropped on the floor. As soon as she went back up, her eyes met with Mothusi's. He smiled and walked up to her.

Mothusi: Peace!

Kutlwano: Mothusi.

Mothusi: It's been a while. How have you been?

Kutlwano: Two years to be precise.

Mothusi: Am glad someone was counting. I thought you all hated me especially your friend. How is she?

Kutlwano: I don't know about that.

Mothusi: Am sure she told you. Akere you two are close.

Kutlwano: Well not anymore. I haven't talked to her in two years.

Mothusi: Oh really? What happened?

Kutlwano: I would rather not talk about it and like I said, I haven't seen her in a while.

Mothusi: I also just got back into the country. We haven't talked ever since that incident.

Kutlwano: You mean ever since Justin caught you two.

Mothusi: (Smiled) It was nice seeing you after so long.

Kutlwano: (rolled her eyes) Can't say the same about you.

She pushed her trolley and walked past him...

At Primi CBD

Dineo looked at the time and clicked her tongue. She had been waiting for over forty minutes and there was no sign of the person she was supposed to meet. She dialled Pearl's number but it did not go through.

Dineo: Dammit!

Meanwhile at Airport Junction Mall

Pearl paid for the baby stroller then walked around the shop to look around. She took a few pictures of the baby accessories that had caught her eye then sent to Tumiso.

Pearl: We will discuss the budget when you have time.

At my office

I pushed back all the files that i had been working on and called Nadia.

Nadia:Hello

Me: Hie Nadia.

Nadia: Yes

Me: It's Carol.

Nadia: I can hear that.

Me: How are you?

Nadia: Am doing very well and you?

Me: Am good thanks.

Nadia: So how can i help you?

Me: I had a chat with Ofile today about the wedding and i was wondering if you need any help.

Nadia: I have everything under control.

Me: Oh i see. If you think of anything then you can give me a call.

Nadia: Listen Carol, i adore you and everything but one thing i will not allow is you sabotaging my brother's wedding.

Me: What?

Nadia: I know that you are getting a divorce and things might be a little hard for you right now but

please don't ruin it for Ofile.

Me: I don't understand what you mean.

Nadia: Do you remember how you have been absent in my brother's life ever since you got married?

I kept quiet and swallowed a lump...

Nadia: Please help me and everyone by being absent even now. Your presence will only confuse my brother. Bye

She clicked her tongue and hung up...

Three months later

I took off my wedding ring and walked around the small apartment i had just rented out. Everything in the place looked very clean and new. There was

honestly nothing to complain about however small as it was, the space became too much. Living here alone was harder than i had imagined. I had been told that time healed all wounds but every single day became a lot harder than i had thought. My mother and sister wanted nothing to do with me. While my mother inlaw was very supportive, it became so hard to go and see her as she reminded me of what i had with J ustin each time. The divorce was not yet finalised but it became clear each day that there was no turning back.

At Asa's

[02/07, 08:32] : Dear Carol

#38

At Asa's

J ustin picked the picnic basket and the cooler box while Asa looked at herself in the mirror and fixed

her make up.

Justin: Don't take too long. We need to get there early so that we can pick the perfect spot.

Asa: Did you take all J J 's things?

Justin: All packed up.

Asa: J ay

Justin: Mma?

Asa: Put those down.

Justin: What is it now Asa? J J is waiting in the car.

Asa:I know. I just need two minutes.

She helped him put down the stuff he was carrying and took his hand, leading him to the couch.

Asa: I just want you to know that i am grateful for everything you have done for us. Thank you for giving me a chance as well. I know that we have

been through a lot as a couple but i am sure that this time we will work out.

Justin: I hope so especially for our son's sake.

Asa: I promise you that we will be fine.

Justin: Akere mme you know that we can only make things official once the divorce is finalized.

Asa: I know and i respect that.

Justin: Ok. Let's go.

Asa: Jay!

Justin: Mma?

Asa: I love you

He kept quiet for a few seconds before responding back...

Justin: Me too...

He forced a smile although in the depth of his heart,

he knew that he could only love one woman...

At Mogobane, Mma J ustin's

Mma J ustin frustratedly sighed as she made her budgets...

Tebogo: What is it ne Mme?

Mma J ustin: Things are not adding up my girl. We will have to pause the poultry project because your brother has not sent any money this month. The money i have is enough to get only my groceries.

Tebogo: Again? You can't tell me that he forgot again.

Mma J ustin: I am not suprised that he forgot. Carol is the one that has been sending money to us for the past two years.

Tebogo: So what? Akere he still has money as well.

Mma J ustin: How can he remember something he

is not used to doing?

Tebogo: This divorce needs to be finalised so that we can all move on with our lives.

Mma J ustin: Uhu! Ele gore what's stopping you from moving on with your life? Are you the one married to J ustin?

Tebogo: Don't you see that we are now suffering because of that woman? J ustin needs to get it over and done with then move on.

Mma J ustin: Move on to what?

Tebogo: Move on to finding another wife Mme. J ustin is a man, he needs a woman by his side. Akere if she was there now, she would be reminding him to send you money.

Mma J ustin: Another woman like who? Like Asa? I thought i told you to stay out of J ustin's business.

Tebogo: Another woman that's not Carol or Asa. My brother deserves to start over and be happy.

Mma J ustin : Wena yaanong ha se gore o batla gore a nyale wena? (Why does it sound like you want

him to marry you?)

Asa: I only want what's best for him. Asa and Carol do not deserve him.

Mma J ustin: Wena gape? (You again?) I thought you said you wanted him to get back with Asa.

Tebogo: Well things change. I now realise that she is just as bad as Carol.

Mma J ustin: Mma wee landboard ya baa. Ipatlele setsha otswe mo ditlontlokwaneng. (Get a plot of your own and stop being petty).

Tebogo: The truth is the truth and we can not change it.

At Dineo's

Tumiso cleared his throat and sipped on a glass of water while his wife waited patiently for him to answer her...

Dineo: I am still waiting for an answer...

Tumiso: Kana nna i don't know what type of an answer you want because i told you that i used the money for an investment.

Dineo: And you didn't bother to tell me?

Tumiso: I knew that you would react this way so i choose to keep quiet.

Dineo: Did you think that i wouldn't notice when you moved such an amount of money?

Tumiso: I knew that you would notice but like i said this was an opportunity i couldn't miss.

Dineo: Tumiso?

Tumiso: Mma?

Dineo: If there is anything you are hiding from me then you need to understand that i will find out.

Tumiso: Wena hlamma o ila kagiso.

Dineo: Mark my words. Le gone i want proof of that investment.

Tumiso: Do you see why i am barely home? Each

time i try and spend some time with you, you always want to fight.

He stood up and picked his car keys...

Dineo: Enjoy it while it lasts because nothing lasts forever.

She put her feet on the table and changed the tv channel.

At my house

I changed into my third outfit while Bonye sat on the bed and made her recommendations.

Bonye: Not too bad at all. I actually love this dress.

Me: How long will we be there for?

Bonye: Carol we are going out to have fun. There are no time specifications. You really need this my friend. You can't be locked up in your house every weekend.

Me: I hope that this is a chilled place. Nna tota i don't want too much noise.

Bonye: Relax my love. For once let me worry about all that.

Me: Ok. So let's go.

Bonye: Not so fast. Lipstick moghel.

At Notwane

Justin filled up their glasses of wine then pulled out a box of juice for his son.

Justin: There you go buddy.

Asa: This place is so refreshing.

Justin: I knew that you would like it.

He fixed his son's sun hat then sat comfortably on the picnic blanket next to the mother of his child.

Asa: Isn't it funny how life works? Kana we used to talk about going out for family picnics with our kids and now it's actually happening.

Justin: Yeah neh.

Asa: Look at how happy our son is.

She took out her phone and snapped a few selfies of them then put it back in her pocket.

Justin: Mmagwe J J

Asa: Rragwe J J

Justin: I hope you know that you can't upload those pictures. The last thing i wanna do is hurt Carol.

Asa: I am not saying that i am going to upload them but why do you think Carol cares about what you do? Justin that woman left you.

Justin: After i cheated on her with you.

Asa: She had a choice to forgive you but she choose to walk away.

Justin: Can we not talk about my wife please. I thought we could all come here and bond as a family.

Asa: You are the one that brought her up. Infact you are the one that's always talking about her.

At Pearl's

Tumiso took off his shoes and laid ontop of the bed with Pearl and his newborn baby.

Tumiso: How is he?

Pearl: This one is an angel. Once you feed him, he

falls asleep.

Tumiso: And you? How are you?

Pearl: Heish. Am honestly tired. My entire body is aching. The only thing that gives me peace of mind is the fact that this little person right here is safe.

Tumiso: Do you need me to help you out with anything?

Pearl: No. I am good. The maid has done everything.

Tumiso: Did your mum say when she will be here?

Pearl: I sent her transport money so i am sure that by tomorrow she will be here.

Tumiso: I guess that means that i need to stop coming here till she leaves.

Pearl: Why do you wanna do that? My mum knows about you.

Tumiso: Does she know that i am a married man?

Pearl: Yes. I told her everything.

Tumiso: And she is fine with that?

Pearl: Kana i long told my mum about you and besides my mother is not that traditional. For her it's all about my happiness first.

Tumiso: Wow. Am surprised she is ok with everything.

Pearl: That's what happens when your mum is cool.

Tumiso: Atleast she is not gonna be another problem i have to deal with.

Pearl: What now?

Tumiso: Dineo!

Pearl: What happend?

Tumiso: She wants to know where all the money is going.

Pearl: I think it's time you told her the truth because she will eventually find out. Lenna hela i want my son to know his siblings. I might have been a dirty secret all these years but that doesn't mean i want the same for my son.

Tumiso: Kana mme you knew what getting into a relationship meant. Even when we found out about

this child, you knew. We had an option to get rid of it but you wanted to keep it.

Pearl: I need to rest. Lock on your way out.

Tumiso: I won't be able to come see you till the week ends. Dineo said something that got me thinking today.

Pearl: Dineo this, Dineo that! Please just leave.

At Lereo's place

Lereo picked up his phone and nodded his head as his girlfriend changed the channel.

Lereo: Hello

Mothusi: My main man.

Lereo: Mothusi?

Mothusi: Am glad to hear that you still haven't forgotten my voice.

Lereo: I didn't know that you were in the country.

Mothusi: Oh really?

Lereo: Yes really.

Mothusi: Mme kana i bumped into your girlfriend at Main mall sometime back.

Lereo: Well she didn't tell me anything.

Mothusi: Listen man i need your help.

Lereo: Am listening.

Mothusi: I need Asa and Justin's number. I never really got to apologise to Justin about what happend. I know i ruined their relationship and everything.

Lereo: Don't you think that it's best you stayed away from those two. I mean they are currently trying to co-parent and get along. If you just pitched up from nowhere then you might set them back.

Mothusi: Co-parent? What? So they have a child together?

Lereo: Yeah. I think he is two years and a few

months now.

Mothusi: What? Are you serious man?

Lereo: Yeah.

Mothusi: Does Asa still stay at the same place?

Lereo: Yeah. Kante what's with all these questions ne mona?

Mothusi: Look i need to go. Thanks man.

At Notwane

[02/07, 08:32] : Dear Carol

#39

At Notwane

I fixed our camp chairs while Bonye put more ice in our cooler box. The relaxed ambience of the place reminded me that i still needed to live and there was so much to live for. I looked around and smiled.

This was what i needed after all.

Bonye: Do you like it?

Me: (Smiled) It's so peaceful.

Bonye: This used to be my little hide away place before i moved to Spain. Whenever i felt like i needed to have a personal talk with myself and reflect, i would come here.

Me: I have heard about this place but i have been so lazy to drive here.

Bonye: This is where the Gaboronians hide on weekends.

Me: Mme ebile there is a bit of privacy.

Bonye: Yes. It's not everybody that comes here. Akere you people are so used to being in the city gape you need to have a car to come here.

Me: What's on the other side?

Bonye: It's a little nice island. Let's have a drink then i will go and show you.

Me: Fine by me.

She handed me a champagne flute then took out a bottle of bubbles.

Me: What are we celebrating?

Bonye: Life. Healing and the strength to move forward.

She filled my glass before getting one of her own.

Bonye: I know that you are going through a lot and it's not easy but i admire your strength to soldier on. I may not agree with all your decisions but as your friend i will always have your back.

Me: Thank you my friend.

Bonye: So cheers to bigger and better things.

Me: Cheers baby

On the other side

Justin put his son on his shoulders then walked around. He increased his pace as JJ cheered him on. Asa smiled and snapped a few pictures of the two. There was nothing that made her happier than seeing the man she loved and her son bonding.

Justin: Let's rest. We will play again after we have lunch.

JJ: One more time daddy.

Justin: But we already did one more time.

JJ: One more time.

He ran around with his son on his shoulders...

At Ofile's

Nadia adjusted the couch then laid back while Mmapula painted her toe nails.

Nadia: Is this position ok?

Mmapula: Sit up a bit.

She put a few pillows on her back then sat up.

Mmapula: That is perfect.

Nadia: Great. So where is your man?

Mmapula: I sent him to run a few errands for me.

Nadia: You never told me how the whole Carol situation went down.

Mmapula: I was waiting for the right moment.

Nadia: Spill the beans.

Mmapula: Kana ngwanyana came here a few times claiming that she wanted to get to know me. Waitsi i

made it no secret that i didn't like her.

Nadia: What did Ofile say?

Mmapula: What could he say? Ofile is my husband and he will listen to whatever i say. I made it very clear that i didn't want that woman anywhere near him.

Nadia: And he agreed just like that?

Mmapula: What choice did he have?

Nadia: I hope you didn't tel him that i am the one that told you that he once had feelings for her.

Nadia: I didn't mention that mme hela i showed him that i didn't trust her. He tried to pull the bestfriend card on me but i didn't want to hear it. No husband of mine will bestfriend with another woman while i am here. She was absent in his life for a very long time, she can't just decide to rock up when her marriage is on the rocks.

Nadia:Now that's the spirit. You should never let any other woman intimidate you. They will try because often times people judge us looking at our

age.

Mmapula: I may be young but no one will intimidate me.

Nadia: Protect your home at all costs.

Mmapula: Emma.

Nadia: Anyway have you guys thought about where you want to go for your honeymoon? The ladies need to make your booking in advance.

Mmapula: We are still deciding but we should give you an answer by next week.

Nadia: Cool

Mmapula: Can i get you anything to drink?

Nadia: Anything that's not alcohol. Heii mma i had a crazy night. I don't even wanna taste a drop of alcohol.

Mmapula: (laughed) That's what you say all the time.

At Asa's

Mothusi went around knocking on every window of the house. He eventually got tired and sat by the patio to think. He took out his phone and went on social media to look for Asa but she had blocked him on every platform.

Mothusi: I will find you Asa. You won't run away with my child.

He cursed and got up to leave.

At Notwane

I refilled our glasses then slipped on my flip flops.

Me: Let's go

Bonye: Where to?

Me: To the other side. Akere you were supposed to show me that little island you were talking about.

Bonye: Ofcourse. Let me put on my shoes.

A few minutes later we had crossed over to the other side where there were a number of families on a picnic.

Me: This place is so cool. Look at how all the families are sittted on one side.

Bonye: (laughed) They obviously just wanted to outshine one another.

I looked closely at each family then rubbed my eyes as my jaws dropped.

Bonye: And now? You look like you have just seen a ghost.

I approached the couple that seemed really cosy together... I couldn't believe this man. It had been just three months since i had moved out of our home but he was already moving on with his ex even before our divorce had been finalised.

Bonye: Carol what's wrong?

She ran behind me...

Me: Well done J ustin!

He quickly turned around then stood up...

J ustin: It's not what you think.

Me: What do i think?

J ustin: We are just here for a picnic.

Me:Oh don't stop on my account then. I came here

to congratulate you on the good job that you are doing. Finally free and moving on. Koore all that's left is for you to make baby number two.

Asa looked at me and rolled her eyes...

Bonye: And then wena? Why are you rolling your eyes?

Asa: I am just suprised that divorcees still follow their ex husbands around and stalk them.

I swallowed a lump then reminded myself that i couldn't be weak before her.

Me: The last time i checked, this man and i are still married so that makes us husband and wife.

Asa: It doesn't work like that Carol. You are the one that left.

Justin: Asa can you just shut up for once.

Asa: No! I won't shut up. This woman stole you from me then got you to marry her. For two years i had to carry the burden of this child alone simply because she couldn't bear to see you become a father. Now that we have found our way back to each other she suddenly has a problem? Nnya mma. Justin has finally realized that you were a mistake. Accept that.

I looked at her and laughed...

Me: If i was you, i would slow down. That man is still wearing his wedding band. He begged me to come back home for months because he didn't wanna lose me. Even now he still wants to explain himself to me, the ex wife as you call me.

Asa: That's only because he feels sorry for you.

Me: And i feel sorry for you. Tlhamma ke santse ke bitswa Mma Seleke. Ha kgwedi e fela, monna wame o ntsereng kaha molaong asa mphitlhe ebile a nkokoanyeditse batho o romela madi. Koore fridge

yame enna e penologa. Wife allowence e santse e tsena. Ha kere se ebile otl a tabogile. (I am still Mrs Seleke. Every month my husband that married me before God and his people pays an allowence into my account. Whatever demand i have , he meets). Wena you are just the woman that gave him a child. You will never have his heart no matter what you do. Even if you can give him ten children, his heart will always beat for Carol. Relax and be humble because the only reason he is with you is because i left him.

She breathed heavily as J ustin shamefully bowed...
I raised my champagne glass and smiled.

Me: To broken families. Cheers bazelwane.

Bonye joined me as i toasted...

Bonye: Cheers bazakes.

Me: Have a great weekend.

Although a part of me was falling apart within, i couldn't break down in front of them. He had to see that i was strong and i would move on from him...

.

.

.

Sorry for late post. Had a really hectic day. Will post again tomorrow. Exhausted

[02/07, 08:32] : Dear Carol

#40

A week later

Mothusi sipped on his cup of coffee then laid back on the office chair as if he was at his own place.

Asa: What do you want?

Mothusi: I don't want any trouble. I just want my son.

Asa: I told you that he is not yours.

Mothusi: Asa i am not here to play games. I want my son.

Asa: That boy belongs to J ustin.

Mothusi: (Laughed) When you see me what do you see?

Asa: What's that supposed to even mean?

Mothusi: Do you see anywhere on my face written fool?

Asa: Please leave. I need to get back to work.

Mothusi: You and i know very well that there is no way that the boy is J ustin's so i am not going anywhere.

Asa: I already told you that he is not yours. I don't know what else you want me to say.

Mothusi: If he is not mine then why did you block me on all of your social media?

Asa: Are you serious?

Mothusi: Does it look like i am playing games?

She sat down then tried to keep calm...

Asa: You know how things were when you left. What we had was just a fling but in the end you wanted more. I had to block you in order to send a very strong message..

Mothusi: (laughed) So Justin really believes this lie of yours?

Asa: I don't know what you are talking about.

Mothusi: You date for years without conceiving then years later you cheat and bang you fall pregnant?

He shook his head and clapped his hands.

Mothusi: You had your suspicions didn't you? Why didn't i think of it? So you used me... I was just a pawn in your little game after all.

Asa: I don't know what you are thinking or what you have been told but that little boy is mine and Justin's. I understand that we have a past together and everything is all confusing but he is not yours.

Mothusi: You slept with me because you wanted to conceive didn't you?

Asa: I don't know what you are talking about. What we had was just a fling.

Mothusi: Do you do it raw with all the people you have a fling with?

Asa: It was just you and i already told you that it was a mistake.

Mothusi: So you are gonna call it a mistake when we had it raw all the time?

Asa: I promise you that he is not yours.

Mothusi: Then prove it. Let's do a DNA.

Asa: Are you listening to yourself? So what will i tell Justin?

Mothusi: That's not any of my business.

Asa: Do you think he will happily give me permission to have his son tested?

Mothusi: I don't know how you will do it but i want a DNA or else i will not let you rest.

Asa: Ok listen. Give me some time to figure things out.

Mothusi: Time is what i don't have. I have already missed out on so much with my boy. I refuse to miss out on more.

Asa: You don't owe me anything but please be considerate. Justin and i have just fixed things. If i bring this up now, our relationship might not survive.

Mothusi: Mma wee, i am talking about my son. I honestly don't care about what happens to your relationship. Nna i have never said i want you back kare i want my child.

Asa: I thought you cared about me.

Mothusi: That's not important right now.

Asa: Okay atleast give me a week to sort things out.

Mothusi: I am sorry but a week is too long. I can't wait that long.

She breathed heavily as her heart pumped backwards.

Asa: Please.

Mothusi: Am sorry i can't give you a week.

Asa: This is a very sensitive issue. We need to handle it with care otherwise people will get hurt in the process.

She looked at him in the eye and sighed... For a moment he could see a bit of remorse in her eyes.

Asa: Including the same son you claim is yours.

This will destroy him if not handled properly.

Mothusi: Heish!

Asa: Think about it.

Mothusi: You have a week.

Asa: (Took a deep of breath) Thank you so much.

Mothusi: A week is all you have. If i don't hear anything from you in a week then i will talk to J ustin myself.

Asa:It won't come to that.

Mothusi: Good. Have a good day Asa.

He stood up and left...

At Primi

I browsed through the menu then closed it turning back to J ustin.

Me: So what did you want to talk about?

Justin: How are you doing?

Me: Am doing very well as you can see yourself.

Justin: I am sorry about what happend last week.

Me: Don't be sorry.

Justin: What i did is very wrong. I love you Carol but i figured out that we would never save our marriage so i decided to pick my son in the process. He is the only thing i have after all. When i lost you, i thought i had lost everything and i couldn't find any real happiness. Carol that boy is my whole world.

Me: I still don't understand why you are telling me all this.

Justin: Carol i never meant to hurt you.

Me: You didn't hurt me. You did exactly what i thought you would do. Infact you put me out of my misery. While we were apart, there were times where i wanted to come back home and fix our marriage because i thought you knew what you wanted.

Justin: I don't love her.

Me: Do you know why i will never get back with you?

Justin: I am sorry

Me: You are weak Justin. You say one thing then do the other. You are the kind of man that can never build a home. We might love each other but we will never be able to build a strong home. A woman needs a man to submit to. And when i say submission i am talking about immensely throwing myself in. Yaanong how does one submit to a man that can not lead?

He kept quiet and looked away...

Me: Thanks for inviting me for lunch but i don't think that this little meeting of ours needs to go any further . We both know where we stand.

Justin: Can we atleast have lunch together?

Me: I need to be somewhere. I only came here because i thought it was necessary to clear the air.

Justin: Emma.

I stood up and picked my bag...

Outside Pearl's

Dineo wore her shades then paid the cab before getting off. She had followed her husband all the way to this place that she didn't know and so many things played in her mind. She took a deep breath then walked into the same yard that her husband had parked her car in.

Meanwhile inside Tumiso picked up his child and embraced him while Pearl got dressed...

Tumiso: This room is so hot. We are going to sit in the living room.

Pearl: Make sure you turn off the AC because i think

the room is already cool.

Tumiso: Emma. What can i eat?

Pearl:I don't know what's in the kitchen. I doubt my mother cooked anything before she went out.

Tumiso: How long will she be gone for?

Pearl: Maybe for an hour or two. Akere she just went shopping.

Tumiso: How did you convince her to leave the house?

Pearl: I mentioned shopping and she was ready to go.

Tumiso: Thanks. Tota nna i was not comfortable with coming here while she was around.

Pearl: I told you that my mother doesn't have a problem with you at all . She knows about our relationship.

Tumiso: I know but it still doesn't feel right.

Pearl: You need to relax.

He narrowed his eyes and listened carefully.

Pearl: What?

Tumiso: I think that was a knock i heard.

Pearl: Uhu! She came back so soon.

Tumiso: Your mum?

Pearl: I think so. I am not expecting anyone so it can only be her.

Tumiso: Okay. We will get the door.

She kissed her son and fixed his little beanie.

Justin: Just take it off. The boy is burning.

He pulled it off then carried him all the way to the living room to get the door. As soon as he opened the door, his whole world sunk. He opened his mouth but failed to utter a single word. It was as if

he had forgotten to talk.

Dineo: Who is this kid?

Tumiso: Baby i can explain.

Pearl: Babe!

She called him out all the way from the passage...
Things soon became very uncomfortable for him
and as soon as Pearl stood next to him, he handed
the baby back to her.

Dineo: So my love, who is this lovely lady? And the
child?

Tumiso: I..I..

Pearl: Tell her who i am.

The way that his wife was so calm scared him. This
was so unlike her. No matter what happend, he

couldn't confess. There was no way that he would just hand himself over just like that. He silently took a deep breath then quickly thought of a way out...

Tumiso: I gave her a ride here and when we got here, she asked me to hold her baby while she changed.

Pearl stood back and laughed...

Pearl: So you have forgotten how you were screaming ontop of me when we made this baby? Ebile today you don't know his name.

Dineo: Yes girl. Spill the beans.

His heart began to race as Dineo sat comfortably on the couch.

Dineo: This must be Pearl. The famous Pearl that has been ruining my marriage.

She looked at the baby and shook her head.

Dineo: And this must be Tumiso Junior.

Tumiso: I don't know what this woman is talking about.

[02/07, 08:33] : Dear Carol

#41

Pearl looked into Tumiso's eyes but he couldn't be bothered.

Dineo: I hope that you don't mind me interrupting your family time. Since we are a family, I didn't think that you would mind if I came.

Pearl: Oh no. I have been dying to meet you. It's only that your husband has not made it possible.

Dineo: So how many kids do you have together?

Tumiso looked at his wife and shook his head.

Tumiso: So you are honestly gonna believe this little tramp?

Dineo: Is there any reason why i should doubt her?

Pearl: So i am now a tramp? Are you forgetting that we made plans together?

Tumiso: Like i said, i don't know what you are talking about.

Pearl: Are you really going to deny your own son?

Tumiso: This boy is not mine. I told you that i am committed to my wife and i love her.

Dineo: (Laughed) I thought you didn't know her...

Tumiso: I don't know her. She has been trying to win me over but i have made it clear to her that my heart only beats for one woman and that is my wife.

Pearl:Then maybe it's time for a DNA test. That way we will be able to know the truth.

Pressure built up and even he could see that there was no escape.

Tumiso: Sleeping with you at times does not necessarily mean that this is my child.

Dineo: So how long have you two been sleeping together?

Pearl: For a very long time.

Dineo: What's a very long time?

Pearl: Your wedding anniversary comes after ours.

Although she tried to be strong, something inside of her shut down...

Dineo: Yet he says that he doesn't know you?

Pearl: I am sorry to have to tell you this but your whole marriage has been a lie. Your husband

doesn't love you and that's why he has kept me for all these years even when you two got married.

Dineo secretly put her phone on voice recorder.

Dineo: So you knew that he was married?

Pearl: I have always known. Even when he made plans to marry you, i was the first to know.

Dineo: Then why did you stay with him? Why did you choose to destroy my marriage all these years?

Pearl: Because i love him and he loves me.

Dineo: Tumiso do you have anything to say?

He breathed heavily as if he had just finished an intensive activity.

Tumiso: Babe i am sorry.

She put on her brave face and stood up.

Dineo: So it's all true?

Tumiso: I was just fooling around. It was nothing serious.

Pearl looked at Tumiso and spat on him...

Pearl: Serious or not, we have a child together so that means that we are stuck with each other.

Tumiso: And what if that child is not mine? Have you considered that?

Dineo looked at the two as they tore each other up and shook her head. Her husband had just admitted that he had cheated on her for the very first time.

Dineo: So you admit that you cheated on me?

He closed his eyes and sighed...What else could he do? Everything had happened so quickly and he had lost control of the situation.

Tumis o: Honey i swear that it meant nothing. Yes i will admit that this has been going on for a very long time but like i said it meant nothing.

Dineo: If at all this meant nothing as you say then why did you keep her all these years? Why have a child outside our marriage when i have given you children year after year?

Tumis o: I am sorry. I am only human and i make mistakes. At first i did it for fun but as time went on, i realised that leaving her would be dangerous because she was already threatening me.

He knelt before his wife and closed his eyes blocking his tears. From the moment she had walked in, he had done everything to show her that

he worshiped her that even Pearl began to doubt his feelings for her. Her throat dried up and became really sore. The pain that she felt was nothing compared of any of the one she had felt before.

Pearl: J ust like that? Tumiso we have a son and so much more. Remember that you were gonna leave her.

Tumiso: No. That's not true. I was never gonna leave. If i wanted you then i would have married you.

She looked at her son with tears streaming on her face. All those years that she had wasted haunted her. She had spent almost all her good years being faithful to another woman's husband who had just proved that she was nothing before her eyes. Each time she looked at her son, she became so furious with herself. Why had she allowed herself to give a married man a child? How could she have been so blind and stupid.

Pearl: If you leave me, i will sue you for everything you have. You and your wife. Do you think you can just get me pregnant, waste my time and get away with it? I will sue you.

Dineo: And i will double sue you for marriage wrecking. Akere ebile you knew that he was married all these years.

