



The Unwelcomed Stepchild

She grapped me by my hair and threw me out,
Shutting the door behind. I stood up and slowly
headed back and just stood behind it from outside
and listened to their evil laughter and loud voices as
they applauded her for kicking me out like a dog that
I was.

Lady 1: Maybe she'll finally get it through her thick
skull that she's not welcomed here.

Lady 2: Why can't she just go find her original
paternal family anyway and leave us the fuck alone?!

Lady 3: Get off her case already you guys. She did
not choose to be a step child. And I'm sure if she
had a choice, she'd go far away, where she wouldn't
have to deal with your everyday wicked ways. Just
leave the poor child alone.

All this time I was standing there eavesdropping to
and allowing their words like sword slit through my
soul. I walked away to my outside room that was
given to me by my unmarried aunt who felt I didn't
deserve to stay at my home that was just next door

after my parents died.

My step father, who loved me dearly during his days of his life was a lastborn of 4 siblings. After marrying my mother when I was just 2years old, they decided that they were gonna build a house just nextdoor from my grandparent's house. I was an only child. Aparantly my mother couldn't bear my father kids after me due to some complications with her womb. So I remained an only child till both my parents got killed in a car crash when I was 18 and in matric. Things haven't been easy for me since. My whole world came stumbling down ever since. I went from being a happy extroven child to being an isolated introvert who prefared to be alone all the time. Peace became my long lost friend that I longed for, for the days of my life.

Hi, My name is Snenhlahla Khumalo. An 18years old girl who lives in the bundus. Please come embark on the journey of my life with me.

Insert 1

I was super excited and relieved to have written my last final exam paper to say the least. I could not believe this was it...the end of my high school days. Finally! No more crossnights and goodbye to all the stress and enxiety that came with being a candidate. Matric isn't child's play. Let alone when you had to deal with the lose of your parents within a blink of an eye in the interim. I was still mourning their passing. And the feeling was still fresh like baked cookies in my heart. It's been 7months since it happened but my mother's imagine was still vivid in my head. I had woken up on an ordinary Saturday to do my chores when my parents were getting ready to go to town that day. Little did I know that it was the last time I was seeing them.

My mother came out of their master bedroom dressed in an elegant bodytight black dress that hugged her in all the right places. She had fawn

ankled boots on, a scalf wrapped around her shoulders, a fawn and military green stripped coat hanging on her arm and a black leather handbag. She always prefared a natural look so she had her huge beautiful afro pulled back into a nice bun and her lips glowing from a light pink lipgloss. She was perfect before my eyes. She was giving me strict orders on how to clean her house as always when my dad came rushing out and complained about time already. He kissed my cheek briefly before heading out and that was it...the last time I saw my parents.

I was brought back to life by somebody nudging me lightly.

Me: "I'm sorry, you were saying?"

Amo: "Penny for your thoughts?" She said waving her hand on my face.

Me: "Arg sorry man dude. I was just thinking about where to from here. You know, now that we're done with high school."

I said dismissing her from asking me a million questions.

Amo: "Varsity babeeeey. I actually cannot wait to get out of here. I'm so done with the life of the bundus along with boys around here. Time to roll with the big dogs now." she said wiggling her eyebrows.

Amo is your typical ratchet girl. She doesn't take life seriously. Being a smarty pants that she is, she was still a party animal, drank beer like those bachelor uncles in the neighbourhood and was a chainsmoker. It was safe to construct a sentence using her and trouble all together. She was my friend and I loved her nonetheless.

Me: "Well I'm actually glad I'm not going anywhere with you Amo. You're like a rotten potato wena"

Amo: "Dude, you should let loose man. live a little. You're still a virgin at your age even. I mean who does that?" she rolled her eyes dramatically "I hope you meet a thug of a boyfriend in Pretoria next year and regret not giving away that cookie to the village boys." she burst into laughter. I chuckled and shook

my head lightly.

Me: "well I'm waiting for my Mr right. And nothing you or anybody will say to influence me otherwise" I said bored and looking at my wrist watch. "Oh sharks! I gotta go Amo." My heart raced at the realisation of me being late for my curfew. Yup...I was staying in my grandmother's house with my wicket unmarried aunt who had two illegitimate children that came and went as they pleased, any time of the day but gave me a curfew that was 4pm. If I happened to not set foot on the yard before then, I was going to be met by a very agonising punishment. I was either going to be poured by an icy cold water and get beaten up with a sjumbok. Or they were gonna lock me out from the main house and from my outside room without food that day. And I was gonna sleep outside. That's how much that woman hated my guts. Even after I've been a part of their family for 16years.