Pearl: So you honestly think that if you were to sue me, i would happily admit all this in court? My case is simple. Your husband hid the truth about his marriage all those years and got me pregnant. How will you prove that i knew? It's his word against mine. A poor broken woman who's time has been wasted by a married man that couldn't keep his pants zipped.

Dineo saved the recording and backed it up on her cloud before playing it.

Dineo: And what if i told you that i have all the proof that i need? Who do you think the J udge will believe when he hears all this?

Pearl: Get out of my house.

She put her son on the play mat then went into the kitchen and came back with a broom.

Pearl: Take your cheating husband and leave.

Dineo: Or else what?

She laughed as she sat down.

Dineo: You will beat me into a pulp and build me an even stronger case?

Tumiso: Honey let's just go.

Dineo: You don't have the right to make any demands right now. Shut up and sit down.

She clicked her tongue and pointed at Pearl.

Dineo: Same goes for you.

She reluctantly sat and faced a different direction.

Dineo: Now this is what you two will do. You will break up and have no contact with each other. That child will be tested and if it turns out that it's my husband's, he and i will agree on an amount that we will contribute each month. When i say contribute, i mean just that. We will be meeting you halfway so you have no right to tell us how much you want.

Pearl got the shook of her life as Tumiso kept quiet the entire time... You would swear that he was not even there.

Pearl: Even if i can break up with your husband, he will remain a cheat.It's in his blood.

Dineo: And you think i don't know that? I know my husband in and out and that is why i will never leave him for anybody. The problem with you women is that when a man cheats on his wife with you, you become too comfortable and get a big head. You start seeing yourself as better than her forgetting that your borrowed happiness is hers and she can take it back anytime. Nnaka hao jola le monna o nyetseng, o tshwana le motho a adimilwe BX. Le o ka e packer fa pele ga ntlu ya gago ga e kitla enna ya gago. Le o ka e tlhatswa wa e phatsimisa yang, enna hela ere BX. Yone enna ele ya ga govy.

(dating a married man is like being given a company car. Even if you can pack it at your yard, it will never be yours. You will never gain it's ownership no matter how much you take care of it or even shine it. At the end of the day, it's not yours. Period!)

She stood up and took her husband's hand.

Dineo: I hope that you enjoyed the stolen moments you two had because it ends here...

A week later

Mothusi fixed his suit and took a deep breath before walking into Asa's office.

Asa: Somebody looks sharp.

Mothusi: I am here about my son.

Asa: Goodmorning to you too. There is no need to be rude.

Mothusi: I have been waiting for your call all week.

Asa: Akere you are here now so what's the problem.

Mothusi: So where is he? When do we do a DNA?

Asa: Justin will be away on a work trip in a few days. I was thinking that we can go then. I know that i

have kept you waiting but i was thinking that you two can even spend some time together. I know a certain lab that can do the tests on the same day
What do you think?

He stood up and laughed...

Mothusi: I think that you haven't changed one bit. You and i are cut from the same cloth. You can never fool me. I know you too well. Thanks for wasting my time. I will take it from here. You better believe that i am coming back for my son.

Asa: Mothusi please just gi...

He walked out and she ran behind him...

Later that say

At J ustin's Office

Mothusi confidently walked into Justin's office an...

.

.

.

Morning. Fell asleep while editing. It's 04:40. Hope am not too late

[02/07, 08:34] : Dear Carol

#42

Later that day

At Justin's Office

Mothusi confidently walked into Justin's office and greeted him. While Justin was still shocked, he pulled a chair and sat down.

Justin: I thought we agreed that you are not welcome here.

Mothusi: We did but what had brought me here is a pressing matter that i could not ignore.

Justin: I am honestly not interested in anything you have to say because like i said, i want nothing to do with you.

Mothusi; Trust me, i also don't want to be here but i can't sit back and watch you claim my son while i am alive.

Justin: Your son?

Mothusi: I understand that i destroyed your relationship and hurt you but how do you claim another man's son and raise him as your own?

Justin put away his phone and listened attentively.

Justin: Listen man, if you have anything to say then

be straight up. Right now i don't understand what you are talking about.

Mothusi: Don't tell me that you believe that child is yours.

J ustin shook his head and laughed.

J ustin: So is this payback time? Are you honestly going to use my son to hurt me?

Mothusi: No! My son.

J ustin: I don't know what kind of a sick game you think you are playing but it's not funny man. I understand that we have had our differences but bringing an innocent child into it is below the belt. I know that it must have been hard to watch As a pick me over and over again but it was bound to happen. You had an affair with her knowing very well that she and i were together and planning to get married. That boy was conceived after you two broke up so there is no way that he is yours.

Mothusi: Who says we had broken up?

Justin: Aren't you the one that came here and told me that you had stopped seeing her?

Mothusi: Listen man, i am sorry that i put you through hell but i had to tell you what you wanted to hear. I also did everything to keep my job. Asa and i only stopped sleeping together when i left the country. If that boy is two years and a few months old then there is a possibility that he is mine.

Justin held his chest and loosened his tie as his heart rate increased... He took a deep breath and stood up holding his head.

Justin: Look man, i know that we have had our differences but this is serious. Use anything you can to hurt me but don't use my little boy.

Mothusi: I am a lot of things but i would never use an innocent child to settle my scores. Think about it. You and Asa try to conceive for years then when

she cheats, boom! the bun is in the oven. Isn't that a bit strange? I mean haven't you thought about it?

He took a deep breath as his wife's words played in his head like that of a broken record. How could it be? There was no way. That little boy was his.

Justin: It can't be!

Mothusi: I am sorry that i had to be the one to tell you this. I have been begging Asa for a DNA test but she won't act so the only thing i could do was come here. Should this also fail then i will have to engage my lawyers.

Mothusi took out his business card then placed it on the table.

Mothusi: Please give me a call when you are ready to find out the truth.

Justin failed to even utter a single...

Mothusi: I will be waiting for your call.

He stood up and left...

With an aching head and a bleeding heart, Justin rested his head on the table and breathed heavily as everything went blurry.

At Pearl's

Asa took off her shoes and paced around the living room while her friend breastfeed her baby.

Pearl: Stop pacing around like that. You are making the baby restless.

Asa: Tsala nemma what should i do? Kana it's only a matter of time till Mothusi goes to J ustin.

Pearl: What do you want to do? Do you want to kill Mothusi Asa?

Asa: Ofcourse not. I need to stop him.

Pearl: Then give the man what he wants. Go for a DNA test.

Asa: And what if J J is his? What do i do then? Do you have any idea what will happen to me and J ustin? Are you forgeting that he is still not divorced yet. This will be a chance for that witch to come and claim him back.

Pearl: Asa wee, i have bigger problems hlamma. I can't be sitting here worrying about yours. Tumiso's wife wants to sue me and wena you are telling me about someone's wife that might also sue you.

Asa: What should i do?

Pearl: J ust take the damm DNA test and stop acting like you are the only one with problems.

Asa: Then what? What if i lose everything?

Pearl: Kante mme gone don't you want to know the father of your child? This little show has been going on for a while. Maybe it's time you also knew the truth

Asa: Have you forgotten what you said?

Pearl: I say a lot of things and i am also human. I could have been wrong at the time.

Asa: Ao mma! Why does it sound like you don't care.

Pearl: Asa i am dealing with a lot at the moment. Right now you are being selfish by expecting me to worry about your problems.

Asa: Iyoo! I am sorry for bothering you. Let me leave seeing that i am not welcome here.

At GPH

I sat in the waiting room and made a few calls while the doctor attended to Justin.

Mma J ustin: My girl. Where you able to get to him?

Me: Emma. The doctor is still attending to him.

When do you think you will get here? I need to get back to work and attend to a few things.

Mma J ustin: I am not sure my child. Tota i could have long left but Tebogo is not here yet. Can't you stay with him for tonight then i will take over tomorrow?

Me: I am sorry but i can't. Maybe you can call Asa and ask her.

Mma J ustin: Ao ngwanaka. How can i ask Asa to stay with my son while he has a wife?

Me: Mme have you forgotten that J ustin and i are no longer together?

Mma J ustin: That's not what i heard. The last time i checked, you two were still married.

Me: Look Mme i respect you so much but i am going to have to remind you that your son and i are married only on paper. I am only here because you asked me to come not because i am obliged to.

Mma J ustin: I didn't expect this from you my girl. I know that you two have had your differences but for you to forsake my son the most when he needs you. It is true that you girls are only supportive only when it suits you. You have forgotten that my son married you. Even to this day you are using our surname.

Me: I respect you so much and i don't want to disrespect you in any way. The same man you are asking me to play caretaker to broke my heart. While he claimed to want this marriage, he got back with his ex. The divorce is not final yet but because he is a man he can do what he wants and nna because i am a woman, i am expected to jump when he needs me. I am sorry Mme but i refuse this kind of abuse. As soon as your son has been discharged, i am taking him home. As a can take care of him. Nna tota i am busy.

At J ustin's Office

Asa waited for Lereo by the reception area for a few minutes before she marched to his office. She knocked then budged in before he could give her the go ahead to enter.

Asa: I have been waiting for over twenty minutes. They long said you would attend to me.

Lereo: I apologize about that. I was on a zoom meeting.

Asa: So where is your boss?

Lereo: He collapsed about an hour ago.

Asa: I didn't say what happend to him. I said where is he?

Lereo: Unfortunately i do not know. His wife has not called to let us know.

Asa: Wife? Those two are getting a divorce.

Lereo: She is his next of Kin.

Asa: Next of kin ya diodisele.

She clicked her tongue and took off...

A few hours later

At J ustin's

I waited for everyone to finish eating before taking the plates to the kitchen.

Mma J ustin: Mma Morule please talk to your daughter. I know that they have had their misunderstandings but for her to leave my son for the dead like that is now crazy.

Mma Dineo: Where do i even begin? You know that this child doesn't listen to me.

I cleared my throat and sat down.

Me: I have given him his pills. I will come and see him tomorrow.

Mma Dineo: J ust like that? Carol how do you leave your sick husband to sleep elsewhere?

Me: Everyone just keeps saying husband this husband that. Where was everyone when he moved on with Asa three months after we separated? Was he not a husband then? Please don't make me feel bad about not sleeping over because whatever we had with J ustin is over. I am here not because i am obliged but because i want to be here so please don't push me into a place where i will lose interest. I will see you tomorrow.

I grabbed my bag and left.

[02/07, 08:34] : Dear Carol

#43

At J ustin's

Asa unstrapped her son from the car sit then carried him to the door. She tried her keys but it was already unlocked so she headed straight in. As soon as she stepped inside the living room, she was confronted by Mma Justin.

Asa: Hello Mme.

She put her son down...

Mma Justin: What are you doing here?

Asa: I heard about what happend to Justin so i thought i should come by and see if he is ok.

Mma Justin: Come by as who?

She bowed her head and took a deep breath.

Asa: Mmme i know that you don't like me but i didn't come here to cause any trouble. I just wanted to make sure that Rragwe J J is fine.

Mma J ustin: Then you should have called.

Asa: He was not taking my calls.

Mma J ustin: Maybe that's because he doesn't want to talk to you.

Asa: If at all he feels that way then he will tell me. I have been really nice to you all this time while you disrespected me but maybe i need to remind you that i am in J ustin's life to stay. He and i have a son together and of lately,we have been trying to rebuild our relationship . It's only a matter of time. Wena wait till that divorce is final. I am not going anywhere so get used to it.

Mma J ustin clapped her hands...

Mma J ustin: It's nice to see that you have so much confidence but let me also remind you that this is

still Carol's house. J ust because you and my son are sleeping with each other again does not mean that he will marry you. The fact that his wife wants a divorce does not mean that she can't change her mind. Stay humble because men will always be men. A metlholo! (wonders shall never end.).

Asa: Nothing you say or do will change the fact that J ustin loves me and i love him.

Mma J ustin: Such a pity that it did not stop you from cheating on him.

Asa: Cheating happens all the time. No one is perfect mosadimogolo (old lady). Even J ustin cheated on your precious daughtet inlaw.

J ustin cleared his throat and walked into the living room.

Asa: Babe!

She ran towards him and hugged him but he

pushed her back. J J on the other hand ran and jumped on his father.

Asa: Are you fine? I heard about what happend at the office today.

J ustin: Mme can you please take J J outside, i need to talk to his mum.

Mma J ustin picked up her grands on and dissaappeared upstairs with him.

Asa: Your mum still hates me.

J ustin: Who is J J 's father?

As much as she was trying to stay composed,one could see that she was cracking.

Asa: What are you talking about?

Justin: You know exactly what i am talking about.

Asa:(laughed) Don't tell me that you believe Mothusi. You know very well that he is bitter that you fired him and i choose you.

Justin: I am going to ask you one more time and this time i hope that you tell the truth because i don't know what i will do to you if you breath more lies.

His face changed and so did the atmosphere...

Asa: You are his father!

Justin strangled her looking straight into her eyes before letting her go.

Justin: I said who is that boy's father!

She breathed heavily as tears streamed from her eyes. She opened her mouth and he pulled her towards him by the dress she was wearing.

Justin: You better not make any noise.

She nodded softly and she wiped her tears.

Justin: Otloga o nyela kana Asa. I asked you a simple question and you are here crying and playing victim. Please don't give me any reason to kill you.

She held her mouth and sniffed as he held her by the wrist.

Justin: Now let's try again. Who is the father of that boy?

Asa: I...I don't know.

Justin: What do you mean you don't know.

He gently twisted her wrist and she flinched...

Justin: If i was you then i would start talking because i can do worse than this.

Asa:(Crying) I honestly don't know. It could be any of you.

Justin: Meaning what?

Asa: I was sleeping with both of you at the same time.

He let go of her then sat on the floor holding his head...

Asa:(Crying) I am sorry Jay but that little boy will always be your son no matter what.

Justin: Asa do you understand the seriousness of

this issue? Do you understand how i would have ruined my life and marriage if that little boy is not mine?

Asa: But you are the only father he knows.

Justin: I want a DNA test.

Asa: And what if he is not yours? Do you know how much that will break his heart? Justin that little boy loves you.

Justin: I can't believe all this. So you want all of us to live a lie just to save your ass? Koore Carol warned me about you yet i didn't listen.

Asa: Listen to me Jus...

Justin: Shut up! Shut the hell up and leave my house. I don't want to hear anything from that mouth. Tomorrow we are doing a DNA and that's that.

She knelt before him but he stood up and stormed off to his room.

At Dineo's

Tumiso circled his food while his wife cleared her plate.

Dineo: Is there anything wrong with the food?

Tumiso: No. Not at all. I am just not hungry.

Dineo: I thought you said you were hungry.

Tumiso: Well. Not really.

She pulled his plate towards her and took a bite from his food.

Dineo: Relax. I didn't put any poison in here. If i wanted to kill you then i would have strangled you in your sleep.

She laughed and passed the plate to him.

Dineo: Stop being uptight. I am not gonna do anything to you. If at all i wanted to do something then i would have done it a long time ago. Nna kana i know you too well. I know that you can't keep your pants zipped.

He cleared his throat and looked away.

Dineo: You just need to make sure that what you did doesn't happen again because i am not sure if i will be able to resist the edge to kill you this time around.

She stood up and giggled...

Dineo: Let's go to bed. Remember that tomorrow we are going to see that son of yours.

At Pearl's

Mma Mosu held her grands on while her daughter sobbed besides her.

Mma Mosu: How long will you cry my girl? You need to dust yourself and move on.

Pearl: Mme how do i move on? That man and i have a son together. We have been together for all these years.

Mma Mosu: Uhu! Akere there are so many men in this town. What makes you think that you won't find anyone?

Pearl: Mme kana i have a child that's not even a year old yet. While Tumiso moves on with his wife, i will be here nursing his son and playing mum.

Mma Mosu: Who says you have to? Akere ke teng Pearl, kante o tshoswa keeng ka ke tla tsaa ngwana o enna wame? (I don't know why you are freaking out when you have me because i will take this child and raise as my own). Wena you can move on with

your life my girl. Make sure that this time you get a rich single man. These married ones can be useless.

Pearl: Mma you know just how much i love Tumiso. I can't just move on.

Mma Mosu: You can't just move on mathata ele eng kante? Do you think that love will pay the bills? How will we maintain this lifes tyle with the peanuts Tumiso's wife gives you?

Pearl: I am going to take a shower.

Mma Mosu: Go! Maybe you will be able to think like a normal person when you come back.

At home

I sat up and took J ustin's call even though i was not up to it.

Me: Hie

J ustin: Hey

Me: How are you feeling?

Justin: I don't know. I really don't know Carol. To be honest with you, i wish had died instead.

Me: Uhu! Kante what's going on?

I turned on the side lamp...

Justin: There is a possibility that the boy is not mine.

Me: Huh?

Justin: Yeah. You were right. Asa is not who i thought she was. She is not even sure herself.

Koore no one knows who that boy belongs to.

Me: Oh.

Justin: Is that all you are going to say?

Me: What do you want me to say when you almost crucified me for saying that? I honestly don't know what's new.

He swallowed a lump and closed his eyes. He felt like the world was coming to an end.

Justin: I am sorry for bothering you.

I could pick the pain in his voice but at the same time, i was so angry with him. How could he have been so stupid? I warned him but he choose her over and over again.

Justin: I am sorry.

Me: I will come and see you tomorrow. Hang in there.

Justin: Carol!

Me: Rra?

Justin: I am sorry i was such a fool.I should have listened to you.

Me: It's cool my guy. Go to bed, i will see you tomorrow. Be strong.

I hung up and said a prayer before i went back to sleep.

The following day

At J ustin's

After taking his morning jog, J ustin sat at the patio and called Mothusi.

Mothusi: Hello.

J ustin: Hie Mothusi. J ustin here.

Mothusi: Oh hie man. I wasn't expecting your call so soon.

J ustin: Are you interested in doing a DNA together?

Mothusi: Yes. Yes. I would love that.

J ustin: Okay. I am not going to work today so i

figured that we can have it today.

Mothusi: So soon?

J ustin:The sooner the better. I need to know the truth.

Mothusi: That's fine. Tell me when and where and i will be there.

J ustin: Cool. I will share the details with you in an hour or so.

Mothusi: Thanks man.

At Asa's

[02/07, 08:34] : Dear Carol

#44

At Asa's

Asa picked up her phone and dialled J ustin's number...She bit her nails and took a deep breath

while it rang.

Justin : Asa

Asa: Hey. How are you feeling today?

Justin: Can you please drop off JJ at my place, I would like to spend the day with him.

Asa: Ok. Look about last night, i am really so...

Justin: It's all in the past now.

Asa: So you are letting it go?

Justin : Like you said, i am the only father that boy knows.

Asa: Am glad to hear that you have come back to your senses. Mothusi was just being spiteful.

Justin: Emma. So when will you bring him?

Asa: I will drop him off now.

Justin: Thanks. I will see you in a bit.

At Pearl's

Mma Mosu packed up all her grandson's clothes together with hers in a suitcase. She looked around to see if there was anything she had forgotten then sat on the bed waiting for her daughter who was in the bathroom.

Pearl: Morning Mme

Mma Mosu: Hello my girl. That was quick.

Pearl looked at the suitcase and laughed...

Pearl: Are you tired of me already?

Mma Mosu: I have been here for a while now. I need to go back home. There are things i need to attend to.

Pearl: What about about me and Prince? You know that i have no one here.

Mma Mosu: Don't worry about Shimane. I am taking

him with me. Infact i have packed up all his things with mine. Wena you can now go back to work and continue with your life.

Pearl: Mme you can't just take him. What about his father? What do i say to him? What about me?

Mma Mosu: Which father? The one that barely comes to see him? The same one that takes instructions from his wife? Wena you can continue with your life. You are still too young to be tied down by a child my girl. This one will be my responsibility from now on. Focus on your healing and finding a new man.

She looked at her son who was rested peacefully ontop of the bed and tears filled her eyes.

Everything about him reminded her of the father and the love they once shared or the one she had believed they shared. She had planned her entire life around him with hopes that he would one day leave his wife for her.

Pearl: My son is not going anywhere. His father will be back and we will be a family again.

Mma Mosu: You honestly believe that?

She wiped her tears and picked up her son.

Pearl: Mme there is a reason why Tumiso has never left me all those years. He loves me.

Mma Mosu: (laughed) You are my daughter and i know that you are way smarter than this. My child, you need to be smart in such situations.

Pearl: It's only a matter of time.

Mma Mosu: I hate to hurt you with the truth but that's the only thing i can do for you my child.

Married men don't just leave their wives especially after so many years. This is why a woman should never get attached to a married man. The only thing you should have focused your energy and mind on was his money.

Pearl: My son is going nowhere. If you want to leave

then you can go. Tumiso will be back.

Her mother clapped her hands and shook her head.

Mma Mosu: And you think that his wife will let him walk out just like that?

She ignored her mother began to undress Prince.

At my house

I took a deep breath and cursed before taking my mother's call. I knew my mother very well and i didn't have to think long and hard about why she was calling. I just knew.

Me: Morning mum.

Mma Dineo: Carol what exactly do you think you are

doing? Do you think that you will ever be able to save your marriage with this kind of behaviour?

Me: Hello to you too mum.

Mma Dineo: Don't hello me, i am still speaking. What you did yesterday was very inhuman. Carol married women don't behave the way that you did especially when their in-laws are around. Nna tota i was very embarrassed. I am still failing to understand how a wife neglects her husband when he needs her the most. Couldn't you atleast wait till he had healed?

Me: Can i speak?

Mma Dineo: Buwa ee monna.

Me: I never said anything about saving my marriage because i want out. When i said i am getting a divorce, i meant it. I may be Justin's wife on paper but he has a wife that he has choosen. It's only a matter of time till they make things official.

Mma Carol: Make what official when he is still married to you?

Me: He may still be married to me but he has moved on. Tota being married to me has never stopped him from being with that woman. She should be the one nursing him, not me.

Mma Carol: Are you forgetting that this man paid his bride price and took vows?

Me: (Laughed) So the bride price he paid gives him the right to do anything and everything? What about the vows? Was it not him that broke them? I fail to understand why i am always being scolded like a child while the person that ended this marriage is left to do as he pleases. Is it because i am a woman?

Mma Dineo: Carol married women don't behave like you do. You need to hold on and fight for your marriage.

Me: You know mama, women like you are the reason other women are stuck in abusive marriages. Instead of being a supportive mother that listens, you want to force me to stay in a marriage that i no longer want just because you want to save face.

Have you thought about me? How i feel and what i went through? Do you know that i loved this man with every fibre of my being and he broke me so many times yet i forgave him? Do you know that there were months where i begged him to touch me? Have you ever taken time to find out how i feel now?

Mma Dineo: I hear you my girl but i know that you two still love each other and you can fix things.

Me: The problem is that you just assume without finding out how i feel. Mama i have fallen out of love with that man and i am not interested in him anymore. I am honestly waiting for the divorce to be finalised. And yes married women don't behave like me. Akere you people have brainwashed them into believing that they need to stay no matter what.

Mma Dineo: You are going to regret this deci...

I hung up on her and clicked my tongue...

At J ustin's

Justin: I didn't tell her anything about the DNA test. She believes that everything is back to normal so you are gonna have to hide when she gets here.

Mothusi: What about J J ? Won't he tell her?

Justin: I don't know but even if he does, we will be done by then.

Mothusi: I don't understand why this has to be done behind her back. She needs to know that the truth will come out.

Justin: If we tell her then she might make things difficult for us. Trust me, i know how that woman's head works.

Mothusi: You are right. Where do i wait when she gets here?

Justin: Go to the guestroom upstairs.

Mothusi: What about your mum?

Justin : I will talk to her. Now go. She will be here anytime from now.

After his friend had disappeared upstairs, he went into the kitchen to speak with his mother.

Justin: Hi Mom.

Mom Justin: What to

Justin: How are you?

Mom Justin: I should be asking you that. Are you taking your medication?

Justin: Emma is here.

Mom Justin : Where did your friend go? I made some breakfast.

Justin: He is upstairs. Asa will be here just now to drop off JJ . Please don't mention that my friend is here.

She put down the plates she was holding and looked at him with her eyes narrowed.

Mma J ustin: Do you want to tell me what's going on?

J ustin: I will but not now. J ust give me till the end of the day then i will tell you when i get back.

Mma J ustin: Are you fine? Is everything ok?

J ustin: Emma.

Mma J ustin: J ustin

J ustin: Mma?

Mma J ustin: I am very dissapointed in you. I know that you do stupid things at times but i didn't think that you could go this far. I thought you loved your wife and you wanted your marriage to work.

J ustin: I do. I really do but i came to accept that it would never work out. Carol doesn't want me and there is nothing i can do.

Mma J ustin: So you think moving on with Asa even way before the divorce is a good decision?

J ustin: I know it's not but all this waiting is driving me insane.

Mma J ustin: I am dis s apointed in you my son. Infact i am deeply hurt. Even to this day, you are still breaking your vows. Can you imagine how embarassed i feel after scolding Carol that she doesn't care about you? I now understand. That poor child is fed up. I would have also walked away if my husband kept betraying me with the same woman.

J ustin: Mum i waited for Carol for months. I didn't just move on.

Mma J ustin: If she also moves on while you wait for the divorce, please don't complain or get sick. Make sure that you are strong just as she is.

Two days later...

At J ustin's

Mothusi and J ustin looked at each other and sighed. One could tell that they were nervous from a

distance.

Mothusi: Let's open it.

Justin: (Sighed) I don't know man. I don't know anymore. What if he is not mine? Mothusi that little boy knows me as his father. I was there from the very first time i found out about him. Even when his mother was giving birth.

Mothusi: And what if he is mine? Where do i begin? What about all the lost time? What if he doesn't accept me?

Mma Justin looked to the other side and wiped her tears...

Her son was miserable and knowing that there was nothing that she could do to take away the misery broke her.

J ustin: Mme did you call Carol just like i asked you?

God knows how much she wanted to avoid the question.

Mma J ustin: Yes.

J ustin: And?

Mma J ustin: She is not coming.

J ustin: Did you explain to her why i wanted her to be here?

Mma J ustin: Yes my boy but like i said, she is not coming.

Mothusi: Can we please deal with the issue at hand. You can deal with your shenanigans later. I need to be somewhere.

J ustin: Doc have you tried calling yout friend?

Kagelo forced a smile and opened the enevelope.

Kagelo: Let's get to this. I need to get back to the clinic.

Mothusi: That's what i want to hear.

Justin: I am sorry for keeping you waiting. Thank you so much for coming down here to help us understand the results . We probably wouldn't have known what they meant.

Kagelo: It's okay. Anyway this envelop i am holding belongs to Justin.

Mma Justin: What does it say?

She read it then put on a straight face...

Kagelo: You are not a match.

Justin: Meaning?

Kagelo: That boy is not yours.

Justin: Are you sure? Please read it again doc.

He began to sweat buckets...Everything in him felt numb as she opened the second envelop.

Kagelo: This one is Mothusi's.

Mothusi: Am i a father or not?

His heart raced as she looked at it...

Kagelo: He is yours without a shadow of doubt...

Mothusi: I knew it.

He closed his eyes and blocked his tears. On the other side Justin was trying his best not to fall apart but even his manly strength failed him. He began to sob without a care.

[02/07, 08:35] : Dear Carol

#45

The following day

At J ustin's

Tebogo put the tray of tea she was holding on the table then sat down...

Mma J ustin: Thank you my girl. Thanks to everyone that came at such short notice. I know that everyone is busy but this was important and it couldn't wait.

J ustin looked at me and closed his eyes. Whatever he was going through was eating him to the core.

Me: I am sorry to ask but what is the agenda of this

meeting?

Mma J ustin: I will get to that just now.

J ustin: I honestly don't understand what the whole point of this meeting is right now. We should be asking this woman why she lied to me about being the father of her child.

Asa looked at him and shook her head...

Asa: I can't believe that you are going to believe the guy that almost ruined us over me. I told you that Mothusi being bitter.

J ustin: And what about the DNA results?

She looked around to see everyone's reaction and began to panick.

Asa: So your mother called a meeting to discuss the DNA of my son? Le gone with all these strangers.

I rolled my eyes and laid back.

Me: Trust me, i didn't wanna come here but i thought of all the action i would miss. Tota gape le gone this is still my house.

My mothet gave me a stare and i couldn't help but giggle.

Justin: We have already taken two DNA tests from two different labs and all of them prove that i am not the father. We even asked two different doctors to help us interpret the results.

Asa: If you are not the father then who is?

Justin: You know very well who the father is.

Asa: Those DNA tests are wrong Justin. You are the father. JJ is yours. I swear to God that your wife is setting me up.

Justin: Are you denying the fact that you slept with Mothusi while we were together?

Asa: I didn't say that i am. All i am saying is that there are a lot of people that don't want to see us together. I mean even your mum hates me.

Tebogo stood up and clicked her tongue.

Tebogo: Mo go Mme ke nyedis a motho. Otswe hela mo go Mme hlamma. (Mention my mother one more time and all hell will break lose). Just admit that those DNA results are correct.

Asa: I don't know what you are talking about.

Tebogo: And what about the conversation you had with your friend two years ago? Wasn't it you that said Justin shouldn't conduct a DNA test because you were not sure who the father of the child is?

Everyone's jaws dropped as we listened to the two...

Justin: So you knew?

He stood up and sat on the floor.

Justin: So you knew that there was a possibility that this child was not mine for two years yet you decided to keep quiet?

You didn't need a sharp eye to see that the man was broken.

Tebogo: I am sorry but it was not my place. I was not even sure about what they were saying. You need to understand that i couldn't just make accusations.

Mma Justin: (Astonished) Am i being punished?

Justin tried to keep composed by taking deep breaths but even that couldn't stop the tears that filled his eyes.

Justin: So for two good years, i bonded with a son that was not mine and even lost my marriage while my own sister watched from a distance. Don't bullshit me about accusations. You knew all this and decided to keep quiet?

Tebogo: It wasn't my place.

Asa: I don't care about what those DNA results say. JJ is yours and nothing or nobody can change that.

I stood up and picked my bag...

Me: I am sorry but i am gonna leave. I have no business in being here.

Asa: Atleast you know that.

Justin: Shut the hell up Asa! Shut up! You lie to me

and make a fool out of me then come here thinking that you can order my wife around.

Me: Like i said, i have no business in being here.

Justin i am sorry that you are going through all this.

I really hope you move past it. Mma thank you for inviting me but i don't wanna be here.

Mma Dineo: Carol sit down!

I ignored her and walked out...

Five Months later

I collected all the photographs of Justin and i then packed them away. Today was the day and i somehow felt indifferent. All these months i had fought so hard to make sure that the divorce was finalized but now that the day

had come, i didn't know how to feel.

Kagelo: Babes?

I took a deep breath then sat next to her...

Kagelo: Are you sure about this?

Me:(Sighed) Yeah.

Kagelo: I understand that you are hurting and you want the pain to stop or maybe you are not hurting anymore because you have moved past the hurt and onto apathy or numbness where you just don't care anymore. Either way you are somewhere in a grief-loss matrix of what was and more importantly, what could have been. My friend before you sign those divorce papers today, i want you to understand this. The reality is that you are about to trade in one set of problems for another. The areas you feel as though you have little to no power will undoubtedly become exaggerated once you are divorced. Sometimes it is much easier to save a troubled marriage than end one and start over. I know that you think starting afresh is going to be

easier but that's not the case. I know that not all troubled marriages can be saved but what if yours can be? Isn't it worth finding out?

I closed my eyes and took a deep breath... The truth is that i wanted to feel the same way she felt but deep down i knew the truth. No matter how hard we worked on our marriage, things would never be the same again. I would always have to look over my shoulders.

Me: I know that you mean well but i am sure about what i am doing. Kagelo for the longest time i have been unhappy. I have settled for being the second choice and i have had to protect myself from a third party while a man i called my husband allowed her to come between us. The fact that J J is not J ustin's does not change anything. The pain and disrespect that i went through has not only changed me but it has changed my love for that man. I still love him and i care so much about him but not enough to

stay married to him.

Kagelo: I hear you. I just want you to be sure because once you sign, there is no coming back.

Me: Yeah.

Kagelo: Is your mum and sister coming?

Me: No. I actually haven't heard from those two in a while.

Kagelo: What about your mother inlaw?

Me: It wasn't easy but she has finally accepted that we are getting a divorce.

Kagelo: Well i am here and so is Bonye. We will support you all the way.

At Ofile's

Mmapula stood by the mirror and fixed her make up while Ofile got out of bed.

Mmapula: Gone mme are you not going to be late for work? Have you seen the time? Kana nna i have been trying to wake you up.

Ofile: I am actually not going to the office today. Remember that i told you that Carol is getting a divorce?

Mmapula: So?

Ofile: I am sure she needs some support so i will be going with Bonye to support her.

Mmapula: Are you serious? I mean are you seriously going to support your ex?

Ofile: She is not my ex. We are friends.

Mmapula: What about the little crush you had on her? And do you honestly trust this woman?

Ofile: What do you mean do i trust her? Why wouldn't i trust her?

Mmapula: I don't want this woman anywhere near you. Now that she is a divorcee, she is going to come after you.

Ofile: And me? What will i be doing that whole time?

Don't you trust me?

Mmapula: It's not about me trusting you. I know how women can be. Now that she is finally free, she will want to claim you.

Ofile: What do you mean claim me? Why are you saying it like i am some sort of prize?

Mmapula: I don't want you anywhere near that woman. Now i am going to work and i hope that you have heard me. I will see you later.

She picked up her car keys and left...

At J ustin's

Khumo patted his friend on the back then stood up.

Khumo: We have to go my guy. It's time up.

J ustin: (Sighed) Yeah neh. So it has really come to

this. I am really getting a divorce.

Khumo: Am sorry man.

Justin: How did i lose everything?

Khumo: Mme kana nna i told you that you shouldn't tell Carol anything. Maybe if you had just kept quiet, things would be different.

Justin: Khumo i love that woman with every fibre of my being, i couldn't keep lying to her. Even now, i don't wanna lose her. If i had any other choice then we wouldn't be getting this divorce.

Khumo: Am sorry man. You have done all that you could to save this marriage. You can't force this woman to be with you.

.

.

.

.

Will post another insert later. Dealing with the loss of a close family member. Will be traveling

tomorrow evening but your insert will be posted before i leave. Will resume posting on Monday.

Thanks

[02/07, 08:35] : Dear Carol

#46

Later that day

I looked at the mirror and smiled...Although a huge part of me was distressed, i was was somehow looking foward to this new chapter. Only God knew what was to come.

Bonye: That dress looks great on you.

I turned around and sighed...

Me: I didn't see you come in.

Bonye: I know. You looked distracted.

Me: I have just had a really long day and i am tired.

Bonye: I understand. You know it's okay to be sad. I mean all this is new and it will take a bit of time to get used to it.

Me: Yeah. I honestly don't know how to feel. I left my house this morning as Mrs Seleke and i am now back as just Carol Morule. You know Bonye, i thought that i would be really happy after getting that divorce but the truth is that i don't know where to start. I feel as if i am a totally different person. I am also scared. I have so many questions. Where does a divorcee start?

Bonye:I can't exactly say that i know how you feel but i can only imagine. It will definitely take some time for you to get used to all this. I would say start with yourself for now my friend. Start with finding healing for yourself. You have been through so much and i know that it will take some time for you to find inner peace.

Me: Yeah neh.

Bonye: Let's go and celebrate.

Me: Is Kagelo coming?

Bonye: Yes. She will meet us there.

At Ofile's

Mmapula threw her bag on the couch then sat on her husband's lap. She kissed him and held him.

Mmapula: Hey

Ofile: Hey

Mmapula: How was your day?

Ofile: It was fine thanks. How was yours?

Mmapula: Very slow and boring.

Ofile: Sounds like there wasn't much to do.

Mmapula: Yeah. So did you go anywhere interesting?

Ofile: Not really. I was here the whole day.

Mmapula: Good. I am glad to hear that you listen to me.

Ofile: This has nothing to do with me listening to you. It has everything to do with fact that i respect you. To be quite frank with you, i didn't like the way that you talked to me this morning.

Mmapula: So you are defending your little hoe after all?

Ofile: Don't call her that.

Mmapula: Why? What will you do to me? Gape le gone why are you so concerned about her? Do you still want her?

Ofile: I married you. Didn't i?

Mmapula: That doesn't mean anything. You can still sleep with her while you are married to me. You men are all the same. Not too different from dogs. You can feed it very nice food but it will still go next door and feed from the dustbin.

Ofile: Waitsi kana!

She stood up and sat on the chair, next to him.

Mmapula: As long as you are married to me , you will not stick your di... in another woman. No one is cheating on nobody.

Ofile:Pulie?

Mmapula:What?

Ofile: Have i ever given you a reason to doubt me?

Mmapula: That doesn't count for anything.

He swallowed a lump and cleared his throat.

Ofile: I don't know who you are and what you have done with my wife but by the time i get back, i hope to find her.

Mmapula: (Shouting) Get back from where? You are not going anywhere.

Ofile: Ke a bona gore yaanong wa ntalla ka gore ke

a go neneketsa. (I see that you are starting to be disrespectful just because i am very gentle with you).Now listen here, i married you because i love you and i was ready to be a husband. All that includes being here for you and respecting you. Just because we are married does not mean that you can disrespect me and control me. I am still a whole human being with a life and feelings. Respect me the same way i respect you and give me time just as i give you time to go out with your friends. Don't imprison me and dictate to me just because we are married. Each time you go out with your male friends, i don't treat you like this.

Mmapula: That's because you know that my male friends don't want me which is something we can't say about you.

Ofile: I am your husband and that means we are partners. No one is the boss of anybody. Let's respect each other.

Mmapula: When you married me, you gave me rights to be the boss of you. You committed to me and only me.

Ofile: That's where you are getting it wrong. I married you because i love you and i want to do this life with you by my side.

Mmapula: Either way. You are not going anywhere.

Ofile:I will be gone for just an hour or two. If you want then you can come with me. I just want to support Carol. If you don't feel so comfortable with me going alone then let's go. We won't even stay that long.

Mmapula: Over my dead body. Not me and definitely not my husband. That will be the day. Let that hoe deal with her divorce alone. She is the one that failed to keep her home. Why should we be dragged along?

Ofile: I will see you later.

He stood up and kissed her on the cheeks.

Mmapula:If you walk out that door then you shouldn't come back here and touch me. Infact

don't think that we will even share the same bed.

Ofile shook his head and grabbed his car keys.

Ofile: I hope you were not threatning me.

Mmapula: No i was not. I am simply telling you what will happen. You don't get to go out there and hoe around then come back here and get in between my legs.

Ofile: Bathong Mmapula! Kante what exactly is going on? What's wrong? Why are you so angry babe?

Mmapula: I said you are not going anywhere.

Ofile: I hope you recover from whatever is bothering you.

He patted her shoulder then left...

At J ustin's

Khumo refilled J ustin's whiskey glass then handed it to him. J ustin raised it and looked at it for a while.

J ustin: This is almost empty.

Khumo: J ay you need to slow down my man. This is whiskey. You can't drink it as if you are drinking some cider.

J ustin: That is my fuck*ng whiskey. I can drink it however way i want to.

Khumo: Hate to say this but alcohol won't bring back Carol. What's done is done. You need to accept it and move on.

J ustin: Fu*k you man! You know nothing about my marriage or my wife.

Khumo: I know that it hurts but you will heal in time.

J ustin: I am going to sue Asa. I will make sure that she suffers the same way that i am suffering.

Khumo: And you think that will bring back Carol? My friend i am gonna be honest with you. Once a woman reaches her breaking point, there is no turning back. That is exactly what i saw in Carol's eyes today. Maybe some day you two will find your way back to each other but for now you need to give her time. Let her heal and find herself. Even if you two fix things now, you will end up hurting each other.

J ustin: So what do i do with myself in the mean time?

Khumo: In the meantime, you work on yourself and heal. I know that you walk around like everything is fine but it can't be easy to deal with what you went through. You knew you had a son then the next day you woke up and found out he was not yours. That can not be an easy thing to deal with. You loved that boy.

J ustin: It doesn't matter anymore. I have lost everything.

Khumo: You can still fix things and get it all

back. Just allow yourself to heal.

Two Six Seven, Riverwalk

I walked into the newly opened restaurant with my girls. Everything about the place screamed class.

Bonye: This place is the bomb. You would swear that it's not in Gabz. I love everything about the decor.

Me: Yeah. Am impressed.

Kagelo: I hope the food matches the decor.

Me: You can say that again.

Bonye: By the way Ofile is joining us.

Me: I thought that this was meant to be a girl's outing.

Bonye: It was but he insisted. I couldn't really say no because he felt bad about not coming to support

you earlier on.

Me: I see.

Kagelo: Well i don't mind. I think the more the merrier.

Me: Let's get some drinks in the meantime.

Bonye: I like the sound of that.

At Mma Dineo's

Dineo browsed through Carol's wedding album while her mother read her bible.

Dineo: She looked really happy.

Mma Dineo: She was but she ruined it all.

Dineo: I still don't understand how Carol can take advice from people like Bonye. I mean she is not married and she knows nothing about marriage. Mama kana Carol is way too young to be a divorcee.

Koore where will she start?

Mma Dineo: Let her dance to the tune she selected on her own. We did everything we could to advice her as her parents but she didn't want to listen. There is nothing much we can do for her.

Dineo: Kana ene she thinks that it's all a fairytale. Marriage is hard. You need to fight with everything you have. Rona bo Dinny if we easily gave up then we would be divorced by now.

Mma Dineo: That's what i love about you my girl. You are strong and you have held on.

At Two Six Seven

Tumiso pulled out a chair for the young lady he was with then finally took a sit.

Tumiso: So we are here.

Emily: It's really nice.

Tumiso: Beautiful things for beautiful women.

Emily: Look i don't want any trouble. I only agreed to come here because you have been calling me non stop.

Tumiso: No one will get into trouble honey.

Emily: And your wife?

Tumiso: Leave that one to me. Wena tell me what you need in school. I am sure it can't be easy living on an allowance that is already very little.

Emily: Well what can we do.

Tumiso: Do you still live in that one room by Tlokweng?

Emily: Yeah.

Tumiso: So i was thinking that you can get a batchelor pad.

Emily: And pay for it with what money?

Tumiso: Honey i am here now. Senya nna ke tla patala.

.

.

Remember that i am traveling for the funeral today and posting will resume on Monday once the last insert has been posted. Thank you.

[02/07, 08:35] : Dear Carol

#47

At Two Six Seven

Ofile greeted us then sat down...Although there was a lot that had happend during the day, i was starting to feel a bit at ease.

Ofile: Sorry i couldn't come earlier. My day was super busy. How are you holding up?

Me: It's okay.

I looked at everyone and sighed...

Me: Honestly?

Ofile: Yes

Me: (Giggled) I honestly don't know. I am just numb but i feel relieved somehow.It's like the weight of the world has been lifted off my shoulders.

Ofile: As long as you are happy. That's all that matters.

Bonye: True. It will take a bit of time to get used to all this but you will be fine my friend.

Kagelo: So true. They say time heals.

Ofile: (Smiled) I would like to agree with Kagelo but that's just a clichè. One only heals when they confront their situations in time. You need to face this head on inorder to heal otherwise if you sweep it under the rug. It will dissapear for a while. Mme hela you need to know that anything can trigger it if it's not dealt with.

Me: Yes wena Mr Counseller.

Bonye: (Laughed) Enough with the soapy talks.

Let's get wasted!

Me: Now that sounds better.

Ofile: I hope you guys don't mind but i won't be staying for long.

Bonye: What's the rush? It's a Friday.

Me: So what are we having again?

Kagelo: I have ordered some shots for us.

Meanwhile Tumiso and Emily warmed up their evening by a bottle of champagne...You could tell that the young lady was not familiar with the bottle of wine that was before her.

Emily: I hope that i won't be sick by the end of the night. Nna tota wine is not my thing.

Tumiso: Babe this is not just some ordinary wine. This is champagne.

Emily: I am not sure if i want to have any.

Tumiso: Babe do you know how much this bottle costs? This is Moet.

Emily: Ok. Let's try.

At our table

While everyone drowned in their drinks, i looked around the restaurant and spotted my brother inlaw from a distance. There was nothing really new happening and i was not suprised at all because i had seen this so many times. I swallowed a lump as i thought of my dear sister that was always out to get me. Forever painting her marriage as the perfect one and acting strong. I honestly failed to understand how she kept it together all this time. How was one able to stay with such a disrespectful husband for so long? I sipped on my drink and ignored them.

At Nadia's

Mmapula took off her shoes and dipped her feet in the bowl of warm water. She laid back on the couch and closed her eyes.

Mmapula: Uhh...So relaxing.

Nadia: I told you that it would help.

Mmapula: Well it did help with my feelings. I wish it could also fix my marriage.

Nadia: I told you not to worry about Carol.

Mmapula: How can i not worry about her while my husband is with her right now?

Nadia: Forget about Carol and deal with Ofile. Make him understand what you want.

Mmapula: My friend, i tried. I never knew how stubborn that man was till today. Tota le gone he didn't want to hear it. It's like he went crazy when i mentioned Carol. I gave him an ultimatum but he ignored me and went to see her anyway.

Nadia: Pulie you need to be strong now more than ever. Atleast i have given you all the information you need to know about those two. Now that she is divorced, i am sure that she will try and get close to Offy again. Mme kana you know how men are weak. Nnaka you need to make sure that you do not allow that woman into your home. Do whatever it takes to make sure that she knows that there is no way in.

Mmapula: What do i do?

Nadia: You should have followed him to wherever he was going with her. Let her know who the wife is between the two of you. Pulie you need to take your place my friend.

Mmapula: I was not sure if i wanted to be around that woman. I hate the fact that this woman knows that Ofile is married yet she can just summon him at anytime.

Nadia looked at the time and shook her head.

Nadia: Ebile kana it's late. I don't understand how she expects another woman's husband to be out at this time of the night.

Mmapula: This is exactly what i mean. That woman was married. She surely knows how i feel.

Nadia: Trust me, that woman is selfish. Go home and make your husband understand what you want. If you must use force then apply it. When he gets back, let him find you home.

She grabbed a towel and wiped her sister inlaw's feet then pulled back the bowl before putting her feet on the carpet.

Nadia: Now go.

Mmapula: Thank you for the little pep talk.

Nadia: You know that you are always welcome here. Let me know how it goes.

Mmapula: Thanks. I will.

At Six Two Seven

From a shitty day to one of the vibiest nights of my life. Round after round. We took over and danced like there was no tomorrow. Ofile took me by the hand and led me to the table.

Me: Are you good?

Ofile: Yeah. I actually need to get back home.

Me: Thanks for coming.

Ofile: Pleasure.

Me: Let me walk you out.

Ofile: It's okay. You don't have to, i will find my way.

Me: I insist. Tota gape i need to get away from those two for a few minutes. You can see how they are planning to end me.

Ofile: (Laughed)You are going to leave this place crawling. When they said that today yall are getting wasted, they meant it.

I waved at them as we walked out of the restaurant.

Ofile: So tell me.

Me: Yeah. What's up?

Ofile: How are you really doing?

I looked at him and smiled...

Me: Like i said, i don't really know how i feel. One minute i feel okay then the next i am sad. I am scared. I feel like a failure. I am just processing so many emotions all at once. I mean this is not what i had in mind when i got married. I know in my mind that i did well by leaving that marriage but there are times my heart fails to understand that. Ofile i have

so many questions. Like will i ever be happy again after this? Will i find love again?

Ofile: i understand and i am so sorry that you are going through all this.

Me: I should have seen the red flags before i married him. There were there but i ignored them. I should have listened to you when you said it was too soon. I should have taken my time to know him.

Ofile: Everything happens for a reason Carrye. I know that you may not believe this but it shall be well. Maybe not tonight, tomorrow or even next month but it will be okay. You will heal from this. You are a strong woman and i know that you can get through anything. Give yourself time and allow yourself to mourn your marriage. I need to go but please don't hesitate to call me if you need my help or someone to talk to.

Me: Thank you my friend.

We hugged briefly before he left even though it felt weird.

At Asa's

Asa picked up her son's stuffy toy and held onto it tight. Gosh how she missed him. She couldn't help but wonder how he was doing. Although she tried to remain strong, she could not hold back her tears. Was Mothusi taking good care of him and was JJ fine around him?. She picked up her phone and dialled his number.

Mothusi: Mmagwe MJ

Asa: Huh?

Mothusi: Mothuso Junior. Did you think that i was going to let my son keep another man's name?

Asa: How is JJ?

Mothusi: MJ is doing just fine.

Asa: Did he eat anything?

Mothusi: Do you seriously think that i can starve my

son?

Asa: i didn't say you can. I was just asking if he ate anything.

Mothusi: You asked me that an hour ago.

Asa: (Emotional) I know but like i said, i was just checking.

Mothusi: If you are going to call after every hour to check on us then you might as well as come with our son to see me.

Asa: Goodnight

Mothusi: Goodnight Asa.

Asa: Tell J J that i love him.

Mothusi: MJ .

She hung up and laid on the couch soaking in tears. She could only imagine how scared her son was and how hard it was for him to adjust to all the change that was happening around him. Was the boy even aware?

At Dineo's

After trying her husband for the hundreth time, Dineo confidently called Pearl. He had to be with her. That was the only thing that made sense.

Pearl: Mma Tumiso

Dineo: Where is my husband?

Pearl: Excuse me?

Dineo: I know that he is with you mme kana i have warned you about this affair you are having with my husband.

Pearl: (Laughed) Are you serious?

Dineo: Yes.

Pearl: I knew that this would end in advanced tears. Nna mma i don't know where your husband is. Le gone i haven't seen him in a very long time.

Dineo: Don't lie to me you bitc*.

Pearl: Sereng stress sa lenyalo mo mosadimogolong loneng.

Dineo: I will sue you for wrenching my marriage.

Pearl: Relax honey. Your husband and the man i am dating don't even fit in the same class anymore. I am high on new dic* and that old one doesn't interest me anymore after so many years. Goodluck with whoever is wrenching your marriage because it's not me.

She cut the call and cursed...

At Ofile's

Mmapula locked the bedroom door and threw herself on the bed as soon as she heard her husband's car parking outside. A few minutes later he tried to open the door but it was locked.

Ofile: Babe! The door is locked.

She kept quiet and clicked her tongue.

Ofile: Pulie!

Mmapula: Go back to where you are from.

Ofile: Heela hlamma!

Mmapula: Go and sleep where you are coming from.

Ofile: I didn't come back home to sleep. I came back for condoms.

Mmapula: (Laughed) Wa nyela!

She quickly got off the bed and opened up...

Ofile: Thank you.

Mmapula: Let this be the last time you go and

spend some time with that woman.

He held her waist and began to kiss her but she pulled back.

Ofile: What's wrong?

Mmapula: I was serious. You are not getting it.

He breathed heavily and grabbed her by the ass kissing her passionately but she still resisted.

Ofile:(Frustrated) Kante nemma what's wrong?

Mmapula: You will not touch me after touching that woman.

Ofile: This is childish.

Mmapula: How stupid do you think i am? Do you think that i don't know how a man's head operates?

He took off his clothes and walked past her heading to the bathroom.

Mmapula: So you are gonna walk out on me.

Ofile: I don't have time for such silly arguments. I am tired and i wanna go to bed.

[02/07, 08:35] : Dear Carol

#48

Three weeks later

At Mogobane

Justin greeted his mother and sat down ignoring his sister that was also sitting in the living room.

Mma Justin: How are you my son?

Justin: I am well thank you. What else can i say?

What's done is done.

Mma J ustin: That's true my son. What's left is for us to accept the will of God and move on.

Tebogo: So how long will you stay mad at me?

He cleared his throat and took out his wallet.

J ustin: Mme how much did you say you want?

Mma J ustin: I think five hundred will be fine.

Tebogo: Mme five hundred is too small for all our groceries.

J ustin laughed and shook his head.

J ustin: So you really think that i am buying groceries for you?

Tebogo: Come on. I know that i wronged you but now this is really petty. You know very well that i

live with Mme.

Justin: I don't understand how that is my problem.

Tebogo: I am still your sister.

Justin: (Laughed) Were you still my sister when you hid the truth away from me?

She kept quiet and looked at her mother...

Justin: Were you still my sister when my marriage was on the rocks but you kept quiet yet what you knew could have saved my marriage?

Tebogo: Kana even if i had told you the truth,She would have left anyway. If at all that woman loved you and wanted to be with you then she would still be here.

Mma Justin:My children!

Tebogo: Mma!

J ustin looked at his sister and clicked his tongue.

Mma J ustin: My son!

J ustin: Yes Mme.

Mma J ustin: I know that you are still very angry at your sister and i understand. What she did was very wrong and disturbing. It's obviously not easy to accept that your own sister did that but it's now in the past. She knows that she was wrong and she is very sincere. It's not easy to let go but you need to forgive her at some point and move on. You two are siblings and nothing can change that. Apart from me, you only have each other. It's my wish to see my children getting along. All this fighting is crazy.

He cleared his throat and faced the other way while his sister bit her nails.

Mma J ustin: J ust learn to forgive each other and move on my children. My son i know that you are

still hurting.

Tebogo: I am really sorry for the pain i caused you. I let my hatred for Carol cloud my judgement. I should have told you the truth and put your happiness first.

Justin: Gone mme why do you hate her so much? What has Carol ever done to you?

She scratched her head stood up...

Tebogo: Let me make some tea.

Justin: No one wants your tea.

She ignored him and went into the kitchen...

At Mmapula's

Ofile took off his apron and went into the dinning

room to set the table for lunch. After putting everything in order, he went into the living room and called his wife.

Ofile: Lunch is ready.

Mmapula: Thanks but i had lunch just before i got back home.

Ofile: Akere mme i had told you that i was making lunch today.

Mmapula: I went out with my friends and i was hungry. Don't tell me that you expected me to starve myself just so i could come back for your lunch.

Ofile: Emma kea utlwa. I just thought that i would make you something special.

Mmapula: Well thank you but like i said, i am ok. I have already had lunch.

Ofile: Pulie?

Mmapula: Ofile

Ofile: This type of attitude won't get us anywhere. I

asked you to tell me what is bothering you so that i could fix things between us. I have been trying so hard to be patient but i can't take it anymore. You are out with friends every other day and we have not spent some time together in a while.

Mmapula: Isn't that what you wanted? Were you not out with your bestfriend not so long ago? Akere lenna i am following the same route.

Ofile: Are you still on about that? Akere i apologized for the other night. Le ene Carol i haven't seen her in a while.

Mmapula: Go riana go dira go monate mme go dirwa go botlhoko. (So it's actually nice when you are doing it to someone else and painful when it's being done to you?)

Ofile: Should i put your food in the warmer?

Mmapula: You can do whatever you want with them. I am going out in a bit so i won't eat them.

Ofile: Again?

Mmapula: Yes again.

He went back to the kitchen with his tail in between his legs...Meanwhile she smiled and took out her phone to text her sister inlaw.

Mmapula: He is sweating. I told him that i am going out again. You can tell that he wants to cry. I am pretty sure that he will never see her again after this.

Nadia: I told you that you need to teach your man how to behave.

Mmapula: He is headed in the right direction. He has not mentioned her in a very long time.

Nadia: Now that's better.

Mmapula: I will see you guys in a bit. Are you still at the same place?

Nadia: Yes hun.

She stood up went into the bedroom to fix her make up. A few minutes later she got back with a new

outfit.

Ofile: Are you going somewhere?

Mmapula: Yes.

Ofile: Okay. I was thinking that we could stay in. Have a few drinks and play some board games.

Mmapula: Board games for two?

Ofile: Yeah. Come on. It will be fun.

Mmapula: Thanks but i already made plans.

Ofile: J ust like that?

Mmapula: Yes Ofile. J ust like that. Akere le wena you made plans out of the blue the other time.

Ofile: Ok. Am sorry for bothering you.

Mmapula: It's okay. Don't wait up for me. I am not sure what time i will be back.

She kissed him on the cheek and went out.

At Dineo's

Tumiso smiled at his phone screen and responded back to Emily's text.

Dineo: Who are you texting?

He put away his phone and sat up straight.

Tumiso: Mma?

Dineo: You heard me.

Tumiso: Oh. I was just responding back to an old friend.

Dineo: Is that so?

Tumiso: Emma.

Dineo: You better not be upto anything because this time i will ruin you.

Tumiso: I don't understand where all of this is

coming from.

Dineo: Don't you get tired?

Tumiso: What are you talking about?

Dineo: Don't you get tired of all the cheating and lying? I mean all of that must be a lot of work. It's been years and to be honest with you, i am personally tired. I am tired of being lied to. I am tired of crying myself to sleep and running after other women because they are sleeping with my husband. Tumiso we have been married for a very long time. Even the kids are old. You need to grow up. Please grow up and let's focus on building our family.

She looked the other side and wiped her tears as they escaped from her eyes.

Tumiso: I swear to God that i am not cheating on you.

Dineo: And Pearl?

Tumiso: She is history.

Dineo: You better be telling the truth.

Tumiso: I am. Babe i love you and our kids. I will never do anything to hurt you again.

He kissed her and took her by the hand...

At my house

I turned off the tv and laid on the couch. Everyone i knew seemed to be busy and i had no plans whatsoever. The reality of divorce was starting to kick in and no matter what channel i had tried to watch, nothing made it better. Just as i was about to get up, Ofile's call came through.

Me: Hey stranger.

Ofile: Hey.

Me: How are you?

Ofile: Good and you?

Me: Am great thanks.

Ofile: So what are you upto?

Me: Oh well, i am just chilling at home.

Ofile: Same here. So do you wanna go out?

Me: Thanks but i think i prefer to stay home this weekend.

Ofile: Oh i see.

Me: Am really sorry. I honestly don't feel like people.

Ofile: I understand.

Me: Maybe next time my friend.

Ofile: How about i come over with something to drink seeing that you don't wanna go out.

Me:Let's do it next time. I am honestly not in the mood.

Ofile: I understand. It's just that i could also use a friend. I am not at my happiest right now and i know that talking to someone will help.

I kept quiet and thought about it for a while. I mean this man had been there for me through thick and thin and turning him down just felt selfish.