I said my goodbyes to Amo and other fellow school mates since that was our last day of school and immediately sprang home.

I got there 15:55 precisely and the first thing I was met with after stepping my foot inside the house was a very sharp slap cross the face. I temporarily lost my sight. It was all blank. As I was still trying to register what was going on, another one landed on my right cheek and I stumbled back, landing with my back against the wall. I Think my cheek went paralysed for a moment because I couldn't feel it as I stood there rubbing it. A tear drop voluntarily came rolling down my cheek from my right eye. I sat down on my butt and burried my head on my knees and wept. Why did my parents have to leave me behind.

Short and unedited.

Please like and comment. Let's engage and talk about the charectors and what you think of them so far. Don't forget to also share, please .

Insert 2

I remained in that position, allowing the kicking, punching and man-handling that I had coming in.

Aunt Nosipho: "Sikima njandini. Why is you still sitting down? Heh? Why is you not fight like the big girl that you are?" She was panting and running out of breath from all the energy she was using beating me up. I couldn't feel a thing anymore. I was used to being her and her elder daughter, Khosi's punching bag. Whenever they had a bad day or woken up on the wrong side of the bed, they'd take it out on me. So my body had gotten used to enduring all the physical pain. "Stand up and fought me. Angithi ungumfazi wena you don't follow rules. Stand up." I did not feel attacked anymore. I guess she got tired beating me up. I brought my head up from my knees slowly with my hands blocking and shielding my face from any attack. She had both her hands on her waist and was panting.

Me: "Ngyacolisa for being late aunty. It will never

happen again, I promise." I said with my voice quivering and looking at her from the view of my blocked hands.

Aunt Nosipho: "I want to be eated by 7. Uyangizwa? I want to be eated. Munt' angaze ak'fake impama nje. Vezandlebe ndini! Get starting now " She clicked her tounge and walked away. I looked at her body that was squeezed inside leggins as she went away. God must have been tired creating this woman because wow...even a freshly baked squeezed white bread doesn't look this mis-shapen. Nje akahlangani lomuntu. She had long dark skinned fingers and nails that looked like claws and liked painting them with a dark pink nail polish, rings on 3 of her fingers except for the matrimonial finger and the thumb on both hands. She had feet with dark heels like those of men that smoke Weed. Like that would stop her from wearing flip flops. She didn't give a care in the world. Chewing gum never left her mouth.

I made fire in the stove real quick, washed the pot and put it over the coal stove. I was busy peeling

potatoes, lost in my own thoughts when Khosi came in. She dragged her whole fat body lazily, looking as drained as ever. She looked at me from head to toe, clicked her tongue and passed by. I wonder what man got her drained this time. She and her mother always bring different men in the house. Literally new faces everytime and Zama, the younger sister didn't like it one bit. I wonder where she was because I haven't seen her all day.

I finished cooking. Everybody had eaten and I had finished washing the dishes aswell. I resorted to bed. I had my portable radio in my room that was bought to me by my father on my 16th birthday. I listened to Jacaranda and drifted off to my perfect world. I couldn't wait for my results to come out so I'd pack my bags and finally leave this hell hole. These people don't know that these were their last days of enslaving and bossing me around. I was gonna leave and the house would smell because their maid would be gone. Aunt Nosipho's daughters couldn't even sweep a mere floor. I listened to music and

zoned out.

I was woken up by the rays of sunshine stinging my eyes. I rubbed them briefly and got up. I sat on top of the bed thinking about what my day would look like today. I heard a loud sound outside then commotion. What is going on? It sounded like a car had just parked outside our yard. Drunk and loud voices were nearing, bit by bit...I didn't quiet make sure of what they were saying but they we- "BANG! BANG!" a rough knock came through my door. Who could that be so early in the morning?!

Aunt Nosipho: "Yewen little devil. Vula lah. You still sleep this time. A girl doesn't let sunshine her in the butt. Vuka yong" BANG! BANG! BANG! what the fuck! Like seriously! I grabbed my gown and pushed my flip flops in, heading to the door. I open and the first thing that hit my nostrils is a smell of alcohol. No, make that a smell of brewery and a mixer of piss. I gagged. Sies man!