Me: (Sigh) Okay. Come over for a bit but it won't be for too long. I am honestly also feeling a bit down.

Ofile: Thanks my friend. I will be there just now

Me: Cool stuff.

Later that day

[02/07, 08:36] : Dear Carol

#49

Later that day

At my house

I put the bowl of Doritos on the table and sat on the other chair facing Ofile...From the look on his face i could tell that he was in deep thoughts.

Me:You good?

Ofile: Yeah. And you?

Me: Am great thank you.

Ofile: Am glad to hear that you are handling everything so well. I know that it can't be easy.

Me: It's not easy but life has to go on. Getting a divorce is not a death sentence.

He sipped on his wine and forced a smile.

Ofile: Ofcourse.

Me: Enough about me. How is everything?

Ofile: Oh well...Everything is fine.

Me: Am happy to hear that. How is Mma Offy?

Ofile: She is fine.

Me: Great.

We both kept quiet for a few moments...We had not really spent much time with each other of recent.

Ofile: Why is it so hard to trust someone you say you love?

Me: What are you talking about?

Ofile: I mean why is it so hard to trust someone you say you love, someone that has never given you a reason to doubt them. I don't really understand you women at times. Even with all my efforts, she still doesn't trust me. What hurts me is the fact she disrespects me, goes out as she pleases.

Me: Am sorry to hear that. Have you tried talking with her?

Ofile: Talking to someone that never listens to you is frustrating Carol. It's like she doesn't see me as her husband anymore.

Me: Then try harder. Try counselling. Don't let it pile up before you do something about it.

Ofile: Yeah neh. Nna mme hela i am tired.

Me: Yes. I know that it might not be easy but you need to put in some work for any marriage to survive.

Ofile:(laughed) Look who is talking.

Me:(laughed) I know you people think that i just walked away but i tried. I really did and that's why i don't have any regrets.

Ofile: And what if i tried?

Me: (laughed) Nnya rra. Try harder.

Ofile: You know i can understand that every couple goes through some trust issues but the disrespect my friend. Wait i my woman has really changed.

Me: You need to find out why. In most cases women change when there is something they are not happy about.

I finished my glass of wine and grabbed the wine bottle from the ice bucket.

Me: Refill?

He took his last sip and handed me his glass.

At Asa's

Mothusi put his son down then went outside to get his bag. In a few seconds, he was back with it and sat down.

Asa: And now?

Mothusi: What?

Asa: Why are you sittted?

Mothusi: You know very well that we need to talk.

Asa: We have nothing to talk about akere you have

decided that you have rights over my child and i have given in.

Mothusi: Our child! I don't care about you and if was upto me then i wouldn't come here but it is what it is. You are MJ 's mother and i can not ignore you. We have to talk at some point.

Asa: Talk about what?

Mothusi: Co-parenting our son. Asa by now, you should know that i am not interested in fighting with you. This little boy needs both his parents and that is you and me. I hate what you did to me but i am willing to let it go for the sake of our child.

Asa: So what do you wanna talk about?

Mothusi: We need to let the past go and figure out a way to move foward. Let's talk about his monthly expenses and yours. How can i assist you? When does he come over to my house? When do we change his name?

She rolled her eyes and smiled...

Asa: There is nothing wrong with his name.

Mothusi: (laughed) O katswa a ne a setse ale monate. (He must have improved in bed).

Asa: (laughed) Now you are insulting me. What does that have to do with anything?

Mothusi: You were prepared to give that man my son and you even gave him his name. To me that speaks volumes.

Asa: (laughed) Ijaa!

Mothusi: Gone mme i am serious. I can't have my son using another man's name.

Asa: I will think about it.

Mothusi: Now that's better.

Asa: I didn't say i would change it. I said i would think about it.

Mothusi: There is nothing to think about.

Asa: Ija! Tsamaya rra. Ekare otlá natehelwa ke stilo same. (You need to go. Why does it seem like you

are enjoying that chair?)

Mothusi: You haven't told me about your monthly expenses.

Asa: I will calculate and send them to you later on.

Mothusi: I hope you know that i am not J ustin hence we will be sharing those expenses.

Asa:(laughed) You are now a father so figure something out.

Mothusi:Some things never change.

Asa: Kids are expensive.

He stood up and lifted his son up to give him a kiss.

Mothusi: I need to get going. Send those expense details.

Asa: Ok

He put his son down and walked out...

At Maindeck

Mmapula pulled her food closer to her and tucked in while everyone had their drinks.

Nadia:(laughed) I hope you cooked for my brother before you came here.

Mmapula: Not even.

Nadia:(laughed) Ao mma! Le gotwe punishment. What is he supposed to eat since you are having something to eat here?

Mmapula: He cooked lunch.

Nadia: Looks like you have everything under control.

Mmapula:(Smiled) Oh yes i do. He has been really amazing. I am actually thinking of letting him off the hook. I believe that he has learnt his lesson.

Nadia: I believe so too. I am sure that he won't do it again.

Mmapula: Yes. Tonight when i get home i am going to give him some good loving. I have starved the poor man for far too long.

Nadia: (laughed) Too much details my friend.

Tlokweng

Emily grabbed her box of pizza from the delivery guy and went inside the house.

Lone: Nare wena where are you getting money from?
Nna kana my allowence finished way before i could even buy anything for myself. Koore with all the bills and transport, i can barely get myself anything.

Emily: I told you that i had something to share with you.

Lone: Yes but before that please tell me how on earth you can afford to rent out a batchelor pad.

Emily: Slow down. I will tell you everything.

Lone: I hope you are not selling.

Emily:(laughed) Selling what?

Lone: The forbidden fruit.

Emily: Ofcourse not my friend. I found someone that is helping me.

Lone: What do you mean you found someone?

Emily: The guy i am dating helps me out with all my bills so that i can save my allowance.

Lone: Ele gore ene doesn't he have any bills to pay with his allowance.

Emily: (Sighed) He is not a student.

Lone: He works?

Emily: Yes. He is actually a really good guy.

Lone: If he makes you happy and he is not married then i don't see any problem with that.

Emily faked a smile and went into the kitchen to grab a drink from the fridge.

Lone: Nna kana no matter how desperate i am, i will never date a married man.

Emily: Why is that so?

Lone: Emily those people bring serious curses with them. Kana marriage is a covenant between God and a couple. When you appear as the third person, you now fight what God brought together meaning that he has to fight you.

Emily: Oh yeah.

Lone: No matter how bad it gets, never get tempted to date a married man because the end results are very painful.

She stuffed herself with pizza and looked away while her friend preached to her.

At my house

I turned on the music and took Ofile's hand as we began to dance to our old jams.

Ofile: This one reminds me of the good old days.

I don't know if it was the wine taking over or the fact that we were both going through something but the chemistry was too strong to resist. I let go of myself as he held onto my waist. Before i could even close my eyes, i felt his lips pressing onto mine. His warm hands now finding their way around my body. While my mind fought so hard to resist, my heart and body did the opposite. I held on tight to him and kissed him back like my life had depended on it.

Got spicey

[02/07, 08:36] : Dear Carol

#50

I rubbed my eyes and struggled to sit up. My head was pounding and my body was a bit sore. As i turned to the other side my jaws dropped. I quickly peeped into the blankets and we were both naked.

Me:Ofile!

I shook him as a lot of questions ran through my mind...A few moments later, he also sat up and i could see from the look on his face that he was just as confused as i was.

Ofile: Carol!

Me: Please don't tell me that we...

I looked away and my eyes fell on the used protection on the floor.

Ofile:What time is it? Where on earth is my phone?

He got out of bed completely naked and that was when it all sunk in.

Ofile: Oh shit! Why didn't you wake me up? It's past five. What on earth am i going to tell Mmapula? Le gone how did we end up?

I looked up to block my tears...

Me: I don't understand why you are asking me all this and making it seem as if it's my fault. From where i am standing, we were both drunk and we indulged in something that we were not supposed to.

He quickly got dressed and sat by the edge of the bed.

Ofile: Listen Carol, i am really sorry for everything. I just don't know how we got here and most of all, i don't know what i am going to tell my wife.

Me: What happend here was a mistake.

Ofile: I am really sorry for everything. I am sorry if i made you feel like you were to blame. I just don't know where to start. I don't know what i will tell my wife. Tota hela where will i say i spent the night?

I looked away as he concentrated on the protection that was on the floor.

Ofile:(Sighed) Well atleast we used protection.

I cleared my throat and kept quiet.

Ofile:I need to go.

Me: What will you tell her?

Ofile: I honestly don't know but i can't tell her the truth.

He got up and stood by the door.

Ofile: Am sorry.

Me: I am also sorry. It won't happen again.

Ofile: Sharp.

My heart palpitations raised as i heard him opening the main door. I closed my eyes and every little memory came out to play. Drunk as we were, the chemistry was there. I still remembered how he gently held me and made love to me. We were drunk but as far as i could remember no one had ever made love to me that way. I thought of his wife and felt so guilty. Here i was doing the same thing that Asa had done to me. The man was married and sleeping with him was so wrong no matter how it had happend.

Me: Oh God! Please forgive me.

As i closed my eyes to say a little prayer but my mind drifted to last night. God how could something so wrong feel so good. I bit my lips feeling every touch and kiss that he had gifted me with the previous night. His soft warm lips gently pressing against mine and him breathing on my neck.

Me: Oh No!

I wasn't supposed to be feeling this way.

At Mmapula's

Mmapula paced around the living room as she tried her husband's phone for God knows how many times since last night. What if something bad had

happend to him? Why did she have to push so hard?
Why couldn't she just sit down with him and sort
out their issues?

She went on her knees and closed her eyes.

Mmapula: God please protect my husband
wherever he is. Let him be ok.

She got startled as the door opened and got up
running to the door as her husband walked in.

Mmapula: Oh God! I am so sorry.

She ran into his arms and held him.

Mmapula: I am so sorry about everything i did to
you. Are you okay?

Ofile: No i am the one that's sorry.

She soaked in tears and held on tight to him.

Mmapula: I should have never behaved the way that i did. I was only trying to punish you.

He kissed her forehead and let go of her.

Ofile: I don't blame you. You are my wife and you have every right to feel the way that you are feeling.

Mmapula: No i don't. You have never given me a reason not to trust you. I should have had faith in us. I was just jealous because i thought that Carol would come back to claim you. I know i don't say it much but i have my own insecurities. I know that i am just an ordinary girl that is a plain farm girl. Besides the business that i run, i am not educated and i am probably average. Then there is Carol that is way above my league. She is gorgeous, educated

and seems to have it all under control. I know that you married me because you couldn't have her and now that she is single, you will leave me any minute from now.

Ofile: Babe...That's not true. I didn't marry you because i couldn't marry Carol. I married you because i love you and your presence in my life has been a total blessing. I do admit that i was attached to Carol for a very long time. I loved her even when she decided to marry another man that i prayed for them to separate. When you came into my life, i knew that i would finally get another shot at love and i did. I am really sorry for all the pain i have caused you. You are a good woman and i should have listened to you when you asked me to stay away from Carol. If at all that's what you want then i will do it.

Mmapula: No. I trust you and i know that you wouldn't do anything to hurt me. Am really sorry. I am sorry that i made home very miserable for you. I hope that you were able to rest without me nagging you last night.

Ofile: Umm..Well i...

Mmapula: It's okay. Let's go and take a shower then lie down.

At Tumiso's Office

Leatile looked around the office and smiled...

Leatile: I see that Dineo has been busy.

Tumiso: What are you talking about?

Leatile: She has done a great job with the interior.

Tumiso: (Laughed) I would love to give her the credit but it wasn't her.

Leatile: You really expect me to believe that you did all this on your own? Nnya hle mona, this office has a woman's touch.

Tumiso: It sure does but it wasn't a Dineo touch.

Leatile: So you haven't learnt your lesson? Please

don't tell me that you are still with trouble maker Pearl because this time around i doubt that Dineo will be lenient with you.

Tumiso: Forget about Pearl. Am onto something even better.

Leatile: Tumiso!

Tumiso: This one is just a clueless school child that is very naive. Koore no matter how hard Dineo tries to stalk me, she won't find out about her. Kile wa bona, she never calls me unless i call her and the cherry ontop is that she is not even expensive. Anything i do for her pleases her. Even a box of pizza gets her excited. Koore this child understands the whole concept of an affair. No feelings caught.

Leatile: You think so? I don't mean to sound negative but give her a bit of time. These 2000 kids are way dangerous. Pearl was probably a small problem.

Tumiso: You don't know what you are talking about.

Leatile: Don't say that i didn't warn you when she mops the floor with you. I am sure that she is still

preparing herself.

Tumiso: That's jealousy talking. Wena just say the word and i will ask her to hook you up with her friend.

Leatile: You know that i don't cheat.

Tumiso:(laughed) Owai! It's only a matter of time.

Leatile: I didn't come here for that. Our trip!

Tumiso: What about it?

Leatile: Are we still going?

Tumiso: Most definetly. I actually wanted to invite Emily.

Leatile: The child?

Tumiso: Yes. I doubt she has ever been to Kasane. This will score me some extra brownie points.

Leatile: Not if you are going with me. Ne mona what kind of a person will i be if i go with you and your side dish to a boys trip? How will Dineo feel when she finds out? Have you forgotten how much she respects me and my wife?

Tumiso: Forget about Dineo.

Leatile: I am going to leave with hopes that you heard me.

Tumiso: (Laughed) La mo tshaba tthe Dineo.

At my house

I closed my eyes as i listened to Kagelo lecturing me... I had thought that confiding in a friend would atleast help me feel better but it just made things worse.

Kagelo: What you did is not very different from what Asa did to you.

Me:(Crying) I didn't plan it. We were both drunk and it just happend.

Kagelo: Wipe those crocodile tears and quit playing a victim. You have just ruined another woman's marriage yet you were crying about the same thing.

I love you my friend but you are a hypocrite. I can't explain how hurt and dissapointed i am at you. You of all people. Hlamma o tthabis a ditlhong Carol. Worst of all you have the guts to tell me that it felt so good even though it was wrong...

She stood up and picked up her bag.

Kagelo: I thought that you had an emergency kante o mpilets a boatla le boaka!

[02/07, 08:36] : Dear Carol

#51

A week later

At Bonye's

Bonye put her feet on the table and laid back on the

couch while i chopped some vegetables.

Bonye: I didn't think that you were gonna come over.

Me: Why?

Bonye: I know you. You avoid people when you make mistakes.

Me: I know that you think that i have been avoiding you this entire week but that's not the case. I needed some time and space to think about everything that has happend.

Bonye: Well i am glad that you took some time out. Your issue is very sensetive and i was also hoping that you would take some time out to think things through. You may think that you are over the divorce but the truth is that you are still processing it. Wheather you agree or not,your emotions are still bruised and you haven't fully forgiven yourself, Justin and Asa.

I kept quiet and concentrated on what i was doing...

Bonye: What happened between you and Ofile was not just because of alcohol. You two were both hurting because of the people that you love and i know that you both wanted some sort of escape. I know how your heads both work. In the midst of the pleasure, your issues played a vital role.

Me: I don't know.

Bonye: You are both my friends and i know you both. Ofile has long had feelings for you, i don't doubt for a minute that those feelings were also involved. Wena on the other side, you are still very angry at how another woman hurt you e bile you are lonely. This is not just wrong because Ofile is married. It is wrong because your feelings are both misplaced. None of you was thinking for anyone.

Me: I don't know what to say.

Bonye: You don't have to say anything. Like i said, i will never judge you.

Me: Even after i said the sex was good?

Bonye:(Laughed)Yes. I have made mistakes and i know how those stolen moments of sin can feel so good at times. I am dissapointed in you but i know.

Me: I don't even know if i will ever be able to look at Ofile in the eye after what happend.

Bonye: I understand and i suggest that you stay away from him for now till you can both think clearly.

Me: Yeah.

Bonye: I hope that you don't have any intentions to pursue whatever that happend.

Me:No. Like i said, i never planned all of this. I found myself giving in at a moment of weakness. I am not saying i blame alcohol but it also gave me a bit of courage.

Bonye: I know.

Me: I wish i Kagelo and i could have this kind of conversation. Kana she is very angry at me mo eleng gore she won't take my calls.

Bonye: Give her time. She is still upset.

Me: Yeah neh...

At Dineo's

Tumiso shook his head as his wife packed some of her clothes in his luggage.

Tumiso: And now?

Dineo: I am coming with you.

Tumiso: Says who?

Dineo: Says me.

Tumiso: But we didn't agree on that.

Dineo: I called Leatile and he doesn't seem to have a problem with me coming.

Tumiso: You know very well that this is a boy's trip.

Dineo: And i am not changing anything about it. You won't even notice that i am there. You boys can do whatever you want together, all you and i will be

doing is sharing a room. I will book for my own activities separately.

Tumiso: Since when do you come with me on my boy's trips?

Dineo: Since you decided that you are gonna cheat on me till kingdom comes.

Tumiso: I thought we talked about this. Gape i have never cheated on you while i was on a boy's trip. You know very well that Leatile would not allow it. The man respects you so much.

Dineo: It's such a pity that you don't.

Tumiso: I don't understand why i am being accused like this.

Dineo: What's the name of the guest house you booked your accommodation at again?

Tumiso: Liya Guest house.

Dineo: I called them to confirm your booking and turns out that you have booked a room and breakfast for two people.

Tumiso: I am traveling with Leatile. What do you

want me to do? Ignore him?

Dineo: That's the thing. Leatile is also booked in another room alone.

Tumiso: Are you stalking me? What happened to trusting each other? Did we not agree that we would give each other the benefit of the doubt moving forward?

Dineo: How do you give a man that can't keep his pants zipped the benefit of the doubt? Have I not given you the benefit of the doubt all these years? Have I not played the fool and forgiven you over and over again?

He narrowed his eyes and shook his head.

Dineo: They say that you can take a donkey to the river but you can not force it to drink mme nna I am going to force you. If a donkey belongs to you, you hit it till it listens. You are my husband and you will listen to me. O rata le o sa rate. (Whether you like

it or not). You are the one that proposed to me and decided to marry me. Akere nne ke itunetse kwa ga Mme. Don't even think that you will divorce me. If you ever think of leaving me then you must take all the children i have birthed for you and return them to where they came from, get me back to the young girl you met and take me back to my mother's house so that a more responsible man can make a wife out of me. I am coming to that trip. If you had invited someone else to come with you then you better cancel. I am going to take a shower. Please pack my swim suit for me.

She took off her clothes and wrapped herself in a towel.

At Ofile's

Mmapula looked at her husband and smiled...

Ofile: And now?

Mmapula: Am just thinking about how crazy i have been acting. I am very sorry that i was disrespectful and moody.

Ofile: Babe that's all in the past. We don't need to keep talking about it.

Mmapula: I know but i still feel very guilty. Ofile you have never given me a reason not to trust you and through all this, you have been nothing but a good man. The truth is that i still can't believe that you choose me. I love you so much and i don't wanna lose you. At times i wake up at night and look at you sleeping because i am still amazed at how i ended up with a man like you. None of my relationships have worked out. It's either i got cheated on or got left for another woman. The fact that you are here and faithful to me still comes as a shock. Knowing that you had feelings for Carol drove me insane because i kept wondering if you would leave me for her.

Ofile: Babe please.

Mmapula: No allow me to finish.

He closed his eyes as he felt tortured...

Mmapula: I know that it's not your fault but i still have my own insecurities. I am sorry that you had to suffer because of my past. It won't happen over night but i am want to face my demons and heal. I don't want my past pain to affect our marriage.

Ofile: I am sorry that i added on to your insecurities at some point. I promise that i will never see Carol again.

Mmapula: That's not necessary. I know how you value her as a friend and i don't wanna be the reason why you two are apart so i was thinking that we could invite her for dinner later on. I know it's such short notice but i am hoping that she will come so that i can apologize in person.

Ofile:I will call and find out.

Mmapula: Oh no. Allow me to handle everything.

His heart pounded as she picked up her phone.

- .
- .
- .

Weekend bonus will be posted anytime between Saturday and Sunday.

[02/07, 08:36] : Dear Carol

#52

At Bonye's

I put away the chopping board and vegetables i was holding to answer my phone.

Bonye: What happend to not taking any calls today?

Me: (Laughed) It's an unknown number. Let me take it. It could be really important.

I reduced the volume and took the call.

Me:Carol hello...

Mmapula: Hey Carol. Ke Mmapula.

I recognized her voice and widened my eyes.

Me: Mmapula.

Mmapula: How have you been?

Me: Ummm... I have been good thank you. How can i help you?

Mmapula: I just wanted to invite you for dinner at my house tonight. Can you come?

Me: Dinner? Tonight?

I looked at Bonye and she quickly stood up and nodded in disagreement.

Me: Yeah...I mean no.

Bonye clapped her hands and sat down...

Me: (Cleared throat) Thank you so much for the invite but i have plans.

Mmapula: Maybe tomorrow?

I closed my eyes and began to feel the heat.

Me: I would love to come but the truth is that i am dealing with a lot at the moment and i am not good company. I don't mean to be rude but i wanna be alone. Thank you so much for the gesture. I really

appreciate it.

Mmapula: I understand but please feel free to come around when you are not busy.

Me: Emma thank you.

Mmapula: Not a problem at all.

I hung up and took a deep breath...

Bonye: What was that all about? Are you trying to sell yourself out? Did you hear how suspicious you sounded?

Me: I didn't know what to say.

Bonye: Why would she invite you for dinner? Has she ever done that before?

Me: Not at all. That's why i didn't know what to say.

Bonye:(Sigh) For your sake and Ofile's sake, i hope that she is not suspecting anything.

Me: I hope so too. I don't even know what i would do

if she found out the truth.

Bonye: That is not an option. Some things are better off left unsaid my friend. I know what i always say about the truth setting you free but this time i don't advice any of you to come clean. There is a lot hanging in the balance.

Me: Yeah.

At Ofile's

Mmapula put her feet ontop of her husband's laps and closed her eyes as he rubbed them.

Ofile: And?

Mmapula: It sounded like she didn't want to come here.

Ofile: I say leave it.

Mmapula: I can't just leave it Ofile. I feel really bad about everything that has happend and i wanna fix

things between me and her. If this woman is your best friend then i need to put a little bit of an effort.

Ofile: J ust let it go. You have tried and like you said, she doesn't seem to be interested.

Mmapula: I am sure you told her everything i said about her and she is still upset. I am a very patient person so i will give her time. She will come around.

Ofile: I didn't tell her anything.

Mmapula: Ok. So what kind of a person is she?

Ofile: Are we going to talk about Carol all day? I thought that we would spend some time together and connect.

Mmapula: That sounds like a good idea. And maybe we could try out a few things.

Ofile: (Smiled) Say no more.

At Dineo's

Tumiso unpacked all his wife's clothes while she

took a shower. He had tried talking her out of coming with him but she wouldn't budge so there was only one way. He grabbed his car keys and sneaked out.

At Tlokweng, Emily's

Lone shook her head as she watched her friend packing up her stuff.

Lone: Do you think that it's a good idea for you to be going for an entire week with a man you barely know?

Emily: I told you that i trust him.

Lone: J ust like that? What happend to getting to know him better?

Emily: I know him and like i said, i trust and love this man.

Lone: And what about him? Does he love you as

much as you love him?

Emily: If he didn't love me then why on earth would he be taking care of me?

Lone: To use you maybe?

Emily looked at her friend and laughed...

Emily: Are you serious?

Lone: Yes. Think about it.

Emily: Lolo i know that being single can be very frustrating at times but there is no need for you to be jealous of me.

Lone: J ealous of you? Why would i be jealous of my friend?

Emily: That's what i would like to know. Why can't you be happy for me? You know very well that i have never been this happy. Le gone my man takes good care of me. Would you prefer it if i suffered?

Lone: That's not what i am saying. I am just worried about you. I love you my friend and i don't wanna see you hurting.

Emily: I am a big girl and i can take care of myself.

Lone: Ofcourse.

Emily: Thanks for coming over. You can leave now.

Lone:It's fine. I will wait till he gets here so that i can meet him.

Emily: I never said anything about you meeting him.

Lone: Why? Do you have a problem with me meeting him?

Emily: I don't have a problem with you meeting him. I am just not ready to introduce him to any of my friends especially you because you can be really judgemental.

Lone: I promise that i won't judge him if you let me meet him.

Emily: Kante mme gone why do you want to meet him so bad?

Lone: I didn't think that it was a big deal. Let me get going.

Emily: Cool.

She picked up her bag and left while her friend kept herself busy.

At Dineo's

Dineo: Tumiso! Tumiso!

Her eyes fell on her clothes that had been thrown ontop of the bed. She looked around the room and his luggage was gone.

Dineo: Shit!

The man had absconded but that didn't mean that

she would just give up. She sat down and tried to calm herself as she fumed. A few minutes later she picked up her phone and dialled his number but it didn't go through.

Dineo: Two can play that game.

She called her mother.

Mma Dineo: Hello baby girl.

Dineo: Her mum. Mum can you please do me a favour.

Mma Dineo: What is it my girl.

Dineo: I have an emergency and i need to rush somewhere for a few days. Can you please babysit for me?

Mma Dineo: I am sorry my girl but i have already made plans.

Dineo: What plans?

Mma Dineo: There is a church conference that i am attending.

Dineo: Akere mme you can take the kids with you when you attend the services.

Mma Dineo: That's the problem, it's out of town meaning that i am going to Serowe today.

Dineo: Ao Mama! Can't you cancel. I need to really attend to this.

Mma Dineo: I am sorry my girl. I have already contributed towards petrol and even paid for accomodation.

Dineo: Go sharp ee mma.

Mma Dineo: So what kind of an emergency is it?

She hung up and paced around the house thinking of a plan... At that point she couldn't really think of anyone except her sister. She knew how much Carol adored her niece and nephews but the problem was the way she had treated her. How would she even start a conversation with her after

she failed to be there for her as her sister so many times? That's it! She was going to swallow her pride. Her marriage was on the line and she would do anything to save it.

Dineo: (sighed) A girl has got to do what she has got to do.

She gathered her strength and dialled her baby sister's number.

At Bonye's

I shook my head and turned off the pots.

Bonye: And now? Please don't tell me that Mmapula is calling again.

Me: No. It's actually my sister.

Bonye: Tell me that you are lying.

I turned my phone screen towards her and she was also shocked.

Bonye: I don't see us eating today.

Me: I wonder what she wants.

Bonye: Maybe she has come back to her senses and she just wants to apologize.

Me: That will be the day.

Bonye: People change.

Me: Yeah. Maybe.

I picked up the call and put my phone on loudspeaker.

Me: Hello

Dineo: Hey sis.

Me: Hie.

Dineo: Hlamma i need a huge favour.

I rolled my eyes at Bonye.

Me: What do you want?

Dineo: I need to be somewhere and i don't have anyone to babysit the kids.

Me: Really?

Dineo: Ee hlamma please. It's just for a few days.

Me: So i am suddenly good enough to look after your kids? Have you forgotten what you said to me when i took your daughter out?

Dineo: Sisters fight all the time Carol.

Me: Oh really? Is that why you never bothered to even check up on me even when i was going through a divorce.

Dineo: Carol you are my sister and i love you. At

times, i need to give you some tough love and that's all i was doing.

Me: Did you ever think that i needed you?

She kept quiet...

Me: Instead of having my back, you persecuted me with everyone.

Dineo: Can we talk about this when i get back? For now i really need someone to look after the kids while i am away. I will even pay you if i have to. If not, i have no choice but to leave them alone. This is really important.

Me: Are you serious?

Dineo: Akere you don't want to help me Carol so what can i do? I have no choice but to leave them alone.

I thought about the kids for a while then began to

feel guilty.

Me: I am not doing this for you. I am only doing it for the kids. Bring them over tomorrow.

Dineo: (Shouting) Tomorrow? So it's on your own conditions?

Me: Dineo i also have a life. I can't just jump when you tell me to.

Dineo: Ok. Ok. Tomorrow is fine.

Me: Sharp.

I hung up and sat by the breakfast table.

Bonye: So you gave in to her demands just like that?

Me: What choice did i have. Didn't you hear what she said? She wanted to leave the kids alone.

Bonye:(laughed) Your sister knows what buttons to press with you. There is no way she would have left

her kids alone.

Me: Well i am not doing it for her. I haven't seen those kids in a very long time and it would be nice to bond with them.

Bonye: Ee gone.

Later that day

[02/07, 08:37] : Dear Carol

#53

Later that day

At Dineo's

Montle packed up her brothers clothes into her bag while her mother stood by the mirror and applied her face mask.

Montle: Mama when are you going to come back?

Dineo: I don't know my girl. J ust pack as much as you can including your uniforms.

Montle: Who is going to take us to school?

Dineo: Auntie Carol can take you.

Montle: Mama

Dineo: Yes baby.

Montle: Are you not going to shout at her again?

Dineo looked at her daughter and sighed...Was the tension between her and the sister that much that the kids could pick it up?

Dineo: No my girl. I won't shout at her again. I am sorry for whatever you witnessed between me and your aunt. Siblings fight all the time and what you witnessed was exactly that.

Montle: J ust like when i fight with Theo and Motheo?

Dineo: Exactly. I just like that.

Montle: I like aunty Carol and I wish that we could visit her more.

Dineo: Is that so?

Montle: Yes. She is really cool.

Dineo: I didn't know that you felt that way about her. We will make arrangements when I get back.

Montle: Thanks mum.

Dineo: Finish packing up. I will come and check your bags in a bit.

She grabbed her phone and went into her room...She couldn't help but think about what her daughter had just said. The truth was that she didn't resent her sister. Carol just reminded her of the woman she was supposed to be. The woman she feared to be and each time she saw or talked to her sister, there was so much anger. In actual truth, she really admired her.

She took a deep breath and tried her husband's number which went through almost immediately.

Tumis o: Hello Mmagwe Montle.

Dineo: Rragwe Montle.

She tried so hard to keep calm.

Tumis o:I am sorry about what happend.

Dineo: No. I am the one that's sorry. I should have never tried to follow you there. We talked about this trip for over a month and i long agreed that you could go. I am sorry for the way that i behaved earlier.

Tumis o: It's fine. I know that you don't fully trust me yet because of what happend with Pearl but i promise you that i am on my best behaviour. This is just a boy's trip.

Dineo:(Calmly) I know.

Tumiso: It's not that i didn't want to come with you kana we had already booked our flights so it was still going to be impossible.

Dineo: Oh i didn't know that you were flying. I assumed you were driving.

Tumiso: Well we are already here.

Dineo: How is it over there?

Tumiso: It's quite hot but apart from that, it seems like it's going to be really fun.

Dineo: How exciting. I would love to join you but i don't have anyone to babysit the kids.

Tumiso: Your mum?

Dineo: She is attending a church conference in Serowe so she can't help me.

Tumiso: Am sorry babe. I will be back before you know it.

Dineo: Don't stress about it. J ust have fun.

Tumiso: Thank you my baby. I will see you soon.

Dineo: Let me help the kids with their home work, i

will talk to you later.

Tumiso: Ok honey. I love you.

Dineo: I love you too.

He put the phone down and sighed...

Leatile: And?

Tumiso: Looks like she won't be coming. She doesn't have anyone to help her with the kids. Her mum is going for a church conference in Serowe.

Leatile: What about her sister?

Tumiso: I am not too worried about that one. They are not even on speaking terms so it's all good. I just need to confirm with her mum if she is indeed attending a church conference.

Leatile: Do you think that she would lie to you?

Tumiso: With Dineo one needs to always confirm. My wife is very smart. I didn't even see her coming the last time.

Leatile: I told you that i don't like this one bit.
Imagine if she pitched up here from nowhere and found us with that little girl.

Tumis o: You are too worried for nothing. I will confirm with her mum but like i said, if her mum is not around then we have nothing to worry about.

Leatile: I don't like any of this and i wouldn't want your wife to think that i am just like you.

Tumis o: Relax my guy.

Leatile: I am going to my room. We will meet up during dinner.

Tumis o: Sure.

At Asa's

Mothusi took off his shirt and climbed the couch to change the bulb.

Asa: You are honestly dramatic. I mean who takes

off their shirt to fit a bulb.

He kept quiet and fitted it then got down.

Mothusi: Turn on the light and let's see if it's working.

She did as she was told then sat down.

Asa: If you ever think that there will ever be anything between us then you need to stop day dreaming.

Mothusi:(Laughed) First of all, saying thank you has never killed anyone. Lastly i took off my shirt because i didn't want to spoil it. I am actually going on a date. No one said anything about us getting back together. Tota hela lenna i am not interested so you can relax.

She kept quiet and scrolled on her phone.

Mothusi: Do you guys need anything?

Asa: I will send you a list of what we need.

Mothusi: Good.

Asa: Mothusi!

Mothusi: Mma?

Asa: I am glad to hear that you are moving on with your life but you need to know that i do not want any of your girlfriends near my son.

Mothusi: What if it's someone i am committed to?

Asa: I don't know how you will go on about it but i don't want my son around any woman. No one is going to mother my son while i am here.

Mothusi: And what if you move on? What happens? Should i come up with the same terms?

Asa: Mothusi, MJ is my son and as his mother i know what's best for him. I can not introduce him to anyone that i don't trust.

Mothusi: And i would introduce him to someone i don't trust?

Asa: You are a man. Men don't have a good judgement.

Mothusi: Asa stop beating around the bush, if you want us to get back and raise our son together, just say so. Stop making all these crazy demands, late invitations just for you to tell me that you need me to fit your bulb.

Asa: So who should have i called?

Mothusi: Don't you have neighbours?

Asa: That's fine. I got it. Next time i won't bother you. If helping your son is such a big deal then you won't ever hear anything from me.

He laughed and hugged her...

Mothusi: Still the same Asa. Koore you don't change.

He let go of her and grabbed his shirt from the other couch. She pretended to be looking elsewhere while she stole glances at when he slowly dressed.

Mothusi: Tell my boy that i was here when he wakes up.

Asa: Is that all you can do? Mothusi you haven't seen our son in a few days. Yaanong you want me to tell him that you were here and you just left without seeing him.

Mothusi: I need to be somewhere. I will see him tomorrow.

Asa: So that date is more important than him.

Mothusi:Heelang mosadi!

She looked elsewhere and smiled. There was so much that had changed about Mothusi and she had grown to like him. The man was a good father and more than anything, she knew him and he was

upfront.

Asa: It was just a question that needed an answer.

Mothusi: So if i stay here, will you give me what that woman would have given me on that date.

Asa:Ija!

She blushed as he went into the kitchen.

Mothusi: Gatwe go jewa eng gone fa?(What can i eat?)

Asa: Ha ke itsi. Gao je nna? (I Don't know. Why don't you eat me?)

Mothusi: Wabo oreng? (What exactly are you saying?)

Asa:There is food in the kitchen and you are asking me what to eat. What do you want me to do?

Mothusi:(laughed) Ke abo ke tloga ke goja nna.

She laughed and walked into the kitchen to help him prepare supper.

At Kasane, Liya Lodge

Emily took off her robe and applied some body lotion while Mothusi laid on the bed and watched her.

Mothusi: Let's skip dinner and stay indoors. We can order in and have a party of our own in.

Emily:(Smiled) Relax. We have the whole week with each other to throw those little parties. Tonight i just wanna have some fun.

Mothusi: I am gonna go to the dinning area. You can join me when you are ready.

Emily: Ok big boy.

He kissed her and left...

At my house

After cleaning the spare room, i sat in the living room and went through my contacts. I began to delete and block anyone that i didn't want any connection with including Ofile and his wife.

Things were about to change...

The plot was about to flip. The trash had to be taken out and the house had to be put to order!

Liya Guest house

Tumiso dialled his mother inlaw's number and took a deep breath as it rang...

Mma Dineo: Hello my son.

Tumiso: Hello Ma.

Mma Dineo: How are you my son?

Tumiso: I am doing well and you Mma?

Mma Dineo: I am also well my son.

Tumiso: I hear that you went to Serowe for a church conference. Why didn't you tell me that you were going so that we could send you some money for some snacks.

Mma Dineo: (laughed) Nnya you can still send it. I won't refuse money.

Tumiso: Ok Ma. I will send some tomorrow. Enjoy your conference.

Mma Dineo: Thank you so much my son.

The following day

[02/07, 08:37] : Dear Carol

#54

The following day

Kasane, Liya Lodge

Emily stood by the mirror and fixed her make up while Tumiso got dressed...

Tumiso: You haven't said anything since last night. Are you okay?

Emily: Am i ok?

Tumiso: Yes. Is there anything that's bothering you?

Emily: You and your friend talked about your wives the entire night. How do you expect me to feel?

Tumiso: He was just worried about my wife pitching up here.

Emily: Can i ask you something?

Tumis o: Yeah sure.

Emily: Where do you see us in the next two years?

Tumis o: What?

Emily: You heard me.

Tumis o: Kante what happend to having fun and not labelling anything?

Emily: Even fun comes with some sort of label.

Tumi i love you and you make me happy. I know that i make you happy as well. You might not say it to my face but i can tell that you feel the same way otherwise you wouldn't be taking care of me.

He looked at the time and quickly wore his shoes.

Tumis o: We are gonna be late for our game drive. Let's go.

Emily: Not until you answer me.

Tumis o: Emily even though i love you, i can't just leave my wife. I will lose everything. Is that what

you want? Do you understand that if i lose everything then i won't be able to take care of you and my children.

Emiky: I am sure there is a way around all that.

Tumiso: We can talk about this later. For now let's go for our game drive.

Emily: We are yet to talk about it.

Tumiso: Emma.

He picked up his phone and stood by the door.

Tumiso: Let's go.

At my house

I put the children's bag down stood outside while my sister kissed each of them.

Dineo: Mummy won't be gone for too long. Be on your best behaviour.

She looked at her daughter and smiled...

Dineo: Montle, look after your brothers my girl. Don't give aunty a hard time

Montle: Yes mum.

Dineo: I will see you soon.

She waved at them and i walked her to her car...

Dineo: Thank you so much for taking them in.

Me: Yeah sure.

Dineo: How have you been doing?

Me: You don't have to pretend to care. You don't owe me anything.

Dineo: I know that things have been really tense

between us but i wanna fix things when i get back.

Me: Tlhamma you don't have to say all this because i am looking after the kids.

Dineo: I actually mean it. Montle said something to me last night that got me thinking about a lot of things. You are the only sister i have and i love you Carol.

Me: I don't know what to say.

Dineo: That's understandable. I haven't exactly been a good sister so you are allowed to doubt me. I promise that we will sit and talk when i get back.

Me: That's fine.

Dineo: Let me get going.

Me: Drive safely.

Dineo: Thanks sis. Bye

Me: Sharp.

I stood by the gate and watched her driving off... I couldn't help but worry about her. There was

something a bit off about her. The person i had just spoken to was a totally different person. My sister was mean and she never hid it. There was no way that she would have been nice to me. Had i missed anything?

I sighed and brushed it off then walked back into the house.

At Asa's

Mothusi turned to Asa and kissed her cheeks...

Asa:Hie

Mothusi: Goodmorning gorgeous.

Asa:You are still here?

Mothusi: Yes. There is no other place that i would be. Thank you for last night. It was amazing.

She cleared her throat and turned to the other side.

Asa: Mothusi

Mothusi: Yes baby.

Asa: I hope that you do not take things the wrong way but what happend last night meant nothing. It was just sex.

He scratched his head and sat up. Although he was boiling, he found a way to keep calm.

Mothusi: I don't think that i understand you.

Asa:What happened between us last night was just two adults releasing some tension. Nothing more,nothing less.

Mothusi:So there are no feelings involved?

Asa:None whats oever.

He closed his eyes and swallowed a lump.

Mothusi: Am glad you feel the same way. Let's just stick to co-parenting.

Asa: I would love that.

Mothusi: I guess i can leave now that we have had this chat.

Asa: Yeah sure.

At Ofile's

Mmapula sat up on the bed and watched her husband sleeping... There was so much that was going through her mind. She had so many questions but she knew better than to ask. Was the man really in love with her or was she just someone he had to settle with in order to forget about the love of his life? What about the night he spent out? Was

he with her?

She sighed and gathered the strength to wake him up...

Ofile:Babe...

He said as he rubbed his eyes and sat on his butt.

Mmapula:Did you sleep with her?

His heart began to race with his eyes wandering about...

Ofile: What?

Mmapula:(Sighed) I am sorry i even asked you that. It's just that i am dealing with a lot at the moment.

He moved towards her and held her...

Ofile: What's going on? Talk to me babe.

Mmapula: Ofile i love you so much and you are the best thing that's ever happend to me. I don't wanna lose you.

Ofile: You are not gonna lose me.

Mmapula: I keep thinking that you will leave me or cheat on me.

Ofile: Why would you think that?

Mmapula: That's just the way that it is. No man ever stays. If they do, they cheat on me and hurt me.

She wiped her tears and sniffed.

Ofile: I am not gonna leave you.

Mmapula: Even for Carol?

Ofile: Even for Carol.

At J ustin's

J ustin scrolled through his gallery and came across J J 's picture. The pain he was so sure that he was healing from began to manifest once again. He was not over losing a son and a wife at the same time. How unlucky could one get. Oh Carol! Would he ever be able to fill the void she left. Maybe if he talked to her, he would find some kind of closure.

He grabbed his phone and dialled her number...

Me: J ustin

J ustin: Am sorry to call so early but this couldn't wait.

Me: What is it?

J ustin: Can we meet up and talk about something?

Me: You know how i feel about meeting up with you.

Justin: I promise that i am not trying to disturb your peace or get back with you. I just wanna talk. Please.

I could sense the desperation behind his voice.

Me: I am with my sister's kids. I am not sure how long they will be here for so i can't promise anything.

Justin: It won't take long. I could swing by your place later.

Me: I don't know.

Justin: Think about it and let me know.

Me: I think it's best we talk about whatever it is that you wanna talk about on the phone. We have just went through a divorce and we are both trying to heal and move on. Meeting up will just be a set back.

He kept quiet for a few moments then found the

grace to speak.

Justin: Emma. Thank you for your time. I think it's best i let it go.

Me: Ok.

Justin: Bye.

Me: Bye.

Later that day

Dineo parked by the side of the road and stretched for a few minutes. She took out her phone and called a lodge near the one that her husband was staying at to confirm her accomodation before getting back on the road. There was only a few hours left and each hundred kilometres she completed made her so anxious. Would she be able to accept and deal with what she would find in Kasane? She knew her husband too well and the way he had fought so hard to leave her behind had

given her the answers she needed.

Dineo: This time i am going to Sue Pearl. She doesn't know me too well. I will deal with her till she learns to stay away from people's husbands.

A few hours late

At Liya Lodge....

.

.

.

[02/07, 08:38] : Dear Carol

#55

A few hours later

At Liya Lodge....

Emily giggled as she fed Tumiso. They had not been able to keep away their hands from each other the whole afternoon and Leatile was getting very irritated by the affection they displayed in public. He pushed his food away and stood up from the dinning table.

Tumiso: And now?

Leatile: I am going to sleep so that you two can have all the privacy you need.

Tumiso: Who said anything about privacy?

Leatile: No one had to say anything. Actions will always speak louder than words.

Tumiso: Am sorry man but we are enjoying your company. Please stay.

Emily: Yeah. Please stay. You are actually a cool guy

and i would really like to know you more.

He looked at his friend and shook his head...

Leatile: Do you see what i meant? This child already thinks that we are agemates. Do you see what kind of trouble you have brought for us?

Emily: Excuse me! I am here you know. You don't have to talk to me like i am not here with you guys. Le gone i am not a child. I may be younger but that doesn't make me a child.

Leatile: You see what i mean? Ma two thous and. She has no shame in being affectionate in public with a man wearing a wedding band.

Emily: Excuse me. I was born in the nineties.

Leatile: You will excuse me nnaka. I don't talk to kids.

Tumiso: Come on man! Now you are being very petty.

Leatile: Don't tell me about being petty. Let's talk about this circus that you have pulled here. If your wife was to find out, do you think that she would spare any of us?

Emily: Kante why do you keep bringing her up? The fact that she is not here with him means that he actually wanted me here not her.

He laughed and picked his phone from the table.

Leatile: My friend you have bigger problems than Pearl. I am going to bed.

He walked out and Tumiso tried to follow him but Emily stamped her authority.

Emily: Let him be. I am sure he is just feeling stressed out because he doesn't have anyone to keep him company.

Tumiso: But you should never talk to him that way. Leatile is my boy. My bestfriend and i respect him so much.

She unbuttoned the first few buttons of her little skimpy dress and put on a seductive face.

Emily: And what about me? What am i?

Tumiso: How about i show you?

Emily: Right now?

Tumiso: Yes. Why don't we take our food to the room and continue the little show there?

Emily: (Blushed) I like the sound of that.

Tumiso: Take the food with you. I am gonna go past the bar and grab something to motivate us.

At my house

I tucked the kids in bed and kissed them before turning off the lights.

Montle: Aunty Carol.

Me: Mma

Montle: Mum never turns off the lights.

Me: (Smiled) Some things never change. You see when we were growing up, your mother never wanted to turn off the lights when we went to bed.

I turned on the light and sat by the corner couch...

Montle: Were you and mum close when you were growing up?

I thought of our childhood and smiled...

Me: Yeah. We were very close.

Montle: Then what happend?

What happend? Yeah neh...I also didn't know the answer to that question. How had we drifted apart so much? Had i somehow been a bad sister for Dineo to hate me so much? I looked at my sister's kids and knowing that the state of our relationship was in was affecting them broke my heart.

Me: Go to bed my love. We can have this conversation in the morning.

Montle: Night. Are we going to church tomorrow?

Me: Church?

Montle: Yes.

Me: Well i... I don't really go to church.

Montle: Why?

Me: Ok. We can go. Which church do you go to?

Montle: I will show you tomorrow.

Me: What time does it start?

Montle: At nine.

Me: Ok. Tomorrow we are going to church together then. Night

I couldn't wait to leave the room. When i finally did, i felt so relieved. Some of the questions that this kid asked me had stirred up my emotions.

I made a cup of tea and sat in the dinning room reflecting on my life...Everything was a mess and even though i had tried to convince myself that i was fine, i was far from being fine. I didn't even know where to begin. I thought of J ustin and became a bit curious about his phone call earlier. How was he coping with the divorce? Was i right to turn him down?

I moved towards the landline and dialled his number...While it rang, i had thoughts of hanging up

. Where was i going to begin after turning him down like that? J ust as i was about to hang up, he picked up.

J ustin: Hello

Me: Hie

J ustin: Oh Carol.

Me: Yes. I...I am sorry about earlier on.

J ustin: You don't have to apologize. We are divorced and i can't just demand to see you. It's just that i honestly don't know who to talk to.

Me: What's going on?

J ustin: I am just struggling to come to terms with the divorce. I know that i caused all this but i feel like i am not coping emotionally. I mean i would talk to someone else but i know that i am gonna be judged based on the decisions i have made in the past. I feel like i am carrying this heavy load and i was hoping that it would get better in time but the truth is that i am just not coping. It feels like i am

gasping for air most times. I mean i am suffocating. I saw J J with his dad and mum the other time at the mall and that's when it dawned on me that i was grieving for a child that was alive. A child i thought was mine. I mean how do i go on Carol?

Justin had always been honest about his feelings but this time, it was deep...It was more than just sharing his emotions with someone. The man sounded like he was drowning.

Me: I am sorry that you are processing all this at once.

Justin: (Crying) How do you do it Carol? How do you manage to move past all this? I mean you seem to be doing very well. Tell me what to do please because i feel like i am done.

This was a man i still loved to this day. As much as

we were not together, i still cared very much about him. Hearing how much he was in pain broke me.

Me: I am taking the kids to church tomorrow. Do you wanna come with us? Maybe we can take them out for lunch afterwards and talk.

Justin: You church?

Me: (laughed) It was all Montle's idea.

Justin:(laughed) Kana kea itsi gore you are not a church girl.

Me: (laughed) Well some things change.

Justin:Thank you.

Me: For what?

Justin: For calling and listening to me even after everything i have done to you.

Me: Am not exactly a saint.

Justin:(laughed) Carol you are the purest person i know.

Me: (Sighed) I will see you tomorrow.

Justin: Yeah sure.

The following day

At Liya Lodge

Dineo packed her car in the parking lot and went straight to the reception area.

Receptionist: Goodmorning.

Dineo: Morning.

Receptionist: Where can i find Tumiso Morapedi's room.

Receptionist: I am sorry Ma but i can't share that kind of information with you unless Mr Morapedi permits me to do so.

She took off her earrings and placed them on the desk then tied her weave into a bun.

Dineo: Mma ke bitswa Mma Morapedi.(I am Mrs Morapedi) I don't want to fight with anyone especially today so please tell me where my husband's room is kana you are the one sleeping with him.

She moved back and quickly opened up the register. Although she was shaking, she did her best to be quick.

Receptionist: Room fifteen

Dineo: Which way?

Receptionist: The last room on your left. Go down the passage.

Dineo: Thank you so much for your cooperation.

She grabbed her earrings and left in a storm.

Room 15

Tumiso laid back and moaned as Emily grinded back and forth ontop of him. He had never seen anything like this. Not even Pearl had this kind of energy. She slowed down and got up then quickly slid off the condom on his D before sliding back and grinding.

Tumiso: Babe no...

She increased her pace and soon he ate his words and began to grind from under....

Tumiso: Damm...Uhh...

She moved his hands from his head to her waist and began to move like a possessed snake while he cried like a child...He moved along with her feeling like the world was coming to an end as he released his juices in her. Just as he was about to release his last strokes, the door opened...

Dineo: What the hell is going on here?

Her world shattered as she saw another woman ontop of her man. At that moment, everything in her turned.

As soon as he heard his wife's voice he quickly got up, throwing Emily on the floor. He quickly got dressed with thoughts of escaping but he was too late. Dineo locked the door and put the key in her bra then took out her phone and quickly took pictures of the two who were naked...

Tumiso: Babe i can explain...

Emily got off the floor and walked to the bed to get her clothes. She looked too relaxed for someone that had just been caught in bed with with another woman's husband.

.

.

Link to our sponsors page will be shared after this insert so you continue liking to reach target for the next insert.

[02/07, 08:40] : Dear Carol

#56

Emily got off the floor and walked to the bed to get her clothes. She looked too relaxed for someone that had just been caught in bed with with another woman's husband.

Dineo: If i was you, i would dress up quickly because you have a lot of explaining to do young lady.

She ignored Dineo and slipped on her dress.

Dineo: Tumiso! What is this?

He scratched his head and sat down...

Dineo: Who said you could sit down?

Tumiso: Babe...I can explain.

Dineo: Heela wena leswe ke wena. Who are you and what are you doing with my husband?

Emily sat on the bed and got comfortable.

Emily: My name is Emily and i am your husband's girlfriend.

At that moment she lost all the strength she had to fight... Pearl was right. No matter how hard she tried, her husband would always cheat on her. It was in his blood.

Tumiso: Shut up Emily!

Emily: Why? All i am doing is telling your wife the truth. You said you love me and the only reason you are still with her is because you don't wanna lose everything. Staying with her because you feel sorry for her and you don't wanna lose your assets is one thing but lying to her? Let's all put our cards on the table . If i am the woman that you love then she needs to know about me. Your time is up old woman.

Dineo shook her head and looked up to block her

tears but even her anger could not stop her tears. For the very first time, She was defeated and had zero strength to fight. She unlocked the door and sat by the couch.

Dineo: I have tried. God knows i have. It's just in your blood Tumiso. You can't help but cheat and there is nothing i can really do.

Tumiso: Honey please hear me out. I can explain all this.

Dineo: Explain? What's there to explain? This is not the first time you are doing this. What hurts me more than anything is the fact that this time you are cheating with a little girl that is probably young enough to be your daughter.

Emily: Sorry to interrupt you but i am not as young as i look

Tumiso: Can you just shut up! I need to talk to my wife.

Emily: Lenna ke mosadi hela yaka ene akere.

Tumiso: That's it!

He grabbed a towel then wrapped himself with it and dragged her out of the room.

Tumiso: I don't know what you think you are doing but that woman is my wife and the mother of my kids. You don't get to disrespect her that way. Get over yourself and grow up. You and i were just sleeping together. i don't remember promising to marry you or anything.

She knelt helplessly by the door...

Emily: You said you love me.

He walked back inside and grabbed her bag then threw it at her.

Tumiso: Do you mean to tell me that no one has ever lied to you before? Well i lied. Welcome to the real world.

Emily: Tumiso please.

He shut the door and sat next to his wife who looked like she has seen a ghost.

Tumiso: Honey can we please talk about this.

She stood up and wiped her tears.

Dineo: When i came here, i was so sure that you were with Pearl and i was going to beat the hell out of her. I was determined to show her who the wife was but then i found you with that little girl. When i saw her i was so sure that dealing with her was gonna be an easy task till she opened her mouth. What that little girl said is partly true. My time is up and it's been up for the longest time. I have just

been failing to accept that. You don't love me anymore. You are only with me because you don't wanna lose everything that you have worked so hard for including the children. It could also be that you feel sorry for me. I mean look at me. I am no longer the Dineo you fell in love with. I have lost myself over the years. I gave up so much of myself to you and the kids that even you don't see me as the same woman.

Tumiso: Honey that's not true. I just got tempted. I am sorry.

Dineo: For all the years i have been married to you, i have never cheated on you or even thought of doing that. Do you wanna know why?

He shamefully bowed...

Dineo: Because i respect you and the kids but even before you guys, i respect myself and this marriage. Something that you clearly don't feel.

Tumiso: I am sorry.

Dineo: No...

She wiped her tears.

Dineo: I am sorry that i let it get to this point. I am the one that taught you to treat me this way. It's all on me. I got the memo too late but i finally got it. There is nothing left in this marriage except pain and lies.

She took off her ring and put it on the table.

Tumiso: I love you Mmagwe Montle. I know that i was wrong but letting you go is something i won't do.

Dineo: Well i am done.

She turned away and walked out...

At my house

Justin cleared his plate and waited for everyone to finish eating...

Justin: Thanks for breakfast.

Me: Just don't forget that you are washing the dishes

Justin: Am just a guest after all.

Me: That ate for free in my house.

He tried to smile but even i could see the pain in his eyes. I looked at the time and stood up.

Me: We need to get going or else we are gonna be late.Kids let's go.

At Liya Lodge

Leatile stood by the door and clicked his tongue.

Leatile: Why are you knocking like a police officer on my door?

Emily wiped her tears and tried to go in but Leatile got in the way.

Leatile: Oh no! Where do you think you are going?

Emily: Tumiso and his wife kicked me out.

Leatile: His wife? She is here?

Emily: Yes. Please let me in.

Leatile: (laughed) So that i could be accused of sleeping with you? Am sorry sisters but i can't do that.

Emily: Please. I don't know anyone here.

Leatile: You had it all figured out last night. Even when you flew here with a married man, you must have had some kind of plan. I am sorry but i can't help you. You said it yourself. You are old enough.

Emily: Please.

He shut the door on her face...

Meanwhile Dineo sat in her car crying...Each time she pulled herself together, she would remember Emily's words. Her husband had cheated on her so many times and she always somehow managed to move past it but this time, she didn't see herself healing. How could she ever erase what she saw? What about what the little girl said? She took a deep breath and started her car.

A few hours later

At church...

Justin closed his eyes and listened to the pastor preaching.

Pastor: He said," Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and i will give you rest. When the Lord said this, he wasn't just talking about me and you, he was also talking about those that are in the world. Those that have never experienced his love and those that have never had an encounter with him. This was a call out to those that didn't even know him. People of God, many of us are carrying heavy loads that we don't know where to dump. We are emotionally broken and physically torn yet the Lord says come to me. It doesn't matter what you have done in the past, it doesn't matter who you were. The Lord has opened his arms today and he says come and i will give you rest. Your family might have failed to help you carry your load. Your husband might have never understood and

maybe your wife ran from that load. Today the Lord is saying, i am here. The I that I am. Kentseng. Open your heart to him today and accept him as your personal saviour. Accept that you can't do anything on your own. Your physical strength can not carry you. Remember that even Jesus surrendered himself to the father when he couldn't go on. The same Jesus with so much strength and power. We see him in the garden of gethseman crying out to the father. If you are in the same position today and you feel like you can't go on, nothing is working out and your inner man is dead, come to him. I would like to pray for those that no longer have the strength to go on. Those that feel alone and helpless, those that would like the Lord to carry them. If you are there please come foward.

I took a deep breath and closed my eyes. As much as i was weary, i didn't have the courage to go foward. Justin on the other hand stood up and went foward without looking back.

.

.

.

For those that are still confused, i post once a day between 8 and 10. Any other insert will be a sponsored one which you have to reach target.

[02/07, 08:40] : Dear Carol

#57

Later that day

Wimpy, Gamecity

I sat down and sipped on my drink after checking up on the kids at the play area...

Justin: Are they fine?

Me: Yeah. Everything seems to be in place.

It had been a while since we had seen each other and none of us really knew what to say.

Justin: The heat is not that bad today.

Me: Yeah.

Justin: I had a great time at church. I felt like that sermon was specifically prepared for me.

Me: I saw that.

Justin: I know that this must be really uncomfortable for you but i appreciate it. Thank you for allowing me to attend church with you and the kids. I didn't know how much i needed this.

Me: Am glad to hear that you are feeling better. I was a bit worried after we spoke last night.

Justin: Am sorry that you have to worry about me even after the divorce. I just didn't know who to talk to without facing any judgement. I know that it's probably selfish of me to contact you especially after what i did to you but i don't know who else could understand this journey better than you. I

mean after a divorce, you feel like you have to learn to walk again but you are also a bit clueless on how to do that. I don't know if it's just me but i am struggling to cope.

I sighed and put on a brave face even though i was feeling the exact same way.

Me: I understand. I know that it can't be easy dealing with a divorce and losing a child you believed was yours.

Justin: How have you managed to keep it together and move on as if nothing happened?

I smiled and looked at him...

Me: You wanna know something?

Justin: Yeah.