Me: "Aunty."

Aunt Nosipho: "Uthi nyanti. Vula la. Ulele noban ngapha. Who you sleep with" she said pushing the door and stumbling in, almost falling.

Me: "Haibo aunti ngilala ngedwa nje?! Who are these men and where are you from? did you even sleep?"

Aunt Nosi: "Yey foseg wena. Ngazo ngbz' ipapa le special lah. Anglalanga ubsuku bonke ngfunela wena indota. Manje uzong'buza amanyala. Hambo geza" she burped, leaving the atmosphere smelling like umcombothi.

"Excuses me. Hambo geza wena. Labobaba bazele wena lana. Angithi you're done with your education?! Sekus'khathi manje sokuthi uthole umuntu ozokunakekela. HAMBA!" she said exiting the room back to these creepy men that looked like they eat people for super. They had such huge bellies dangling off their own bodies. I'm sure they were taxi drivers or owned some because and they were in those taxi rank uniform. A brandwood, stripped t-shirt and omega sandals. I'm sure outside there's a Cressida that's parked.

"Woza baby..." They danced like teenage groupies that had just came back from a spring welcoming trip.

Insert 3

Time was 11am on the dot. I Was sinked deep into this old couch that robbed one of their last penny each time. The living room was filled with all these men that Aunt Nosi showed up with earlier.

Aparantly they are here to ask for my hand in marriage for one madala who was sitted direct to me that looked old enough to be my father. He had his gaze on me this whole time. I could tell he was lasting over me.

Aunt Nosi: "This is Bror Pat mntanam. Unama tekisi aw2 and a tarven. K'sukela namhlanje,uzobo yinkosikazi yakhe" she said couting all the money that was ontop on a coffee table and wistling. "Yah. Iphelele Pat mngan wam. Ngadla mina" she sprang off her feet and started dancing and rejoicing. The rest of the men had dozed off on these couches. They looked very tired. I bet they never slept a wink

last night busy plotting on how much they were gonna auction me for. Yes...to Aunt Nosi I was just another piece of furnisher that took all her space in the house. She needed to get rid of me.

Me: "but Aunt Nosi I'm not ready to get married mina. I'm still young and still want to pursue my career. Futhi isn't this man old enough to be marrying someone as young as me? Akana mfazi yin?" She came flying across the table and slapped me hard.

Pat: "mshaye. Akana nhlonipho lomtwana. Unyoko akamfundisanga umthetho" I stoop up and ran out. I jumped the fence that was separating my parents' house from the grandparents'. I ran behind the house. Stood next to my parent's master bedroom window and screamed my lungs out. I missed them, I misses them so much. And I didn't realise how long I hadn't set foot in this yard. I sank down to my butt and sat down. This wasn't happening. I needed a plan and I needed it fast. There was no way I'm marrying that old scumbug.

It was in the morning already. Great! Last night I packed all my clothes and put them inside rubbish bin bags. They were not much because Aunt Nosi and Khosi had taken away all my nice clothes. These were just to cover me up so I wouldn't walk around naked. I had called Amo and explained what was going on. So she said she was gonna pass it by her mother and hear if she wouldn't help stay at her house just until I got my Matric results. I got up and sat ontop of the bed and flicked played with my fingers nervously when my phone beeped.

'My mom said you can come stay with us for as long as you want'-Amo

I did not have time in the world to reply. I got up and headed out. This was it. The beginning of my freedom. I bumped into Zama outside. I don't know what she was busy with but I didn't care. She was never on my case anyway so she wouldn't really noticed that I'm up to something.

Me: "morning Zama"

Zama: "morning babe." I nodded briefly trying with every fiber in me not to panic. I jumped the fence to my parent's house and went to take my blastics that I stashed under an old car door that was laying around the previous night. I grapped them and jumped the fence to the other side of the street. I was gone.

I woke up to a smell of coffee. I struggled opening my eyes but eventually succeeded. I was surrounded by cream big walls and a ceiling. Where was i? I was trying to register. I removed the covers off me and sprang off from the bed and stood in my feet. Where the hell am i? I took a brief look at myself...I was still in my clothes. Thank God. That means I wasn't raped. But where could I possibly be. This place is foreign to me. Oh shit...could it be that,that drunkard of a madala have captured me. I thought to myself looking from side to side. No no no....this cannot be. I need to find a way out. I can't s- the door swang open. I stepped back and was-

Amo: "rise and shine princess. I thought you were an early bird" she was being sarcastic.