Me: I understand how you feel because there are

days i feel that way. J ustin the truth is that it's not easy to get through a divorce. We are all just getting by. The transition is very huge and overwhelming. You are not weak to feel the way that you are feeling. You wake up and you suddenly don't know where to start picking up the pieces of your life. The world goes on as if nothing has happend yet your life is on pause. I don't know how but i am sure that we will both get through this.

J ustin: I am hopeful.

Me: Good.

J ustin: Have you ever thought of going to church?

Me: Not really but i am sure that today counts for something.

J ustin: I mean giving your life to Christ.

I kept quiet and looked around the resturant.

J ustin: Carol!

Me: Huh?

Justin: Have you thought about giving your life to Christ?

Me: I don't know Justin. You know that i don't believe in God. Le wena hela you have never believed in these things.

Justin: That's true but i have had a change of heart. You know when the pastor was praying for us today, i felt so much at peace. I have never felt that kind of peace before. It's almost as if the Lord was telling me that i am not alone.

Me: No offence but don't you find that a bit weird?

Justin: No. I actually find it comforting.

Me: I mean why would the Lord let you go through all this then comfort you in the end? If you ask me, that sounds like a selfish move.

Justin: I don't know but maybe he was trying to teach me a lesson out of it.

Me: And me?

Justin: Yes.

Me: I am not convinced.

Justin: I know but i think we should give God a chance. Let's attend a few services and see how it goes. If you are still not convinced then that's fine.

Me: Let me think about it.

Justin: That's ok.

At Liya Lodge, Kasane

Emily grabbed the last of her clothes and picked up the few hundred pula notes that Tumiso had placed by the bedside table.

Emily: What about my rent money? Will you send it?

Tumiso: Emily, my wife has just caught us in bed and she has proof that she can use against us if she decides to sue and all you can think about is your rent money? Do you understand what this will do to me, my kids and career if she sues us?

Emily: You were obviously aware of all that when you decided to cheat. All i am asking for is rent money. You are the one that decided that i needed to move to a bigger house yaanong give me the rent money because if i don't pay, i will be evicted.

Tumiso: You are not getting any money from me especially after the stunt you pulled earlier. Had you behaved yourself then maybe my wife wouldn't have run off the way that she did.

Emily: So you won't give me the money?

Tumiso: You and i are done.

Emily: That's fine. Suit yourself but you need to know that i am not done with you. You don't get to use me then dump me like trash when you are done. Selo santlha hela i am not the one that came to you, you are the one that chased me around.

Tumiso: Emily please just go.

Emily: Are you sure that's what you want?

Tumiso: I don't understand why you are still here.

Emily: I hope that you made the right choice.

She took a closer look at him and shook her head before she left the room...

At Asa's

Mothusi downed his bottle of water and handed the other one to Asa before laying on the bed...

Mothusi:(Breathing heavily) That was one hell of a workout.

Asa: It wasn't that bad.

She turned and faced the other way...

Mothusi: I am gonna take a shower and go back to my place.

Asa: I thought you were spending the night. Akere

it's already late.

Mothusi: I can't. I am expecting someone tonight.

Asa: A woman?

She turned towards him...

Mothusi: Yes. Is there a problem.

Asa: Are you sleeping with this woman?

Mothusi: Mmagwe MJ i don't see how that is any of your business.

Asa: You are sleeping with me so that makes it my business.

Mothusi: Am sorry. What was that?

Asa: If you are sleeping with anyone else besides me then i have every right to know.

Mothusi: I thought we agreed that it was just sex.

Asa: We did.

Mothusi: Then why are we all up in each other's

business?

Asa: Because you can't be sleeping with me and a bunch of other women at the same time. It's either me or them. You are not gonna poke your D in me then distribute it to the entire Gaborone.

Mothusi:(laughed) Are you jealous?

Asa: Who me? Jealous of who? Le gone why would i be jealous because we are just fu*k*ng.

Mothusi: That's something i wanna know. If we were in a relationship then you would have the right to tell me all this yaanong we are just sleeping with each other. No commitment whats over. I can sleep with whoever i want.

Asa: Then you should forget about me.

Mothusi: Ok. From now on,we will only see each other when i drop off MJ or pick him up.

Asa: Fine by me.

He got off the bed and began to dress up...

At Kasane

Motswedi Lodge

Dineo washed her face and looked at herself in the mirror as Emily's words kept replaying in her head. Had she aged that much that Emily saw her as an old woman. She hated how much she had lost grip of herself while fighting for a dead marriage. Why couldn't she be like Carol? Why couldn't she put herself and her happiness first? She had wanted to be selfish all those years but knowing how much her mother respected her for staying strong all those years broke her heart. What about her kids? Wouldn't they resent her for leaving? As much as she needed to put herself first, there was so much at stake. She sat by the toilet and took out her phone to text her sister.

" I am the last person to ask you for a favour especially after dumping my kids with you but i could really use a friend right now. My life is falling apart and i don't know where to even start. I know i was selfish and somehow harsh when you needed me. I am sorry for hurting and leaving you out in the cold instead of being there for you as your elder sister."

At Wimpy

I read Dineo's text message and put my phone down...My mood suddenly changed and i began to reflect back. Somewhere between the pain and disappointment, there was anger. I had not realised that i was so angry at my sister and mother for the way that they had treated me during my divorce. When i needed them the most, they turned their backs on me and left me to go through the pain alone. No! How on earth did she expect me to forgive and welcome her back into my life with

open arms when i had tried so many times to get her attention.

I wiped my tears and took a deep breath...

J ustin: Carol.

I snapped out of it and sighed...

J ustin: Are you okay?

Me: Yeah.

I forced a smile...

J ustin: What's going on?

I opened Dineo's message and passed the phone to

him... I could see him smiling somewhere in between the text.

Justin: This is a good thing.

Me: What?

Justin: You two can finally mend things and build a relationship. Carol you have always wanted to have a healthy relationship with your sister for as long as i have known you. Maybe God is giving you two another shot. Take it! Don't let your anger and pain stand in the way.

Me: I don't know.

Justin: Give her a call when you get home and talk things through. Life is too short. Lenna i wanna mend things with Tebogo.

Me: Just one service and you are already deputy Jesus.

Justin: (laughed) What can i say...God is working within me i guess.

A week later

.

.

I post one insert per day anytime between 8pm and 10pm weekdays!

[02/07, 08:41] : Dear Carol

#58

A week later

My house

I gave my sister a bowl of soft porridge and sat by the edge of the bed. The last couple of days had been really rough for my sister and knowing that there was nothing anyone could do to change her situation broke my heart.

Dineo: Thanks but i am not hungry.

Me: I understand but you have to eat. I know that it must be really hard to be going through all this mme hela you have to be strong Dee.

Dineo: How Carol? It's over for me.

Me: No it's not.

Dineo: How so? What do i have? I have lost my marriage.

Me: But you haven't lost the kids and us.

Dineo: It's only a matter of time till the kids resent me for leaving their father. The truth is that i only have you. Le ene mama she won't stand for this. Once i mention divorce she won't have it.

Me: I know that you won't agree with me but at this point your mental health has to come first. The kids will have to understand. I won't say anything about mama because i know how she feels about divorce but at this point, it's not about her. You need to be selfish and put yourself first.

Dineo: Carol i know that you won't understand this but when you have kids you can't be selfish and put yourself first. You think about them first.

I stood up and forced a smile...

Me: I hear you. Listen i have to go back to work. I will see you later. If you need anything please give me a call.

Dineo: I am sorry if i offended you nnaka. I didn't mean it like that.

Me: I am not offended. You are right. It's easy for me to say because i don't have kids. You are a mother and you know what you are talking about. I will go past the school and see how the kids are. If you want then i can ask Tumiso if they can spend the weekend with us.

Dineo: Thanks sis but i don't want the kids to see me in this state. They are better off with their father for now.

Me: Okay. I will see you later.

Dineo: So you are not gonna tell me anything?

Me: About what?

Dineo: (laughed) Carol hlamma you can be so secretive. I thought i heard J ustin's voice the other day.

Me: (Laughed) Tota wena o etle o tlolwe. Iyaa!

Dineo: So why was he here?

Me:(laughed) He was just dropping off a gift he got me.

Dineo: (Smiled) So you two are now exchanging gifts?

Me:It was just a bible.

Dineo: Which he bought for you and came all the way here to drop off.

Me:(laughed) Was he supposed to get someone to deliver it?

Dineo: I don't know but if you ask me, it sounds like the man just wanted to see you. That gift could

have been delivered anyhow but he choose to bring it in person.

Me: I don't know what you are on about, i need to go.

Dineo: Go on and run but i can see that spark in your eyes.

Me: Bye Dee.

At Asa's Office

Pearl dialled her boyfriend's number and put her phone on loudspeaker.

Lebi: Goodmorning gorgeous .

Pearl: Morning baby.

Lebi: How is my number one woman doing this morning?

Pearl: Missing you.

Asa rolled her eyes and kept herself busy with work...

Lebi: What if i told you that i am coming over this evening?

Pearl: Now that sounds better.

Lebi: If you have any plans then cancel them. Tonight it's all about you and i.

Pearl: All done.

Lebi: I will see you later. I love you.

Pearl: I love you too.

She hung up and pulled her laptop closer.

Asa: You do know that this is a working environment right?

Pearl: What's your point?

Asa: Some of us are trying to work but you are

disturbing our peace with such calls.

Pearl: Why does it sound like someone is jealous?

Asa: Why would I be jealous? There is nothing to be jealous of. Dating a married man is not an achievement.

Pearl: (laughed) And who said he was married?

Asa: We both know that you have a reputation of dating married men and it's no secret.

Pearl: You know Asa, people who live in glass houses should never throw stones. You and I have both dated married men so none of us is better than the other.

Asa: I wouldn't have dated one if it was not for you.

Pearl: (laughed) What are you? Twelve? Can't you make your own decisions? Everyone knows how you were obsessed with Justin. You didn't need me to tell you what you could do. You did all that on your own. You pinned a child on another man because you wanted him back even way before we became close. Akere he was still married by then.

Atleast i didn't lie about the father of my child.

As a picked up her phone and left the office...

At Ofile's

Mmapula grabbed her husband's lunch pack box and packed it in his bag.

Mmapula: I hope that what i packed will be enough.

Ofile:Thanks babe. If it's not then i will pass by the res turant.

Mmapula: That's a great idea. You should bring Carol by one of these days.

She looked at him closely hoping for some sort of reaction but he just froze.

Mmapula: Babe?

Ofile: Mma?

Mmapula: I said you should bring Carol by for lunch one of these days.

Ofile: I will ask her but she is a busy person.

Mmapula: I am surprised that she is a busy person only when i am involved.

Ofile: What?

Mmapula: She didn't seem to be busy when you two were meeting up yaanong ka it's me inviting her, she is too busy kana there is something that i don't know?

Ofile: I don't know what you are talking about.

Mmapula: Nothing stays hidden forever. My gut never fails me.

He put on a straight face even though he was shaking in his boots. He had not seen Carol in a while but what had happened the other night could

cost him his marriage.

Ofile: I am late for work. I will see you later.

He picked up his bag and walked out.

Mmapula: Babe?

Ofile: Mma?

Mmapula: Are you nervous about something?

Ofile: No. Why ?

Mmapula: You left without kissing me and you never do that.

He went back and kissed her.

Ofile: I love you. I will see you later.

At Mma Dineo's

Mma Dineo packed away the groceries that Tumiso had brought with him while she waited for the water to boil.

Tumiso: How have you been?

Mma Dineo: I have been very well my son. How is your wife and the kids. Nna kana she is not taking my calls. I think she is still upset with me because i couldn't babysit for her.

Tumiso:Mme that's why i am here today. Kana Dineo has moved out and she says that she wants a divorce.

Mma Dineo: What?

Tumiso: A week ago i made a mistake and instead of us working things out, she moved in with Carol. It's been a week now since she has been gone.

Mma Dineo: So where are the kids?

Tumiso: She left them with me.

Mma Dineo: Are you telling me that Dineo left her kids and her home to live with Carol and now she is talking divorce?

Tumiso: I am just as surprised. I know that i wronged her and i humbled myself and apologized but she won't hear it.

Mma Dineo: Why did you wait for so long to tell me all this?

Tumiso: Mme i know my wife so well and i know that by now, she would have changed her mind and come home.

Mma Dineo: How can she change her mind and come home when her sister is filling her head with nonsense? Koore Carol wants my daughter to end up like her? Was it not enough that she dragged the Morule name in the mud,yaanong she wants to drag my daughter with.

Tumiso: Mme what do i do? I don't wanna lose my wife. I can't have my kids broken at this age simply because Carol wants her sister to end up like her.

Mma Dineo: Leave it to me. I will deal with those

two.

Tumiso: Thank you Mme.

Mma Dineo: Gone mme what did you do for her to get so angry? I know Dineo very well and she wouldn't just walk away from her marriage. She is a fighter. Whatever you did must be massive.

He shamefully bowed...

Tumiso: I cheated on her. I know that i was wrong but i have seen my mistakes. I am even willing to go counselling with her just to save our marriage. I told her that we can involve elders if that's what she wants.

Mma Dineo: Le lona loa tena kwa banna! (you are also very annoying). I don't understand how you can fail to be faithful to a wife that has been loyal to you all these years.

Tumiso: I know and i am very sorry. I just let the devil use me.

Mma Dineo: I will speak to her.

Tumis o: Thank you Mme.

Mma Dineo: That doesn't mean that i condone what you did.

Tumis o: Emma.

At Work

I opened J ustin's text message and laughed... The man had sent a bible verse.

J ust as i was about to respond to him, he called.

Me: Prophet Mjusto!

J ustin: Morning sister Mcaros.

Me: Heii o gakets e ka di verse malatsia. When the Lord spoke, you heard him well.

J ustin: Do you wanna go for bible study later?

Me: Thanks but no thank you. Where will i start. Nna

kana i don't even know where to find which book in the bible.

J ustin: That's why you must make use of the bible i got you.

Me: Thanks for the bible but i thought that we agreed that you wouldn't push me.

J ustin: Am sorry. Atleast read the rest of the parable i sent you.

Me: Maybe later.

J ustin: I am gonna call you later so we can discuss it.

Me: Ok. Sharp

J ustin: Bye.

I put the phone down and smiled. As much as i hated admitting it, i loved this new J ustin. Maybe had we met now then things would have been different. I thought about our marriage and sighed...Would things have worked out if we had just stayed in a relationship?

Later that day

[02/07, 08:41] : Dear Carol

#59

Later that day

At my house

My mother looked around the living room and shook her head...

Me: Can i get you anything to drink?

Mma Dineo: I am not here for drinks. I came to talk to my daughter.

Me: Ok. I will leave you two.

Dineo: You don't have to go anywhere. If mama wants to say anything to me then she can say it in

your presence.

Mma Dineo: Just a week with her and you have already picked up her bad manners.

I closed my eyes and did everything to control my temper.

Dineo: You haven't told me why you are here.

Mma Dineo: Your husband came to see me.

Dineo: Ofcourse he did. I should have known that he would come running to you.

Mma Dineo: Which is a good thing. I am his mother inlaw and if he has any problems then he should talk to me. Now what is this thing i hear about you wanting a divorce? What kind of jokes are you pulling?

Dineo: It is not a joke. I am serioud about the divorce.

My mother looked at me and clapped her hands.

Mma Dineo: You must be proud of yourself. Koore you couldn't just hold yourself. You just had to ruin your sister's marriage as well. Was it not enough that you shamed us?

I stood up and shook my head...

Me: I am neither surprised or hurt that you are saying this. When i heard that you were coming , i knew that you were only coming here to blame me. Mama do you hate me so much that you must always blame me for everything? I mean look at your daughter! She is hurting and she has lost so much weight in a week but you can't even recognize that because you have let your hatred for me cloud your judgement. Instead of being a mother and finding out why she is in such a state, you choose to accuse me of things i am not guilty of. I am not the reason for Dineo's choices. All i ever did was

support her as a sister.

Mma Dineo: Support her to ruin her life?

Me: What was i supposed to do? Throw her in the cold like you did to me? Am sorry mama but i am not you. I care about our mental health more than i care about what people will say. For once be a mother and put your children first because if you continue this way then you will lose us. I am gonna give you two some space to talk. Dineo if you need anything please call me.

Dineo: Thanks sis.

Me: Yeah sure.

I picked up my bag and car keys then left...

A few minutes later...

The two sat quietly in the living room for a while.
None of them knew where to begin.

Mma Dineo: Dinny!

She cleared her throat and held her daughter's hand...

Dineo: Mma?

Mma Dineo: You know that i love you right?

She kept quiet and looked at her mother before nodding in agreement...

Mma Dineo: I know that most times i sound tough with you girls but that's because i love you and i want you girls to be happy. I know that your sister doesn't see that and she will never see that because she is hot headed. I only want what's best for you.

Dineo: I hear you mama and i understand this because i am a mother.

Mma Dineo: I knew that you would understand.

Dineo: I understand but that does not mean that i am going back to that man.

Mma Dineo: My girl that man is your husband and the father of your children. You took vows.

Dineo: Vows that he has never respected. Mama for years i watched that man cheating and walking all over me but i remained a loyal wife. I stayed strong just as you said. I put this marriage and the kids first while i lost myself in the process. For years i ran around fighting his women while he disrespected me each time. I am sure that the entire city knows me by now because there is no place i haven't been to. Young and old, that son inlaw of yours has had it all.

Mma Dineo: My child every marriage has it's own challenges.

She pulled her hand back and wiped her tears...

Dineo: Look at me mama. Look at me. Do you think what i have been through over the past years are just challenges? Do i look like the same Dineo to you? Do i look happy? When was the last time i slept without worrying about my husband sleeping around?

Mma Dineo: Akere mme ngwanaka he says he has apologized.

Dineo: For how many years has he been apologizing for? You know what i have been through in this marriage. You know very well that my husband is a serial cheater and i have been strong. I have fought so hard for this marriage.

Mma Dineo: Which is why i don't want you to give up now. You can't throw away all those years of endurance and hard work. Sit down with your husband and find a way forward. If you need us as your parents, we will be here.

Dineo: No Mama. I am tired.

Mma Dineo: Its hoke ngwanaka! Its hoke Dinny. (Be strong and hold on my child) (Bekezela!)

Dineo: I am sorry but i have made up my mind.

Mma Dineo: Do you want to grow old alone? What about your kids? I know that it must be nice having your sister's support right now but the truth is that she only wants you two to be the same mme kana yaanong ene she doesn't have children. Think about those poor children.

She stood up and kissed her daughter's forehead.

Mma Dineo: I know you and i know that you are a good mother. Between you and your sister, you are the smart one. Don't dissapoint me my girl. I will call you later. Think about what i said.

At Lone's

Emily packed away her clothes in the closet while her friend sat by the study table and got her assignments done.

Emily: Thanks for letting me stay.

Lone: Yeah sure.

Emily: I know that you are dissapointed in me but just like any other person i got fooled. I had no idea that this man was married.

Lone: But you have just said that the man was wearing a wedding band.

Emily: Which he claimed that it belonged to his late wife.

Lone: And that didn't make you suspicious? You just bought his story that he was wearing a dead woman's ring?

Emily: Forgive me if i am not as smart and judgemental as you but yes i bought the story. I had no right to tell him what to do with a ring his late wife gave to him.

Lone: So there was no sign of his wife the entire time?

Emily: No sign at all. I am just afraid that his wife

might sue me yet i didn't know anything. Le gone gape kana there is a chance that i might be pregnant.

Lone: What? You didn't use protection? Emily have you lost your mind?

Emily: Lone i was inlove.

Lone: This has nothing to do with love. It has everything to do with stupidity. What will you do now?What about school?

Emily: Since you are not helping, why don't you leave that to me?

Lone: Nnya mma it's your business. Let me stay out of it...

At Church

After the bible study, i packed up my bible and followed J ustin out of the church and just as we were about to step out, the pastor called us.

Me: I am sure that he is talking to you. I need to get going. It was nice seeing you.

Justin: He is calling the both of us. Let's go. I am sure that it won't take long.

I mumbled but he dragged me with him nonetheless. As we reached the front, we were offered chairs.

Pastor: Hello my children.

We greeted him and sat down.

Pastor: I won't take too much of your time. I have been meaning to meet up with you two and welcome you to the church.

Justin: Thank you pastor. I am Justin and the lady here is Carol.

I forced a smile and looked away.

Pastor: Are you two on courtship perhaps?

We looked at each other and laughed.

Pastor: Did i say anything wrong? Forgive me if i sound nose y but i wanted to invite you two to the courtship class.

Justin: It's ok pastor. We are actually divorced. Carol here is my ex wife.

He looked at us and did everything to hide that he was supri sed but his face betrayed him.

Pastor: Divorced?

Me: We are also friends.

Pastor: That's a bit unusual but that's great...Yeah.
It's great.I am sure that you two have somewhere to
be. Please feel welcome. This is your home. I will be
leaving now.

He stood up and left before us.

Justin: Poor man!

Me: (laughed) He looks shocked.

Justin: I probably would have been shocked as well.

Me: Iya. Nna rra i need to get going.

Justin: Let me walk you to the car.

A month later

[02/07, 08:41] : Dear Carol

#60

A month later

At my house

I put a bowl of popcorns on the table and sat next to my sister. The last couple of weeks that we had spent with each other were everything that we needed as sisters. She switched off the tv and turned to me.

Me: And now? Aren't we watching 'The Fatal Affair'

Dineo: We are but i wanted to talk to you before we can watch.

Me: What's up?

I stretched my feet towards hers on the couch...

Dineo: Before anything, i just wanna thank you for everything that you have done for me. I was not the best sister and the truth is that i failed you many

times yet you welcomed me into your life with open arms. When i thought that my world was falling apart, you helped me to pick up the pieces. I was not really sure if i would ever smile again after everything that happend but you held my hand.

She smiled and looked up to block her tears...

Me: (Smiled) Now you are making me emotional.

Dineo: Thank you so much for being everything that i was not as a sister. I have learnt so much from you in just a short period of time.

Me: Are you sure you are okay?

Dineo:(Smiled) Yes. I thought about what you said a few days ago and i am ready to find myself. I don't really need the money but i think i will start with finding a job.

Me: That's amazing. You have my support.

Dineo: Another thing...

Me: Yeah.

Dineo: I still haven't decided about the divorce.

Me: Okay.

Dineo: I know that you think that i am stupid and i can't make up my mind but the truth is that it's not easy. I mean i know that i am tired and i have just had it with Tumiso's affairs but even so i still worry about my children. As much as this is about me and him, it will somehow affect the children in future. It probably looks easier from the outside but from where i am at in the inside it's not easy.

I held her hand and sighed...

Me: I don't have children but i can understand where you are coming from. When i decided to get a divorce, everyone around me was so angry. They couldn't understand why i had made that decision and i knew that they would never understand because they were on the outside. Like you have

already said, it's easier to judge and conclude from the outside. I don't think that you are stupid or indecisive. Deciding to get a divorce or not is something that is very difficult. Take some time to think things through so you don't live with uncertainties. As you have said, this is not just about you, it will also affect the children. I am sure that it can't be easy to walk away from someone you have been married to for so many years. Others might chant save yourself and leave the cheating husband but the truth is that, that cheating husband was your partner for so many years. He fathered your children and you fell in love. There is just so much that you have shared with him regardless of what has transpired.

Dineo: Do you think i should get a divorce? I mean you have been through one so you must know if it's a mistake or not.

Me: Honestly?

Dineo: Yes.

I looked her in the eye...

Me: I honestly don't know sis. The only person that knows the answer to that question is you. We might all have our opinions but you know your situation better. Here is one thing i will tell you, even after my divorce, i was still not sure if i had made the right decision or not. There were days i regretted my decision and on other days i was certain that i had made the right decision.

Dineo: And now?

Me: I know i made the right decision.

Dineo: Even though you still love Justin?

I kept quiet and cleared my throat...

Dineo: We might not be that close but you are my sister and i know you. I know and i can see how much you still love him.

Me: I didn't divorce J ustin because i fell out of love with him or because i loved him any less infact i have never stopped loving him. I left because respect was no longer being served at the table and that is why he broke our wedding vows and slept with another woman. No matter how much i loved him, i knew that i would always have to look over my shoulders. The circumstances at the time made things worse

and we brought out the worst in each other.No matter what we did, we were toxic for each other. Had we taken time to get to know each other and built a real relationship before we got married then maybe things would have been different. Le ene hela had he been honest with himself from the onset then we would have worked out.

Dineo: And now? I mean you spend a lot of time with each other. Are you gonna re-marry?

Me: I love J ustin so much and i will probably feel this way for a really long time but i am not anywhere close to getting married again. Marriage requires more than love and i am glad i know that

now. I enjoy spending time with him and getting to know him better but that's all there is to it for now. I don't have any plans to get married again. I love where i am at.

Dineo: Don't lie to me. I doubt anyone would be happy being a divorcee.

Me: That's what i used to think but now i know that divorce is not such a bad ending. It can be a great start to something if you allow the process.

Dineo: I hear you. Let's start our movie. We can continue this conversation later.

Me: Cool.

She turned on the tv and selected a movie...

At Nadia's

Mmapula sat on the kitchen counter and chatted with her sister inlaw as she washed the dishes.

Nadia: Are you sure that it's not just a feeling you have? I mean if at all Ofile wanted Carol as you say then he would have probably filed for a divorce and won her over. Akere she is also divorced. I am not saying i know my brother a hundred percent because with people you never really know mme hela Ofile is not the type to sneak around and have affairs.

Mmapula: I know this sounds crazy but i know that there is something going on between those two. I just know it. If not then something happend between them. I mean for the longest time i have been begging and shouting at my husband to stay away from this woman but he remained hot headed. One day he spends the night out, comes back in the morning and later claims to have this woman out of his life forever. No! Something doesn't sound right.

Nadia: I hate Carol as much as you do but you need to stop fishing for things that don't exist. Your husband loves you and he has done exactly what you want, stop letting the devil win.

Mmapula: I know what i am talking about.
Something is going on.

Nadia: I blame myself for all this. I should have
never told you about Carol.

Mmapula: I am honestly glad that you did. I will find
out about what is happening between those two or
whatever that happend.

Nadia: You need to stop all this if you don't wanna
lose your husband.

At Mma J ustin's

Tebogo gave her brother and mother both cups of
tea before grabbing hers and joining them.

Mma J ustin : Aha! Now this is more like it. This is
what i have been praying to God about. J ust sitting
here peacefully with both my children gives me so
much joy.

J ustin:I never thought this day would come as well.

Mma J ustin: I thank God for this. Now i can die peacefully knowing that you both have each other.

Tebogo: (laughed) And escape being a grandmother? You still have to babysit our kids.

J ustin forced a smile and looked away...

Mma J ustin: How so when you are both single? Don't you know that you need someone to make kids with kana ba lona ba gowa hela ko marung. (Or are yours just going to drop from the sky?)

Tebogo:(Smiled) I don't know about me but there is still a bit of hope for J ustin and Carol.

J ustin: Stop it!

Mma J ustin put her cup down and listened attentively.

Tebogo: You might as well as tell Mme. You can't surprise her.

Mma Justin: Does that mean that you two will remarry soon? I told that girl that this divorce was a mistake.

Justin: Mme please.

Mma Justin: Am i lying?

Justin: Carol and i are not back together.

Tebogo: Then how come you spend time together and even attend church together?

Justin: So wena you come to my house to spy on me?

Tebogo: I am only stating what i saw.

Justin: We are two friends trying to heal and be there for each other.

Mma Justin: Owaii! Watch your step. Very soon you will be back together that's for sure.

Tebogo: It's only a matter of time.

[02/07, 08:43] : Dear Carol

#61

At Asa's

Asa held her waist and stood by the gate as Mothusi's car parked outside the yard. She looked closely at the car and shook her head as she spotted a female sitting at the front. By the time Mothusi reached the gate with his son, her face was red.

Asa: So you are already introducing my son to random h*es!

Mothusi: Hello to you too Mmagwe MJ . How are you? Oh me? I am well thank you. We had a great sleep over, thank you for asking. Now that's how a parent welcomes her son home after a sleep over. You don't insult me or the person i am with from a distance.

Asa: I thought we discussed this.

Mothusi: No we didn't. You were dictating to me on how i should live my life.

Asa: It's not just your life if it affects my son.

Mothusi: Susan is my girlfriend and there is no way that i can't introduce her to my son.

Asa: Then maybe you should pick who you want in your life because i will never allow random women into my son's life.

Mothusi: So according to you i should remain single just because i have a son? Koore yaanong because i have a son, it means i should be miserable.

Asa: You are the one that fought so hard to have him in your life, so you pick what you want. I no longer want to see random cheap girls around my son.

Mothusi: Now you sound bitter.

Asa: There is nothing bitter about being a good mother. Next time don't bring your h*es around my son.

Mothusi shook his head and sent his son to the car.

Mothusi: Go and sit for a bit in the car my boy.
Daddy will come pick you up just now.

MJ innocently ran to the car...

Asa: And now?

Mothusi pulled her by the hand and dragged her inside the house.

Asa: You are hurting me.

Mothusi: Stop behaving like a horny jealous teenager. You don't get to talk to me like that. MJ is our son. If there is anything you are not happy about, you don't shout at me like you are talking to a five year old. We still need to respect each other.

He pinned her on the wall and made sure that there was no way of escaping...

Mothusi: Now what were you saying?

He brushed his lips on hers and moved back a few inches from her face.

Asa: Mothusi!

She closed her eyes as she felt his warm breath on her neck...

Mothusi: Repeat whatever you were saying outside.

Asa: I don't ever want to s...

He attacked her neck with his lips and everything

became numb...It was very evident that the two had some unfinished business from the way that they moved their bodies. His hands began to move around caressing her body while his lips greeted hers with a passionate kiss. Ready to give in and surrender her whole being to him. After all he was all that she wanted and being here with him gave her some kind of peace even though she never admitted it to anyone. She closed her eyes ready for anything that came but he let go off her and moved back, releasing her.

Mothusi: You need to make up your mind and be very clear about what you want. Acting like a jealous school girl will not get you anyway. Let me know if MJ needs anything.

He walked out and closed the door behind him...

At Capello

Justin: Thanks for coming even though it was short notice.

Me: It's cool. What's up? You sounded a bit disturbed over the phone. Is everything okay?

Justin: Everything is fine. I just felt like we needed to address this issue as early as now.

I sipped on a glass of water and cleared my throat. I had known Justin for a while and when i looked at him, i already knew what he wanted to discuss.

Justin: I love spending time with you and i am happy that we are going through this healing journey together. After our divorce, i didn't ever think that we would be friends. The truth is that we have built something that we didn't have even when we were married.

Me: I guess people grow.

Justin: That's true. As much as we have both

changed and grown, one thing for sure is that my love for you has not changed.

I looked away while processing what he had just told me.

Justin: I know that it's still very early to ask you this and i am sorry if i am putting you on the spot but i would like to know if is there any chance of us getting back together in the near future.

I put on a brave face and smiled...

Me: After the divorce, i was not sure on how i would cope without you and if i would ever be okay but i had to learn. If i said that i didn't love you anymore then i would be lying. The truth is that i feel the same way about you and i am not sure if i will ever stop. I know that everyone is rooting for us to get back together. We have both changed and chances

are that we will work out but the truth is that even though i love you, i have found another love. Justin i have fallen inlove with someone else.

He put the glass he was holding back on the table and took a deep breath before undoing his buttons...

*

*

*

[02/07, 08:43] : Dear Carol

#62

I put on a brave face and smiled...

Me: After the divorce, i was not sure on how i would cope without you and if i would ever be okay but i had to learn. If i said that i didn't love you anymore

then i would be lying. The truth is that i feel the same way about you and i am not sure if i will ever stop. I know that everyone is rooting for us to get back together. We have both changed and chances are that we will work out but the truth is that even though i love you, i have found another love. J u s t i n i have fallen inlove with someone else.

He put the glass he was holding back on the table and took a deep breath before undoing his buttons...

J u s t i n: That was fast.

Me: If you ask me, i think i was really slow. I should have been the first person i fell inlove with before trying to love someone else. Had i loved myself then maybe we would have never went through some of these things.

J u s t i n: Wow! I don't know what to say.

Me: So to answer you about us, i don't know if there is hope for us. All i know is that we are two broken

people trying to find their way around. None of us is ready to love another person. We both need to heal and find ourselves. It's too early to talk about reconciliation.

Justin: (Cleared throat) That's is well put. I mean i know you are right yet i can't help but feel like we have a chance. I don't know if it's the broken man in me talking but i love you Carol and i don't know if i could ever love another woman this way.

Me: That's why we both need to heal. Only then can we know if all these feelings were real or not.

He looked at me and smiled shaking his head...

Me: What?

Justin: Nothing...It's just that life has a funny way of working out. I mean just the other day you were my wife and i woke up next to you every single day and now...

He sighed...

Me: And now i am your ex wife. I know. There are other days i find myself wondering where we lost it but it is what it is.

Justin: Yeah. I know what you said but no matter how long it takes, i will never give up on us Carol.

Me: Never say never, you might heal, wake up the next day and realise that you don't love me anymore. It could be that it's easier to relate with the person you are hurting with.

Justin: I know what's in my heart.

Me: Ao.

Justin: So how is your sister and the kids?

Me: Eish! The kids are doing very well but i can't say the same about my sister.

Justin: Well that's expected. She has been through so much.

Me: Yeah but i know that she will get through this.

At Carol's

Mma Dineo put her bag on the table and joined her daughter in the kitchen.

Mma Dineo: So what are you making?

Dineo: Something quick for dinner. I am sure that Carol will be hungry by the time she gets back.

Mma Dineo: Look at you.

She clapped her hands.

Mma Dineo: I am so dissapointed in you my girl. I have always thought that you were the smartest but now i see that i was wrong.

Dineo: What do you mean Mama?

Mma Dineo: Carol is the smart one here. I mean

look at all this. Your sister has convinced you to leave your husband the same way that she did and now she has you as a maid. You are now too concerned about her coming back home hungry while she is out living her life.

Dineo: First of all Carol does not have me as a maid. I help out around the house because it keeps me sane. Lastly, Carol is not the one that convinced me to leave Tumiso. I did all that out of my own free will.

Mma Dineo: My child wake up and smell the coffee before you end up alone while your sister gets back with her husband. The same person advising you to leave is the same one that wants back in. You are gonna end up alone while she builds her home.

Dineo: What Carol does with her life is her business and besides who told you that she will get back with Justin? I mean even if she did, you are the last person she would tell considering how you treated her the other day.

Mma Dineo: Whatever happens in my children's lives, i will find out. You two can try and hide all you

want but i will find out. Mma J ustin told me about this new development.

Dineo: Mma J ustin should calm down and stay away from things that don't concern her. She might be spreading the wrong information.

Mma Dineo: Are you forgetting that she is his mother?

Dineo: A mother that should stay out of his business.

Mma Dineo: Kare your sister has brainwashed you. You are a married woman and you know very well that the parents are always involved.

Dineo: Maybe that's where the problem is. Maybe this is why we end up in toxic marriages. It's always about what the parents think instead of what we are going through. Sometimes you need to let us be.

Mma Dineo: Come back to your senses before it's too late my girl. Tumiso will not wait around for you forever. That is something you need to know.

At Tumiso's office

Leatile read the message Emily had sent to his friend and laughed.

Tumiso: I don't understand how you find this funny. Leatile this could ruin my marriage. This little girl says that she is pregnant. What do you think Dineo will do when she hears this?

Leatile: You should have thought about that before you decided to sleep with her. Instead of behaving after Dineo forgave you for having a child with Pearl, you go and make another one. My friend i warned you about this affair. I even begged you to stop because i long saw this coming but what did you do? You decided that i was only making noise. You created this heat so deal with it.

Tumiso: She can't keep the baby.

Leatile: What?

Tumiso: Yes! She needs to get rid of it. I can't lose

my family for a child that has just discovered herself and a stupid unplanned pregnancy.

Leatile: I don't know how you are gonna get out of this one but goodluck my man.

He stood up and clapped his hands.

Tumiso: Are you leaving already? I thought that you would stay and help me come up with a plan.

Leatile: Am sorry my guy but am out...

At Mothusi's

Asa walked past Susan and went into the house without greeting her...

Susan: Heela mma! How can i help you?

Asa: Where is the father of my child...

Susan: (Laughed) I guess Mothusi was right. You are a lunatic.

She ignored her and screamed...

Asa: Mothusi!

.

.

.

[02/07, 08:43] : Dear Carol

#63

At Mothusi's

Asa walked past Susan and went into the house without greeting her...

Susan: Heela mma! How can i help you?

Asa: Where is the father of my child...

Susan: (Laughed) I guess Mothusi was right. You are a lunatic.

She ignored her and screamed...

Asa: Mothusi!

Mothusi: Goeng?

He walked into the living room...

Asa: We need to talk.

He shook his head and sat down.

Mothusi: Asa you don't just rock up at people's houses and start making demands. Hello to you too.

Asa: This is about MJ .

Susan: (laughed) Am sure it is.

Asa: I don't know why you are still here because i have told you that i need to talk to the father of my child.

Mothusi: If you need to talk to me about anything, you call and ask to meet up like a proper person would. You don't just rock up here and start harassing me and my guests.

Asa: I thought i made myself clear that if you wanted to be a part of your son's life then you would have to get rid of ho*s.

Susan: Now you are crossing the line.

Mothusi: No, let her speak. This one has mouth diarrhoea. She will even insult her son's aunt. She doesn't care who she is speaking to.

Susan: Ah nnya ha you failed my dear brother. You really picked the wrong one.

Asa widened her eyes and tried to force a smile.
How did she miss that the two were siblings?

Asa: Ao aunty.

She smiled and sat down.

Susan: You two clearly have so much to talk about
so i will leave you.

Asa: About what i said, i am really sorry. I was not
really talking about you. I was just generalizing.
Kana koore your brother loves bringing random
women around my son and when i saw you the
other time i thought that...

Susan: That i was one of his ho*s.

She kept quite and shamefully bowed. Mothusi on
the other hand couldn't help but laugh.

Mothusi: I will see you later. Make sure that you bring something to eat.

Susan: Sure.

She grabbed Mothusi's car keys and left...

Asa: And you didn't think of telling me that you had a sister?

Mothusi: I have told you this before, it's only that you never listen.

Asa: Well i didn't think that she would come around. You told me that she loves traveling.

Mothusi: Your problem is that you don't respect anyone. You insult anyone that you come across.

Asa: I wouldn't have to insult anyone if you did what i told you to do.

Mothusi: The problem here is that you think i am like Justin. Asa you can't just snap your fingers and

expect me to jump. You don't get to tell me how to run my life. You and i are not together. Sharing a child does not give you any rights to my life. If there is anything that's bothering you, you sit down with me and we discuss.

Asa: Mothusi i am a mother and i have every right to worry about my child. It's not that i am telling you what to do with your life, i only want our son to grow up in a conducive environment.

Mothusi: And i want the same. I hate the fact that we are always fighting. Asa this is going to affect our boy.

Asa: I hear you.

Mothusi: Mmagwe MJ !

Asa: Rra?

Mothusi: I have known you for a very long time now.

Asa: Yes. So?

Mothusi: I know you very well. I understand you.

Asa: Mmm...

Mothusi: I am going to ask you this for the last time.

Asa: What?

Mothusi: What do you want?

Asa: What do you mean what do i want?

Mothusi: You know very well what i am asking you.

She took a deep breath and looked into his eyes...

Asa: I don't know what i want Mothusi.

Mothusi: Really?

There was a moment of silence between the two...

Asa: I mean i want you. I want us to be a family and raise our son together but i am scared.

He stood up from where he was sitting and joined

her on the couch she was sitting on.

Mothusi: What exactly are you scared of?

Asa: What happens if we don't work out? I mean this is not just about us anymore. It's about MJ as well.

Mothusi: Can I ask you something?

Asa: What?

Mothusi: Do you love me?

She became shy as he held her hand...

Asa: Yes...

Mothusi: And I love you too. You are a crazy human being and most times you drive me up the wall but I love you. One can say that we have had the craziest relationship from the very first time we met but I will

tell you one thing. What we have is real. You know me and i know you. There was never a point that we have had to pretend with each other. It's scary to even think that the mighty Asa is scared of anything but i know you speak the truth. Behind this tough bully is a little girl that just wants to be loved right. You might have bullet words all the time but that's only because you wanna protect yourself. Give us a chance to be a family and give me the chance to be a good father and partner. I can't promise that i won't hurt you or that we won't go through stuff but i will do everything in my power to do right by you and our son.

She closed her eyes and wiped her tears...Everything in that moment felt so unreal. How was it that a man was here professing his love to her. She had always believed that no man could ever love her after all the entanglements she had found herself in.

Mothusi: Will you give us a chance?

She nodded her head in agreement and hugged him.

At my house

I put my food in the fridge and stood by the sink to wash the pots while my sister ate her food.

Dineo: Where what did you eat?

Me: I met up with Justin at Capello so we had something there.

Dineo: Is it that serious?

Me: What?

Dineo: Your relationship? I mean of lately you two have been meeting up quite a lot.

Me:(Sighed) Yeah. We have been seeing each other quite a lot but the truth is that there is no

relationship for now.

Dineo: Why is that so? I mean you both love each other.

Me: That's true but the thing hhhis that i am not ready to be in a relationship at the moment. I need some time to myself.

Dineo: To do what? You two have both learnt your lessons and i am sure that you will do better now.

Me: Do you know why we never worked out apart from the fact that J ustin cheated on me?

Dineo: Did you also cheat?

Me: Not really. I devoted my whole being to J ustin even before i was devoted to myself. You know ever since the divorce, i am learning so much about myself. I wanna build me. I wanna love me and do me. I don't think that i am prepared to love another person before loving myself.

Dineo:(Smiled) I wish i had that. I wish i could put myself first but then again when you are a mother it's almost impossible to do that.

Me: What do you mean?

Dineo: I called Montle today and you know what was the first thing she asked me?

Me: No

Dineo: "Mummy when are you coming home?"

Me: Am sorry.

Dineo: So am i. I know you won't understand my decisions but i am going back home tomorrow.

Me: Home?

Dineo: To my husband and kids. Don't try to talk me out of it. If you love me, you will support me no matter what.

I kept quiet and processed what she had just told me. Although i had so much to say, i choose to keep quiet.

At Tumiso's

Emily sat down and looked around the office rubbing her flat tummy.

Emily: So this is where the father of my child works?

Tumiso: Let's get down to business.

Emily: Am surprised that you called.

Tumiso: I want you to get rid of it.

Emily: It?

Tumiso: Yes. You need to get an abortion. I am not losing my marriage over this.

Emily: You want me to kill a child?

Tumiso: It's not even a child yet.

Emily: No!

[02/07, 08:45] : Dear Carol

#64

Tumiso: Emily you need to get rid of that thing because i am not prepared to father another bastard child. My wife will sue you.

Emily: I will cross that bridge once i get there. I am here to talk about the baby. The rest is my business.

Tumiso: You can't force me to father a child i don't want. If you keep this baby then you are on your own. Santlha hela i had used protection but you decided to remove it.

Emily: I didn't see you refuse anything.

Tumiso: Because i was caught up in the moment.

Emily: And you made a baby in that moment.

Tumiso: Get rid of the baby.

Emily: With what money?

Tumiso: I will give you the money.

Emily: And what if something happens to me?

Tumiso: Nothing will happen to you Emily. You just need to find a professional.

Emily: And you think i will find one around here?

Tumiso: I don't care Emily. If you need to go to SA then that's what you will do. Do you understand what will happen to the both of us if my wife finds out that you are pregnant? If you think that she will just let you go then you have another thing coming. My wife has no mercy Emily. She will destroy you.

Emily: I will think about it.

Tumiso: To be quite frank with you, you don't have that type of luxury my friend. Every single minute you take out to think is a risk.

Emily: I will find out how much i need and where i can have it done.

Tumiso: I know just the right place.

He bowed fiddling with his phone...

Tumiso: Are you still using the same account number?

Emily: Yes

Tumiso: Great...

He made an immediate transfer and put his phone back on the table.

Tumiso: I have made you an immediate transfer of twenty thousand and i sent the details you need. Book your flight as soon as you can.

Emily: So is this something that you do all the time?

Tumiso: If you need clarity on anything, call the number i have sent you. She will explain everything. Once it's been done, stay away from me. Don't try to come see or contact me. Am sorry it had to come down to this.

Emily: I should have known better. Goodluck with your marriage.

She stood up and left...

At week later

Nandos, Gamecity

I smiled and waved at Justin after i spotted him
sitted on one of the tables outside the resturant.
Our newly formed friendship had made things less
awkward and each time we bumped into each other,
none of us found it uncomfortable. I walked over to
his table and greeted him then pulled out a chair.

Justin: Hey stranger!

Me: Says the guy i saw a week ago.

Justin: Pardon me, nna kana i am used to seeing
you on a daily basis so it will take some time to get
used to the fact that we live two different lives.

Me: Tell me about it.

Justin: So how have you been?

Me: I have been doing well. And you? How is church?

Justin: Same here. Church is really nice. I never thought i would say this but i don't even wanna miss a single service. It's like each service is a re-birth.

Me: Hee banna...

Justin: You should really come. I know you said that church is not your thing but the truth is that we all need God Carol.

Me: Ijaa!

Justin: Give it a try.

Me:I already did. I just didn't think that attending a few services would get me into trouble.

Justin: Come on!

Me: Let me think about it.

Justin: How is your sunday?

Me: (laughed) I said i will think about it. I never said i would come.

Justin: Hey, isn't that your friend over there?

I turned around and my eyes met with
Ofile's...Mmapula smiled and held his hand walking
straight to our table.

Me: Oh gosh...

Justin: What is it?

Me: (Whispered) She doesn't like me very much.

Justin: Just smile.

At Asa's

Susan threw herself on the couch and put her feet
on the table changing the tv channel.

Asa: Can we talk?

Susan: I am not looking forward to any insults so
can we just pretend that we are not in the same
room.

Asa: I deserve that. I am sorry for my behaviour. What i did was uncalled for. The truth is that i was jealous. The thought of your brother moving on with another woman killed me. After putting him through so much, i didn't know how to tell him how i feel about him. Mothusi and i have been through so much and i didn't think that we would ever get here. I am truly sorry for the way i disrespected you. I didn't know that you were his sister.

Susan: So if i was another person then it was right? Asa you don't disrespect people like that.

Asa: I know and that is why i am apologizing.

Susan: Can i ask you something?

Asa: Yeah.

Susan: Do you love my brother or you are just with him because you can't bear to see him with another woman?

Asa: After everything that's happened, i don't blame you for asking. I love your brother. I didn't think that i would have to admit this some day.

Susan: Really? What do you love about him?

Asa: (Smiled) I love that he gave me a beautiful boy even though i kept him away from him for so long. I love the fact that Mothusi loves me for who i am. When i am with him, i don't have to pretend. I am not perfect, God knows that i have hurt so many people but your brother sees beyond that. When i am with him, i don't have to even try.

Susan: For what it is worth, i think that you are a lunatic.

Asa: (laughed) You have told me that before.

Susan: But i can not take away the fact that my brother truly loves you. I have tried to talk him out of it so many times but he is adamant on building a home with you so i have no choice but to accept you. You are the mother of my nephew and we are stuck with you. I don't promise but for the sake of my nephew and his father, i will try.

Asa: Thank you and i hope that we can laugh over this someday.

Susan: Yeah.

At Dineo's

Dineo smiled as she gave her husband a plate of food before sitting down.

Tumiso: Thanks for taking the kids to Mma Dineo. You and i have so much to talk about.

Dineo: Yeah.

Tumiso: After everything that i did to you, i didn't think that i would be sitting here having food made by you. When i married you, i married right. With everything that i have done to you over the years, you are still here. Each time i hurt you, you fight for our marriage and kids. I honestly thought that i had lost you for real this time.

Dineo:(Smiled) When i took those vows, i meant every word of it. Till death.

He smiled and took a bite from his food.

Tumiso: Did you get a new spice something?

Dineo: No why?

Tumiso: The oxtail tastes different.

Dineo: You don't like it?

Tumiso: No i love it very much.

Dineo: Am glad you do, i put in a lot of effort into making the food.

Tumiso: So are you not gonna eat?

Dineo: Am still full.

Tumiso: Ee kana you women start eating while you are cooking.

She laughed and laid back watching him eat...

At Lone's

Emily sat on the bed packing up her things...

Lone: Where are you gonna go?

Emily: I found a house.

Lone: How? Akere our allowance has not been credited yet.

Emily: Do you remember my little plan?

Lone: I hope you didn't try that because it can land you into a lot of trouble.

Emily: He has transferred the money into my account.

Lone: So he believes you? Just like that? He didn't even ask for a single test?

Emily: I told you that the man is desperate to save his marriage. At this point he would do anything to get me off his back.

Lone: And what happens when he finds out that you lied to him and you were never pregnant?

Emily: The money is in my account as we speak. There is nothing that he can do at this point. He can not make a lot of noise because he doesn't want his wife to find out. Lenna hela i have what i wanted so i won't bother him for now

Lone: So you extorted money from this man for real?

Emily: Akere le ene o njele? I am only getting paid for my services. That money is not even enough.

Lone: How much did he give you?

Emily: Twenty thous and but i am not done with him.

Lone: Emily please stop all this before you get into trouble.

Emily: I know what i am doing.

At Nandos,Gamecity

I faked a smile and focused on my food...

Mmapula: This is lovely. I have been trying to get your ex wife to join us for a meal but i have not succeeded.

Me: I have been a bit busy.

Mmapula:(Smiled)Busy with your man i see. Now i know why you haven't had time for mine.

J ustin looked at me but i did everything to avoid eye contact with him.

[02/07, 08:45] : Dear Carol

#65

At Nandos,Gamecity

I faked a smile and focused on my food...

Mmapula: This is lovely. I have been trying to get your ex wife to join us for a meal but i have not

succeeded.

Me: I have been a bit busy.

Mmapula:(Smiled)Busy with your man i see. Now i know why you haven't had time for mine.

J ustin looked at me but i did everything to avoid eye contact with him.

Ofile: It was nice seeing you two. I think we will get a table inside the resturant.

Mmapula: I think it would be nice to sit here and get to know each other.

J ustin: That would have been really nice but the truth is that we are in the middle of a meeting.

Maybe we can do lunch some other time?

Mmapula: That would be nice. Let me get your number so that we can arrange everything seeing that we are the only people that are serious about it.

J ustin: I will arrange it with your husband.

Mmapula: Excellent.

Ofile stood up and grabbed his wife's purse.

Ofile: It was nice seeing you guys.

Me: Likewise.

Mmapula: Enjoy your lunch.

I took a deep breath and pushed my plate back.

Justin: What was that all about?

Me: I have no idea. Like i said, she doesn't like me.

Justin: I know you very well Carol and i can tell that you are lying to me. I saw the way that Ofile looked at you. The man had guilt written all over his face.

Me: It's a long story.

Justin: You know that i always have time for you.

I scratched my head and sighed...

Me: I can't talk here. Let's finish our food and go somewhere else.

Justin: Ok.

Inside the restaurant

Mmapula and Ofile settled on their table and waited for their order.

Mmapula: Those two make a great couple.

Ofile: They are divorced.

Mmapula: Well if you ask me, i think that they might get back together.

Ofile: I doubt it.

Mmapula: Do you doubt it or you are just jealous?

Ofile: What exactly are you trying to say?

Mmapula: Do you still love her?

Ofile: I thought we came here for lunch. I didn't know that we would be sitting in a restaurant discussing Carol. Had i know then i would have stayed home.

Mmapula: The truth is always a hard pill to swallow. You two are sleeping together and you know it. That's the reason why you can't be around each other in my presence.

Justin: One of these days, your obsession with Carol is going to kill you.

Mmapula: I am not obsessed, i can see right through you.

Ofile: This is the last time i am discussing Carol.

Mmapula: The truth always comes out. You won't be able to hide it forever.

Ofile: That's enough.

At Dineo's

Dineo smiled as her husband finished his food...

Tumiso: Thanks for lunch babe. The food was really nice.

Dineo: Am glad you enjoyed it.

Tumiso: It's been a while since i have had some home cooked food.

Dineo:(Laughed) Ele gore what did you guys eat while i was away?

Tumiso: You know that i can't cook to save my life. On the first few days, i cooked but the kids never ate my food so i subscribed for dinner by that new restaurant opposite my office.

Dineo: My poor kids.

Tumiso: I am just glad that you are back home and that's all that matters.

Dineo: Me too.

Tumis o: I know that it must have been really hard for you to forgive me.

Dineo: Yeah. I was ready to walk away from this marriage. At some point i wanted to get a gun and shoot you.

Tumis o:So why didn't you?

Dineo: I figured that it wouldn't be fun to watch you die quickly. I revised your slow and painful death so many times.

She smiled and held his hand...

Tumis o: Am sorry that i had you thinking that far. I know that i hurt you and the truth is that it was never my intention for things to get this far. It's only that at times we make the silliest mistakes.

Dineo: I know and that is why i am your wife . No matter how long it takes, i will always be here to help you understand that this marriage comes first. We said only death would separate us and we must

live by those vows.

Tumiso: Thank you honey.

He took a deep breath and laid on the couch.

Dineo: Are you okay?

Tumiso: I am just tired from everything that's been happening around us.

Dineo: You will soon be rested from all this. I will heal as well.

Tumiso: That's all I want.

She picked up his plate and stood up...

Dineo: Let me get you some of my home made juice.

Tumiso: I love how you are spoiling me today.

Dineo: Life is too short babe. We need to make the best out of the little time we have left.

Tumiso: Babe

Dineo: Yes love.

Tumiso: Are you sure you are fine?

Dineo: Ofcourse. Why do you ask?

Tumiso: You sound like someone that is just about to die.

Dineo: Well i am ok. I should be asking you. Any headache yet?

Tumiso: What?

Dineo: I mean i know it's a slow acting poison but are you sure that it has not kicked in yet.

He felt all of his strength leaving him...

Tumiso: What?

Dineo: That's the disadvantage about poisons that are hard to detect. They act really slowly.

Tumiso: Babe that's not funny.

Dineo: It wasn't meant to be funny at all. If i were you, i would sit still and wait.

Tumiso: (Crying) Hlamma you are lying. You would never kill a person. You are my wife. I know you.

He felt his body slowly becoming weak.

Dineo: Remember the "something different" in that oxtail?

He looked at her with tears in his eyes.

Dineo: Well that spice is going to eat you slowly while i watch.

Tumiso: (Crying) Honey please.

Dineo: I feel so insulted. I mean when i begged you all these years to stop hurting me, i had put in an effort. I cried real tears and it was more than an act. You need to do better.

She left and went into the kitchen...

[02/07, 08:45] : Dear Carol

#66

At Dineo's

Tumiso wiped his sweat and went on his knees to take a short prayer while his wife put her legs on the table and ate a snack.

Tumiso: (Crying)Ao Mmagwe Montle, wasn't there another way to resolve this?

Dineo: I gave you so many chances to change but you failed. You left me no option Rragwe Montle. This is a path you choose.

Tumiso: Did you even think about our kids?

He said with a shakey voice...

Dineo: I thought about them so many times and that's how i found myself stuck in this marriage. I gave myself to you and your abusive ways hoping you would change and what did you do? You played me for a fool. I kept telling you not to push me to this point.

Tumiso: I know but it doesn't have to end this way. Baby call the ambulance. I promise that i won't say anything. We can start over. We will be stronger and wise now.

Dineo: You are my husband and i know you. Even a near death experience can never change you and that is why you must die.

Tumiso:It doesn't have to be this way. If i die then you will be a murderer.

Dineo: And we will be even. I will be doing exactly what you did to me years ago.

She looked at him and laughed...

Dineo: I think you should just shut up. We have talked about this for years. It's now time to face the music.

Tumiso: Babes please hear me out.

Dineo: Continue talking and i will pour hot Tobasco sauce in your eyes and asshole. I have given you the easy way out. Don't make me regret it.

His stomach began to rumble and he could see the end... In his eyes, the end was near and he was helpless.

Tumiso: Can i say something?

Dineo: Tumiso don't try me.

Tumiso: I won't take too long, i promise.

He wiped his tears together with his sweat.

Tumiso: Take care of the kids. I never meant for things to get out of control. I hope you meet a man that deserves you. I don't deserve you and i have always known that.

She clicked her tongue and got up...

Dineo: Get your sh*t together and pull yourself together because you won't be seeing Jesus today. I put a laxative in your food. The only thing you will get is a running stomach and a divorce. You better not make the divorce unbearable because this time it won't just be a laxative in your food. I will slit your throat while you are asleep and cut you into pieces before before serving you to your mother. Go to the toilet. Smells like crap in here.

She picked up his car keys from the table and spat

on him before trotting outside...

At the parking lot, Gamecity

I picked up my files from the passenger seat and threw them at the back making way for Justin.

Justin: Sporty still smells very nice.

Me: She sure does.

Justin: Are you ok?

Me: Yeah.

Justin: So what was that all about?

Me: So i am not sharing this with you because i have to. I just wanna get it off my chest. Total gone if you are going to be judgemental then you might as well as leave.

Justin: This is me we are talking about Carol. I am the last person to judge you. You know this.

Me: People change. I mean after all you are deputy Jesus these days.

Justin: (laughed) Even deputy Jesus has no right to pass any judgement.

Me: Good.

Justin: So what's up?

Me: Akere you know all about me and Ofile?

Justin: Yeah

Me: The other night he came over to my house and ever...

Justin: Hold up. When you say other day, are you refering to when we were married? Did you sleep with him while we were married Carol?

He raised his voice and the atmosphere changed.

Me: No...

I looked down...

Me: I didn't sleep with him while we were married.
Tota even if i did, you have no right to be angry,
akere le wena you slept with Asa while we were
married.

J ustin: Something that i came clean about. Had you
slept with him while we were together then you
would have been a hypocrite.

Me:After what you did to me, i wanted to sleep with
him so bad.Akere you deprived me of my conjugal
rights.

J ustin: Emma. Tota whatever happend is now in the
past. I would like to believe that forgiveness and
healing is something we are still pursuing.