Me: "thank goodness it's you. I thought I was kidnapped." I heaved in relief holding my chest.

Amo: "haibo mka bra Pat. He wouldn't have kidnapped you as such. You're practically his wife phela?!" She burst out in laughter. "You could have made a hot slaying shebeen queen though. Abanye abo mama ba lucky yaz" she couldn't stop laughing. Mzuzu loyo I'm annoyed to the core.

Me: "You could always go be his wife on my behalf you know . He looked more of your type than mine" I chuckled

Amo: "oh no honey. I'm too wild to be dealing with a diabetic dick. I'd die from a sexual frustration" she rolled her eyes and went on making up the bed. We continued cleaning our room over silly talks and her explicit sex stories. I enjoyed listening to those. Lol don't look at me like that, I was just an intrigued virgin hao.

My stay at Amo's home was nothing like I had imagined. I was used to being shouted at and being abused. So being in such a quiet and peaceful place was bliss. My head was at the right space. Which was precisely what I needed before facing the real world. My Aunt still had no idea where I was and judging from bumping into Zama the other day at our local store and bagging her not to say a word, it looked like she listened because Nosi never came looking for me here.

I was at peace maan. Even glowing. Amo's mom couldn't stop appreciating my beauty. She said I reminded her of my mother. And boy was I a perfect resemblance of my mother! I was melanin skinned with long eyelashes and thick eyebrows. With purple lips are a beautiful curled Afro. I was an African beauty. I real Ndoni. I wasn't slim nor thick...I was fit baby. Yes...broad shoulders, my thighs V-shaped, my ass firm and beautiful thick calves. I had boobs like tennis and boy was I heavy. I was just beautiful.

Insert 4

Days went by as fast as a lightning. I guess it's true what they say...time flies when you're having fun. I had the time of my life at Amo's home. I rememberd how it felt like being loved and cared for again. They have been nothing but good to me and I didnt know how I'd ever thank them. But unfortunately today was thee day. Matric results were coming out and I was a nervous wreck. I knew this would be the beginning of me facing life and real challenges alone. Without my mother or father to hold my hand and guide me through. I was an orphan and the sooner I let that sink, the better. The world was a jungle. It was a dog eat dog. Survival of the fittest and I had to brace myslef for what awaited me out there. Otherwise I was going to be a pray to vultures if I conducted myself like a weaklink.

We finished bathing and Amo borrowd me her jeans and a simple t-shirt. I wore them with my

sneakers. The weather was favourable outside. I comb my curly afro nicely and let it loose. Amo's mom called us for breakfast. She said we deserved a delish English breakfast before we collected our results. So we sat down and said grace. Amo digged in shortly after but as for me, I was too nervous to stomach anything and I didn't want to come across as rude for not eating so I took a few bites and drank the tea instead. We ate over silly talks then said our goodbyes to Amo's mom.

Me: "I don't know what I'd do if I don't make it Amo" I said with my hands at the back of the jean pockets and my face down. "I mean if I fail I'd be compelled to go back to my grandmother's house. And you know what that means for me" I was honestly feeling frantic.

Amo: "who fails? You? Come on man. You're like the Albert Einstein of our school. If anything, you're going to surpass us all bruh" she wasn't lying though. I sure was a smarty pants. And I put in extra hours for my exams. So I had to pass.

Me: thank you Amo. For being a friend indeed. You're

literally the only person I have now. And it pains me to know that we're going our seperate ways next year. Having nobody to call and confined in is hard as it is. I guess it was going to be alot more easier if I had siblings. Or new anybody from my pertenal side." My eyes breamed with tears. I wanted to cry my lungs out but this wasn't the day for any of that.

She wrapped her arm around my shoulder and squeezed me.

Me: " I'm sorry babe. But I'll always come through for you. Nomatter where you go. Even if I have to ride a dick in order for me to get to where you are,I will" I couldn't believe this one. I found myself laughing. "That's my girl. Anything to see you smile."

We held hands and continued walking in silence. I suppose she was also nervous. She was just good at suppressing her emotions.

We arrived at school and everybody was already seated in the hall. We got in and sat at the back just as they finished saying a prayer.

Principal: "good morning candidates. I must say,it is

good to see you after such a busy and long festive season. I hope and believe that everybody was safe and that we all made it here today. With me is an envelope. Still sealed from the D.E. inside are your statements of results and I'll call out your names one by one as you come forward to collect it. But before we do that, may I ask that you applause for yourselves for the outstanding results that you produced for our school this year. We managed to improve from 54% to 89% with distinctions included and we came number 2 in the districts."

There was instant commotion. Screams, drumroll and whistles in between. This was a victory for us. We worked extra hard for this position. It wasn't a hundred percent but it was huge.

The principal continued shortly after the commotion settled and called out our names.

My heart was pumping faster. Almost like it wanted to jump out of my rib cage.

My name was called out and I sprang on my feet straight towards the principal and extended my hand

to his for a shake. He opened his arms for a hug instead. He locked me in for what seemed like a lifetime and squeezed. I suffocated and tapped his back lightly for freedom. He finaly let go but still had his arm wrapped around my shoulder.

Principal: now this is very compelling. Please clap hands for our A student here. 5 distictions in-

He didn't finish his sentence. Half the hall went bananas by the mention of 5 distictions. I was dumbstruck. I stood there with my jaws on the floor and my eye wide open. They became glassy. I think I was already crying. I knew I was going to nail this but definately not this extra. Not after writting the exams still moarning the death of my parents. I went down slowly on my knees and cried my lungs out. I didn't understand wether I was cying because I passed or because I lost my parents in my most important year and they weren't here to be proud of me.

I felt somebody pull me up and in for a warm hug. I gave in and hugged them back for dear life. This was just what I needed.

Principal: "please settle down. I understand this is very compelling but let's save time"

The room went silent with few wispers here and there. He congratulated me and said all he needed to say then I stepped down the few stairs and headed back to my seat. Amo was already in her feet and her arms wide open. I think he kinda jumped up and down like a little kid. That's how excited she was for me. I ran to her and we hugged.

Her name was also called out and she passed very well either,obtaining a bachelor's.

We were finally outside and having chats with other pupils. Congratulations were in order for everybody that passed and words of encouragement for those who didn't make it.

I felt a light tap on my shoulder. I turned to find it was Mrs Gumedé. She was my Physical Science and Mathematics educator and she was very fond of me. Mainly because I was a well-mannered student apart from the fact that I was a Van Dam in both her subjects. I liked her too. She is very warm and loving.

Beautiful and filthy rich. She took teaching as a hobby more than a profession. Her husband and she had successful running businesses. That included property owning in Gauteng and they had 2 sons who were already in Varsity.

She called me from a side and we talked.

Mrs Gumedé: "so...U.P huh?" She had her beautiful smile on

Me: "Yes ma'am...University of Pretoria here I come" I did the victory dance. But then a realistic thought crepted through my mind and I stopped instantly and faced down.

Mrs Gumedé: "is there something wrong Sne?" She looked at me with a sad face. Almost like she was trying to read me.

Me: "I don't know how I'm going to get there. With my parents gone, I have nobody. I don't even know where I'll be staying or eating while I try get myself through Varsity. I mean the Bursary is going to cover for everything but that might take a while. I'm frustrated. I cannot go back to that hell hole. And if I

don't leave for varsity then tha-

She held my hand and squeezed it in assurance that everything was going to be fine. I hadn't even realised I was sobbing.

Mrs Gumedé: "Listen to me Snenhlanhla. Nothing and nobody was going to hinder you from reaching your goals and achieving your dreams. Not even yourself. I'm well aware of what's going on in your life. From the period you lost your parents. That was the reason why I was always on your case, pushing you to do your utmost best in your studies. I'm here for you and I'm going to help you make something of yourself. I need you to go pack your bags because I'll be driving you to Pretoria on Friday. You'll stay at one of our flats and we'll provide for everything in the interim until you find your feet. Will that work for you?

If I said I was speechless I'd be lying. I was beyond that. I squeezed her in for a hug and then quickly pulled back. I was very scared of her. She was very intimidating. For obvious reasons though. She was classy, rich and beautiful.

So we finalised everything then I left. I found Amo waiting for me just around the corner puffing and passing what it looked like weed to the guys she was standing with.

Amo: "ngizonibona around majita"

Guy1: "sure njayethu. Sisonke. Fede uzphathe grande varsity. Ufunde njayam. Ungafani nathi saan"

Amo: "sure mei bras" she saluted.