Me: Yeah.

J ustin: So does the wife know that you slept with
him?

Me: J udging from the way that she is acting, he
might have told her or she is just suspicious

because she has never been comfortable with our friendship.

Justin: She is definitely onto something.

Me: Yeah. Now the question is do i tell her or let it slide because it's now eating me.

Justin: The only person that can tell that woman what happened is her husband. If he chooses not to tell her then there is nothing you can do because he is the only one that owes her that much and has such a right. You did her wrong regardless of whether her husband is the one that let you in or not. You were once married and you know this.

I knew he was right and having this conversation with him wasn't exactly easy.

Me: Yeah.

Justin: I am not judging you.

Me: Mmm...

Justin: I know that it doesn't get easy with the guilt but you need to forgive yourself Carol. That's the only way you will move past this.

Me: Yeah.

Justin: Don't do anything stu...

My phone rang and i quickly grabbed it from my bag and looked at the caller identity.

Me: I need to take this. It's Dineo.

Justin: Okay. Lenna let me get going. I will see you around.

Me: Sure. Thanks

Justin: Cool.

I picked the call as he left...

Me: Hey sis.

Dineo: Where are you?

Me: Am in Gamecity but i was just about to go home.

Dineo: Please come back home. I am outside your gate.

Me: Are you okay?

I could pick that she was crying even though she tried to sound strong over the phone.

Dineo: I am done Carol. I am so done with that marriage.

Me: Listen to me. Stay there. I will be there in a few minutes.

She sobbed and kept trying to laugh in between the crying...

Me: Dee i am on my way.

I started the car and sped off...

At Dineo's

Tumiso took off all his clothes and sat on the toilet feeling as if his butt was on fire even though the sit was cold. His entire body was also on fire and for a minute he doubted what Dineo had told him. What if it was not just a laxative? What if she had said all that so that he didn't get any help. If he was to call an ambulance, what exactly would he say?

He grabbed his pants and took his phone and just as he was about to dial Dineo's number Emily called.

Tumiso: Please not today Emily.

Emily: I need more money.

Tumis o: Heela ngwananyana. Don't test me.

He hung up...

Tumis o: Wa nteka satane nxa!

He dialled Dineo's number but it didnt go through...
All hope was lost. He was just waiting for his fate
and each time, he felt stomach cramps, his heart
palpitations also raced. Not knowing if he was
about to take his last breath or not drove him nuts.

Tumis o: Modimo segolo ntseye once. (God let me
die at once).

He held tight to his tummy...

At my house

I gave Dineo a glass of water and sat down...

Me: What's going on? I thought you two were fixing things. Did he mess up again?

Dineo: I lied. I just said that to distract everyone so that i could achieve what i had planned.

Me: Huh?

Dineo: I couldn't just divorce him without teaching him a lesson.

Me: What do you mean?

Dineo: He hurt me. I had to hurt him back.

Me: Dineo you are scaring me. What did you do?

[02/07, 08:46] : Dear Carol

#67

At my house

I gave Dineo a glass of water and sat down...

Me: What's going on? I thought you two were fixing things. Did he mess up again?

Dineo: I lied. I just said that to distract everyone so that i could achieve what i had planned.

Me: Huh?

Dineo: I couldn't just divorce him without teaching him a lesson.

Me: What do you mean?

Dineo: He hurt me. I had to hurt him back.

Me: Dineo you are scaring me. What did you do?

Dineo: Relax. I didn't kill the guy or anything. I threw in a bit of laxative in his food.

I looked at her and i wasn't sure wheather to believe her or worry.

Me: Really?

Dineo: Maybe not just a bit.

Me: Dineo!

Dineo: What?

Me: What if he dies?

Dineo: Then it's all on the laxatives.

Me: You could have just walked away.

Dineo: Sorry to burst your bubble sis but i am not you. I don't leave peacefully. After i have left, the devil has got to clap hands and praise me for my schemes. It's time men learnt their lesson.

Me: He will learn his lesson. You don't have to facilitate the whole thing.

Dineo: You mean the same way Justin learnt?

Me: Let's not even go there.

Dineo: When i say learn a lesson, i am not just talking about emotional pain sis. The pain needs to be physical as well.

Me: So where is he?

Dineo: He is probably sitting in the toilet by now.

Me:(laughed) You really didn't have to go this far.

Dineo: That man must run when he sees me.

Me: (laughed) He is going to tell your mother.

Dineo: (laughed) I wouldn't be surprised if your mother came here running to call me to order or even call the cops on me.

Me: I doubt she would go as far as calling the cops.

Dineo: This is your mother we are talking about here. She would do anything to make sure that i am stuck in that marriage. I mean even if she has to drag me out of here screaming and kicking.

Me: I still don't understand why Mama feels like getting a divorce is a curse.

Dineo: It's because she has been taught that Morule women don't divorce. Mama only became free after dad died.

Me: What do you mean? I have always thought that

they were happily married.

Dineo: You were too young to understand. Mama did everything she could to protect you. When she was troubled, i was her shoulder to cry on.

Me: So why didn't she leave.

Dineo: Carol, submissive women like mama don't just leave.They hold on to the old women's teachings.

Me: I still don't get how or why she would want the same to happen to us. I mean, we are her children. Isn't she the one who is supposed to understand our pain better than anyone.

Dineo: In her eyes, she is giving us some tough love. I know how she can be but i know that she loves us and wants what's best for us deep down in her heart. She is just going on about it the wrong way.

Me: I don't know.

Dineo: I know. I can relate. Remember how i treated you after the divorce?

Me: Yeah.

Dineo: I know all about that.

Me: That was different.

Dineo: How so?

Me: You are my sister and she is my mother. I mean i have never had a child before but surely how a mother feels must be different.

Dineo: I understand what you are trying to say and to a certain extent i agree.

Me: Whatever you say.

Dineo: Can i go and take a bath then maybe we can go out for a drink. I honestly could use a different space.

Me: Ok. Mm gone are you sure that you didn't do more than putting a laxative in his food?

Dineo: I swear. Sis i am a mother and i know that it would all come back to affect my children so no i didn't. I just wanted to sting him a little.

Me: And about the divorce?

Dineo: I want out. I never had a change of heart. I

just wanted him to relax and trust me so that he didn't see this coming.

Me: Okay.

Dineo: So how does it feel?

I sighed and smiled...

Me: It hurts. It really does and on most nights you don't sleep. It is worse if you still love your husband because you wanna fix things even though you know you can't.

Dineo: So how did you get through it?

Me: I took one day at a time till i realised that getting a divorce was a step of self discovery and a road to redemption.

Dineo: I hope that i can look back one day and say the same.

Me: Trust me. You will. It takes time but you will.

At Ofile's

Mmapula poured some glass of ice cold water into a glass then went with it to the living room.

Mmapula: Are you sleeping with Carol.

Ofile: Babe please. Not this again.

Mmapula: Oh yes. This again. Thera today you are going to tell me the truth o batla kana o sa batle.
(Whether you want to or not).

Ofile: Why can't you let all this go? Akere you asked me to stay away from Carol and that's exactly what i am doing. Why can't you allow us to have some peace.

Mmapula: While my gut tells me that something is happening between the two of you.

Ofile: Nothing is going on. I haven't seen Carol or spoken to her in a long time. I am only seeing her today and besides, you said it yourself that she and her ex husband look great together. Who knows?

Maybe they are fixing things.

Mmapula: Are you sleeping with her?

Ofile: This is the last time i am having this conversation.

Mmapula: I don't think so.

She stood behind him and poured the glass of water on his head...

Ofile: (Shouting) Come on Mmapula!

Mmapula: Come on Mmapula wa seo mang? You will tell me the truth. I will boil water and pour you with it if that's what it takes.

He took off his t-shirt and wiped himself with it while he cursed.

Mmapula: You can't marry me then run around with

other women. Tota you should have just left because you are clearly not marriage material. Lenna hela i don't know what i was thinking when i married you. You are an excuse of a man. Very weak!

He took a deep breath and kept quiet.

Mmapula: I did you favour. Don't fuc*ing keep quiet when i am talking to you.

Ofile: Okay fine. I slept with her.

Mmapula: What?

Ofile: The night i slept out. I was with her. We got drunk and slept together. You are right. Something happend between us.

She fell on her knees and broke down...

Mmapula: (Cried) How could you?

He kept quiet and stood up from where he was seated.

Ofile:I am sorry. What happend was a a mistake and that's why i cut communication with her and kept a distance.

Mmapula: Get out!

Ofile: Can we atleast talk.

Mmapula: I said get out.

Ofile: Atleast let me get a shirt.

Mmapula: (Shouting) Ofile don't test me.

He grabbed his keys from the table and left...

At Mothusi's

Susan snapped a few pictures of Asa and her brother before handing back Mothusi's phone.

Mothusi: Thanks sis.

Susan: What time did you say you are gonna be back?

Mothusi: We should be back before midnight.

Susan: Okay.

Asa: I have written down his routine incase you forget anything.

Susan: Relax. I can take care of him. I don't need a written routine.

Asa: Well you need to follow it because i don't want him changing it.

Susan: It's just for tonight.

Asa: That's not the point. My son has a daily routine that he has to follow daily. Come rain or sunshine and you also need to respect that.

Mothusi: Let's get going. We are gonna run late.

He pulled her outside by the hand.

Susan: Enjoy

She faked a smile closing the door.

Asa: I don't like how your sister wants to do things. I am MJ 's mother and what i say goes.

Mothusi: Babe sometimes you need to stop being a dictator. Susan loves MJ and she wouldn't do anything to harm MJ .

Asa: She hates me. I doubt that anybody who hates you can love your child.

Mothusi: That is water under the bridge. Susan has opened a new chapter. You need to do the same.

Asa: I am a woman and i know how women think.

Mothusi: I don't know why you are still stubborn.

Koore ke go imisitse mme ontse o bodipa hela.(Even after getting you pregnant).

Asa:(laughed) Nkimisa gape ee.(Get me pregnant again then).

Mothusi:(laughed) Ijoo! O batla go siya le monna omongwe ka ngwanake. (you want to run away with my child because of another man).

They laughed as he drove off.

At Tumiso's

After drinking so much water and praying non stop Tumiso regained a bit of strength. He could not believe how his stupid decisions almost got him into the grave. All these years he had thought Dineo was just a nagging wife. It was only today that he had realized that she was capable of so much more. After everything he had put her through. He probably would have killed her a long time ago

had it been him. There was definitely no fixing things, even he could see that. He had finally succeeded in destroying her.

Tumiso: Oh God.

He picked his phone and sent a message to Dineo.

"I am very sorry for everything i have put you through. I didn't realize that i was slowly destroying the mother of my kids till today. I know that my apology will not fix anything but i am deeply sorry. Let me know when you want to proceed with the divorce. I will even ask our lawyer to speed things up if you want. I hope you find healing."

He wiped his tears then typed another message.

"I am sorry that i invited you into my marriage and it

didn't end well for any of us. If you want more money then please feel free to ask my wife. You don't have to hide anything from her for my sake. This is the last text you will receive from me. Her number is 76553***".

He sent the message to Emily then turned off his phone...

Four years later...

At my house

I posed for a few pictures by the gate with my graduation gown and certificate in hand.

Dineo: Another one.

Me: You said that about this one.

Dineo: You will thank me later for capturing all these memories. Hlamma buying a house and getting a second degree is a big deal.

Me: Yeah neh.

Dineo: I am so proud of you.

Me: I am also proud of you. I am glad you enrolled for yours.

Dineo: All those years i thought that being a wife was everything kante i have nothing in my basket. Thank you for teaching me that life does not end just because you are a divorcee. I have only started living my dreams.

Me: And there is so much more to come.

Dineo: This is how i want to raise Montle. I want her to know that she comes first and there is nothing wrong with being selfish at times.

Me: That one seems to be one of those miss independent and i love it.

Dineo: That was you but you had a mother like ours.

Me: I know but in the end i stayed true to myself.

Dineo: Yeah neh.

Me: Let's go inside and start setting up before everyone gets here.

At Mogobane

Mma Justin's

Tebogo looked at her husband and smiled then back at her brother.

Justin: What is it?

Tebogo: Nothing.

Justin: Tshepo why is your wife looking at me like that?

Tshepo:(Smiled) I don't know bro.

Mma Justin: Say everything that you have been saying before he got here.

Tebogo: Ao Mme! So you are selling us out just like that?

Mma Justin: I am not selling you out. I also want answers just like you.

Justin: Uhu! Then ask!

Tebogo: It's been four years.

Justin: So?

Tebogo: Have you not found anybody yet?

Justin: Anybody to do what?

Tebogo: To marry or even go on a date with?

Justin: Come on! Are we seriously going to have this conversation each time we have lunch as a family? You need to tell me so i stop coming if at all lunch means 'When are you getting married Justin'.

Mma Justin: You are not getting any younger. If you can't find the right woman then ask the pastor to pick one for you. You have been a loyal member, i am sure that he will make a plan.

Justin: First of all i am not looking and second of all,

i am not desperate.

Tebogo: You know very well that you need a woman in your life. Every man does. Kana jang babe?

She looked at her husband...

Tshepo: I don't know anything.

Tebogo: So are you saying that you didn't need me.

Justin: (Laughed) I think am good.

Tebogo: If you still love her then just ask her to marry you again. You are both older and wiser now.

Justin: I understand that you are all concerned about me but please just let me be.

Mma Justin: Le ene she seems to be single.

Justin: Mme!

Mma Justin: I was just saying.

Justin: No mum.

They all kept quiet and digged into their food while he went on whatsapp.

Justin: Have you thought about what i said?

Her: You know that i told you that i not am ready for any commitment.

Justin: So how long will we keep up with this?

Her: I told you what i wanted from the beginning. We had an agreement.

Justin: Let's talk about it when i get there.

Her: Cool.

He put the phone down and sighed

Tebogo: What's wrong? Are you ok?

Justin: Yeah...

At Asa's

Mothusi picked up Asa's wedding list and laughed.

Mothusi: I don't know how you are going to do it but you need to make sure that all these things fit into my budget.

Asa: But it's all the things i have ever wanted.

Mothusi: Which your husband can't afford.

Asa: Kante what was the whole point of not having a white wedding last year? Didn't you say you wanted to save up? I settled for a traditional wedding even though i didn't want one. It's now your time to settle without complaining.

Mothusi: There is no way i am paying for a six thousand dress. Ele gore otswa ka mosadi? (Does it come with a wife?)

She picked up her list and rolled her eyes.

Mothusi: Start taking out some things from there.
We are not going to spend more than fifty thousand.

Asa: Then let's not have a wedding. Give me all that money because it's enough for a vacation.

Mothusi: Have you started stalking Pearl again?

She kept quiet and looked at the list.

Mothusi: I told you that Pearl does not use money to pay for those vacations. She still has nothing to her name except her instagram posts and clothes that she probably didn't buy. You need to stop comparing yourself with her. I don't understand what kind of a competition this is. Babe you have so much to be grateful for. You have worked really hard in last few years and nothing can take that away. You don't need to prove a point to anyone especially to a woman that dumped her child with her mother in order to afford sugar daddies. You have me, MJ and baby Angel.

Asa: (Smiled) I suppose you are right.

Mothusi: I am always right.

Asa: How about we use the money that we saved up for the white wedding to go on a honeymoon and maybe save some.

Mothusi: What about the white wedding? I thought you wanted to have one.

Asa: Yes. I wanted people to see that i got married especially the ones that always said no one would marry me including Pearl but after what you said, i realise that it's not what i really wanted . The most important thing in my life is you, baby Angel and MJ .

Mothusi: I love you and i know i made the right choice by marrying you.

Asa: I love you too.

He kissed her forehead and enveloped her.

At Mmapula's

Ofile threw his shoes on the carpet and climbed on the bed...

Mmapula: What did i say about those shoes in the bedroom.

Ofile: Ao babe. O raya gore dia nkgā? (Do they smell?)

Mmapula: Is that even a real question?

Ofile: (laughed) Ok.

She picked them from the floor...

Ofile: Thanks babe

Mmapula: I won't pick them again. I am going to help Nadia in the kitchen

Ofile: I love you. Tell me when the food is ready.

She shook her head and left the room...

In the kitchen

Nadia danced along to her favourite dance hall music as she prepared some dessert.

Mmapula: I hope i didn't take too long.

Nadia: You asked me to come and teach you how to prepare this dish but you disappeared the entire time.

Mmapula: Nna mma i was still seeing my man.

Nadia: (laughed) Banyana. Koore you are using me to score extra points by cooking for your man.

Mmapula: I am sure you understand. Kana koore go lovely koore go jamenyana. (It's really lovely at the moment). Hlama i almost ruined my marriage.

Nadia: We all do crazy things.

Mmapula: Mme hela he won't act stupid again because he knows how crazy i am.

Nadia: (Laughed) Maybe crazy is not the right word.

Mmapula: Is it too strong?

Nadia: Ware strong? It doesn't even begin to explain you. Mme i blame myself. I should have never told you all those crazy things.

Mmapula: That's all in the past. I don't care anyone. I am over it.

Nadia: For real?

Mmapula: Yeah. I saw Carol at the mall the other day and i didn't even feel a single thing.

Nadia: Did she say anything?

Mmapula: She greeted me. I mean i could still see the guilt in her face so i greeted her back and walked away because i didn't want it to get awkward.

Nadia: Good.

At Tumiso's

Montle threw herself on the couch and turned on the tv.

Tumis o: Montle!

She looked at her dad and smiled...

Montle: Sorry daddy.

Tumis o: Next time you throw yourself on my couch like that, i will deduct your monthly pocket money.

Montle: For what?

Tumis o: So that i can buy a new couch.

Montle: You should ask mum to buy you one. She has a lot of money these days.

He cleared his throat and forced a smile...

Tumiso: Ao?

Montle: She bought a new car the other day and she is going to school.

Tumiso: School?

Montle: Yes. She is going to be a lawyer.

Tumiso: Are you sure you heard right?

Montle: I saw her enrollment form.

Tumiso: That's good.

How come he was the only one that seemed not to be progressing? Each time his kids came around to visit him, there was a new development about their mum? The woman was smashing goals and glowing more than ever. Each time he thought of this, he wondered if he had been the enemy of progress all along.

Montle: It will get better for you as well dad.

Tumiso: Thanks my girl. I know it will.

Montle: Sure Skhokho.

Tumiso: (Laughed) I am not your age mate.

Montle: You said you wanted us to be friends.

Tumiso: Be careful my girl. I am still your dad.

Montle: (Laughed) Ofcourse.And i wouldn't trade you for anything.

They fist bumped and laughed...

Later that day

At my house

I walked around and greeted my guests making sure that everyone was comfortable. Just as i was about to head to the kitchen, Justin arrived. As soon as he spotted me, he headed towards my direction. I smiled and greeted him.

Me: So you made it?

Justin: Why would i miss my girlfriend's achievement party?

Me: Don't talk so loud. People are gonna hear you.

Justin: So what if people hear me Carol?

Me: Come.

I pulled him to the guestroom...

Justin: Why are we even here?

Me: I thought i told you that i wanted us to keep this between us.

Justin: Why? Are you seeing someone else?

Me: I don't understand why we are having this conversation yet i explained to you that i was not ready for any commitment. This is something you agreed to in the beginning. Why does it sound all

new to you now?

Justin: I might have agreed to it in the beginning but it's been too long. I can't remain the guy you sleep with forever. I wanna get married, have kids, move in together and grow old with you.

Me: That's where you are losing it. I am not ready for all of that now.

Justin: What changed? I thought you love me as much as I love you?

Me: I love you Jay but as for marriage, no!

Justin: So how will we do this?

Me: Maybe we can make our relationship official but that's all I am willing to do for now. Nna tota I am still very busy with my life. There is so much I wanna achieve before getting married.

Justin: What really happened?

Me: I grew up and realized that marriage is not everything and neither is it something under my achievements yet.

Justin: You have really changed.

Me: I would be worried if i didn't because we all need to grow.

Justin: Ok. Let me ask you this, is there any chance of us getting married in future.

Me: Yes. And get me right. I said there is a chance. I never made any promises.

Justin: That's enough for me. I will wait.

Me: That's still your choice.

Justin: I am not giving up on us my friend.

He grabbed me by the waist and kissed me like it was the last time.

Me: Not now Jay. There are people in the living room.

Justin: And none of them is about to walk in here.

Me: Does your pastor know that you do this? Kante what do they teach you about sex before marriage.

Justin: We were married.

Me: Which is in the past.

Justin: These are called retirement benefits. I am sure that God won't mind.

Me: (laughed) Tota wena o etle o bo o buwa eng.

He pulled my dress up and slowly put me on the bed...

Got Spicy

Twenty minutes later...

I fixed my dress before walking out of the room...
When i was about to celebrate thinking that no one had seen us, I heard someone laughing from behind. I turned around and my eyes met with Dineo's.

Dineo: Maja a itshutlha!

Me: I don't know what you are talking about.

Dineo: So all this time you have been spicing up with your ex husband.

Me: Huh?

Dineo: Care to explain the love bites on your neck.

Me: We are all allowed to claim our retirements benefits.

Dineo: (laughed) What?

Me: Ok. I got caught.

Dineo: Can i talk to you about something else?

Me: Yeah. What is it?

Dineo: There is someone here to see you?

Me: Who is it?

Dineo: Promise that you won't freak out?

Me: Who is it?

Dineo: Mama

Me: I thought i told you that i don't want to see her.

Dineo: Oh sis! You can't stay angry at her for too long.

Me: It's easy for you to say. I am the one that was called a home wrecker for years. Your mother never even looked back. She dis owned me for supporting my own sister and tried to poison your kids against me. Tell me that i can't stay angry for too long again.

Dineo: It's been years Carol. You need to forgive and move on. That woman will always be our mother no matter what. Fix things.

Me: Where is she?

Dineo: Outside.

Me: Ok.

Dineo: Will you go and see her?

Me: I don't know Dee.

Dineo: Please.

Me: I will be back.

I walked outside and as soon as i saw my mother something in me moved...I was so angry with her and as much as i wanted to shout and tell her to leave, the pain in her eyes left me without the strength.

Mma Dineo: I am so sorry my girl. I am really sorry Carol.

She got on her knees and cried... I had long waited for this day and even practiced the smile i was going to use but at that particular juncture, all the anger vanished and seeing my mother cry broke my heart. I ran towards her and helped her stand then we hugged.

Mma Dineo: Carol ngwanaka, i am so sorry for letting you go through so much without a mother and even adding ontop of your problems. I should

have never told you and your sister how to live your lives. All i had was one job and that is to be your mother not your enemy.

Me: Let's go inside. We can talk later.

Mma Dineo: I love you my girl.

Me: I love you too.

I held her hand as we walked in.

When they say that a man can make plans but God decides the overall plan, believe them. I had spent all my life making plans and working overtime to see to it that they came to pass but in the end God showed me that, they were just lessons i had to pass through. Marriage was not everything as i had believed it to be. Getting a divorce was also not as bad as i had thought. I had grown so much and achieved all that i had wanted after my divorce. Although everyone kept preaching marriage. It was not on the cards for me.

Dineo: Thank you all for coming to celebrate my sister's achievements with us. I honestly didn't think that one day we would be standing here together and celebrating. For those close to us, you know how we have always had a very complicated relationship and how we fought a lot but today by the grace of God, we are able to stand here together as siblings and celebrate each other. Carol naka, i am so proud of you. I know i say it quite a lot and i mean it. You are my baby sister but i have learnt so much from you. "Pick your crown and keep it moving boo" You have said this over the past few years when i wanted to compromise myself. Actually you say it all the time. Bonye, Kagelo and myself usually finish the line before you can and i am sure that you believe that we take it as a joke. You will never understand how much this line means to us. You have taught us so much about putting ourselves first and walking away when respect is no longer being served at the table. No Job or relationship is worth your inner peace and

sanity. To big people.

Me: (laughed) Nne re tlo lala re bokiwa leng batho.

I looked around the room that was filled with people i love and value. My life was not a fairytale and it was definitely not how people expected it to turn out but i was content and at peace more than anything. I took each day as it came and i was slowly embracing that there was a God in heaven.

Me: My sister has already said so much. Tota hela bathong i have nothing to say except that i am grateful to each one of you that is in this room. Each one of you here has made a great contribution in my life over the years. I have become the person i am because i have crossed parths with all of you. We have hurt each other, laughed together, fought but most importantly managed to stay in each other's lives. I am not perfect. Oh trust me, i have my own shenanigans but you are all still here. Mama we have had our share of drama but nothing

will ever take the foundation you have laid. The work you put into raising us. Dineo i am happy that in the end, we made peace and nothing can come between us now. You and the kids mean everything to me. Kagelo thank you for being the friend that always tells it like is even if it means hurting my feelings. Bonye my friend, thank you for showing me grace even when i did not deserve it.

I looked around the room and i could now see Mma Justin and her daughter. Justin tried hard not to stare even though i caught him staring once or twice.

Me: Justin...

The whole room went completely silent and everyone focused on him and me.

Me: My friend... where do i begin. Ours is a story

that was written by God himself. (Laughed) Yes i said it. You will probably find it weird that i said God because i have never believed in him. From being friends to getting married and getting a divorce. Yoooh! What a journey! Our journey has taught me to trust God's process. One thing i have learnt is that one can walk through the fire but when they finally come out, they are as pure as gold. Thank you for always being the realest. You have made it hard for me to stop loving you because through out the years, you have remained the Justin i fell in love with. Even in your mistakes, you strived to be the Justin that i fell for. Thank you for supporting me behind the scenes. I don't know where we are headed but i would like to tell you that i love whatever we have going on. One thing you should never doubt is my love for you. One day it will be all clear.

By just looking at people's faces i could tell that they were suprised. When my eyes met with Mma Justin, i saw a grateful heart and a happy mother.

This woman had accepted and supported us through our decisions even though they didn't please her so seeing hope on her face made me so happy.

Me: I know that a lot of us here don't believe in divorce but i want to tell you that sometimes it's just the road to redemption you need.

I will read you this letter i wrote to myself a year ago. Well to my old self. (Laughed).

I took out my phone and read it out.

Dear Carol

Hie.It's the future you, writing from a place you never expected to be. I am you after divorce, and i am here to assure you that you are going to be okay.

I know you haven't even considered walking away from your marriage, but that's partly because of the human psychological need to be content with your current circumstances. Choosing to overlook the bad and focus on the good prevents cognitive dissonance, and it's part of the reason you are able to stay where you are. It's a necessary psychological response. Right now, you are fully committed to the marriage, and when that changes you will know what to do. The worst place to be is knowing you aren't happy but doing nothing to change it.

You are going to try hard to make it work before finally giving up and leaving. Your reasons for leaving will seem justified, but it will look a lot more one-sided than it really is. You are going to leave because of what you perceive to be his problems. Sadly, many are actually yours and you will carry them with you. Take ownership for your part and work to heal what's broken inside.

Your family is going to be very unhappy with you. That can't be helped. Your job is to love them

anyway. You can't divorce a spouse without a ripple effect on the extended family and community, too. Many will choose to stop talking to you. Most won't even ask for your side of the story. This, too, is survivable. You will discover who is truly loyal to you, and although you will have fewer supporters they will be the good ones.

What you don't know yet is that you are eminently capable of taking care of yourself. Your other half is not another person but the suppressed aspect of yourself that will show up to help you through the crisis you will be facing in the initial days and weeks after leaving. You are a complete and whole person all by yourself. You have what you need and what it takes to succeed.

Forgiveness is going to be your best friend on the journey. Forgive yourself, forgive those who don't understand why you are doing this, and forgive your ex-spouse. Most people, including you, really are just doing the best they can. Sometimes it doesn't work. That doesn't mean people are bad or wrong, just unable to agree. Don't become so bitter that

you can't look back on the good times and smile.

There is so much uncertainty in a situation like this, but you will get comfortable being uncomfortable. You won't ever go back to being the person you were before. You will have experienced too much, but that isn't a bad thing. Like every journey in life, this one has the potential to teach you so much about yourself and the world you inhabit. Shame will try to consume you, but don't let it.

Acknowledge your flaws but see the opportunity in this. You can't fix what you don't know about, after all.

No one enters a marriage thinking it will end.

Everyone, including influential authority figures, will be quick to offer you advice about keeping promises and commitments. What they won't know is that you will have already taken such things into account when making your decision. The inner turmoil you will experience before saying a word to anyone will put you ahead of everyone else. To them it will be surprising and devastating news, but eventually they will grieve, process and to the

degree possible accept, even if they still don't approve.

Divorce is not an easy choice to make, nor is it something anyone would choose lightly. The legal, financial, emotional, religious, psychological and social consequences are far too serious for that. If a way to stay married without undue suffering could be found, most would readily choose that option. You will look, but won't see it. Probably because it isn't there.

One thing to avoid is indecision. Oh dear Carol, this journey is not for the faint hearted. Take heart!

I phone down and everyone clapped.

Me: I know that you are thinking that this is the wrong place to read such a letter but i hope it can help someone here. Enjoy the rest of your evening and thank you for coming.

I joined J ustin and his family before i could go to the dance floor and celebrate my achievements.

****THE END****

.

.

.