She caught me staring at her with my eyebrows raised. "What bruh" she rolled her eyes.

Me: "remind me why we're friends again? Because we're so not compatible." She looked at me from head to toe

Amo: " says somebody who's wearing my clothes, been sleeping on my bed and eating my food because she ran away from some dibetic madala who had just laid lobola for her to a drunkard aunt" she laugh carefreely

Me: "Amo that hurts" I said chuckling. Trying to suppress the tears that we building up in my eyes.

She wrapped her arm around my neck and pulled me in for a kiss on my cheek.

Amo: "you know I love you man. Quit being sensitive. You'll not survive out there with your softie self wena. Stru nasi".

I knew she meant well. I kept quite trying to think of what she just said. She was right though. I needed to toughen up a bit and grow some thick skin. I was a softie and that wasn't good.

Insert 5

(Unedited)

Today was friday and Mrs Gumedé was driving me to Pretoria around 12 PM. But before that,I wanted to go face my fears. I wanted to go to my grandmother's house and bit a farewell to my aunt and cousins. It felt like a noble thing to do.

But I wasn't planning on setting my foot there all by myself. I just might not come back. Aunt Nosi would auction me back to Bra Pat. So I was going to ask Mrs Gumedé to come with.

It was 12am and Amo,her mother and I were sitting in the living room chatting while waiting for Mrs Gumedé. I was awfully quiet and I'm sure the worry was written all over my face. I was thinking about what awaited me in Pretoria. I was looking at the traveling bag that Amo's mother gave to me as a present. She said she wasn't going to be a good mother if she was to let me travel to Pretoria with

my clothes inside plastic bags. Even though they weren't much and fancy, she said atleast they didn't have to be an obvious case that I was coming from unfortunate conditions. Even though I insisted that it was fine, she wasn't buying it. So I let her be.

I was zoned out to my own world when a knock came through the door. Amo went to get it.

Amo: Mrs Gumedede hi, you may come in.

She moved back, giving way to Mrs Gumedede.

Mrs Gumedede: thank you Amogelang.

She nodded then came in. her expensive taste of perfume filled the room as soon as she stepped in

She stood a few feet away from the door.

"Sanibonani "

Us: yebo.

We greeted back in unison.

Amo's mom sprang on her feet as she welcomed her in and lead her to a sit.

Mrs Gumedé: ngyabonga Mrs Mageba.

She lowered herself down to a sit and put her extravagant hand bag on the floor. She lifted her leg up and put it ontop of the other and hugged her knee.

"It's a beautiful house you have here Mrs Mageba."

She said looking at her surroundings and nodding with a smile.

Amo's mother is a nurse and a single parent. She strived to giving Amo the best life she possibly could. We grew up watching her working hard and making the house what it looked like today.

Amo's mom: ngyabonga.

She blushed.

Mrs Gumedé: thank you so much for taking Snenhlanhla in when she had nowhere else to go. I acknowledge the risks you must have taken taking her in. I'm sure you had your doubts but you did it nonetheless. You're a great woman. Ayisenziwa leyonto these says.

She addressed her with so much humility and

respect.

Amo's mom: I did the first thing that came to mind. I'd like to think that, this is something any other parent out there would have done. Life has so many unforeseen circumstances and I'd like to believe that should something go wrong in ourselves and Amo finds herself in the same situation, a good Samaritan would take her in as I did with Sne. And besides uSnenhlanhla yingane ya la ekhaya.

She took my hand into hers and brushed it.

Mrs Gumedé: May your wisdom be richly increased.

Amo's mom: I receive.

Mrs Gumedé: anyway... angihlalanga. We've got a long journey ahead of us and with me having to come back today, we should probably get going.

She was already in her feet.

I cleared my thought.

Me: umh... before we leave...

I lifted my head up that was faced down this entire time to face Mrs Gumedé.

"There's something I'd like to do and I'd like you to help me do it, if you don't mind"

I faced down again.

Mrs Gumedé: what is it baby?

Me: I'd like to go to my grandmother's house and say goodbye. It wouldn't feel right if I just left.

Mrs Gumedé: are you sure though?

Me: yes ma'am.

Mrs Gumedé: okay then. That shouldn't be a problem. But like I had already mentioned that I'd have to return today. So we don't really have much time. We'd better get going.

We stood up and they helped me with my luggage.

Amo's mom disappeared to the kitchen and came back holding a container.

Amo's mom: I didn't know what else to prepare for you but I figured home baked cookies would be nice.

She handed me the container.

I ran to her and hugged her so much I think I might

have broken a few bones.

Me: thank you so much mama. I don't really know how I'd ever thank you for everything you've done for me.

I was sniffing.

She broke the hug and wiped away the stream of tears that were running down my cheeks with her thumb.

Amo's mom: just don't be a stranger okay. Don't forget to call as often as you can.

Me: I'll call you mama.

We went outside and said our final goodbyes.

Amo was awfully quiet the entire time and I couldn't make anything of her silence. I guess she was heartbroken that I was leaving. Or

Could it be that she was relieved that I was finally leaving? Oh well.

Amo: I'm gonna miss you so much.

She said with a shaking voice.

She opened her arms wide inviting me in for a hug.

We hugged for what seemed like a lifetime then finally let go. She was really crying.

Amo: you'd better not come back here wi-

She remembered that we weren't alone.

She came closer and leaned forward towards my ear and whispered.

"You'd better not come back home still a virgin."

She bust out laughing in between her cries.

Me: You need deliverance Amo. But I love you too.

I chuckled.

We finaly got inside the car. Mrs Gumedé brought the car engine to life and we drove away.

I waved back at them as we were slowly disappearing.

I let out a heavy sighn.

Here we go...

.

We parked outside my grandmother's house and Mrs Gumedé killed the car engine.

She looked at me briefly before looking past my face through the window.

Mrs Gumedé: do you want me to come in with you?

I was reluctant.

It was probably best if she stayed behind. I didn't want her getting the clipse of what my life looked in this hell hole.

Even though she was helping me, I still had some pride left in me.

I didn't want her getting to experince the vulger words that would be thrown at me like stones soon as I step my feet inside this house.

Me: no it's okay. I shouldn't be long anyway.

I stepped ouside the car and closed the door behind me.

My heart was starting to beat fast and my palms

were sweating.

I wanted to get back inside the car but my deeply rooted morals weren't allowing me to. I needed to do this if I wanted to be at ease.

I finally found courage to go in and I did.

The first thing that welcomed me was bottles of beers all over the yard. Tree leaves were all over the ground. Kanti how long was I gone for?

I approached and there were voices coming from the kicken.

I braced myself and took a long breath.

I approached to the already opened door and knocked.

They turned to face me.

Khos: look what the cat dragged in. Izulu lizonetha namhlanje.

She looked at me from head to toe.

Me: sanibonani.

Aunt Nosi: nyanibonani yamasimba. After all the

time ungekho la ekhaya uzofika lana uthi
nyanibonani. Kukwa nyoko lana?

I was already shaking in my boots. I wanted to run away as fast as I could but it was too late for that. I was already here.

Me: ngyacolisa aunti.

Aunt Nosi: uyacolisa yoknuka maan wena. Uyazi ukuthi ungikhiphe ukudla emlonyen wena nondindwa ndini? Aphi amasaka wakho? I'm taking you to uBra Pat and claim my money back.

Me: NO!

that came out a tab bit loud and I regretted saying it.

She stoop up and charged towards me.

Aunt Nosi: angizwanga? you've been gone for two minutes and you already grew some balls?

I shielded my face underneath my hands.

Me: please don't hit me Aunti Nosipho. What I mean is that lokho ngeke kwenzeke. I was accepted to the University of Pretoria and I'm on my way there as we speak. I passed well Aunti.

I said that with a little enthusiasm hoping to get some positive remarks back.

Aunt Nosi: heheheh

She clapped once and held on to her waist and looked at me like some kind of a chancer.

"nayi imihlolo. Awusho ke sisi. Uthengisele bani indunu kuze uphase? Ngoba sonke siyazi ukuth you're a good for nothing wena vezandlebe"

That cut through my soul.

Aunt Nosi: hamba uyothengisa umzimba edolopeni and claim ukuth uya e University. Sonke siyazi ukuth awuhlakaniphanga ngaleyo ndlela.

She looked at me disgusted.

She went outside and lit her cigarette.

I looked at Khosi who was just sitting there looking at me shocked. Then I took a look around this house that looked so filthy. I was tempted to tidy it up but rememberd Mrs Gumedede was probably getting impatient with me.

Me: uphi uZama Khosi?

Khosi: I don't know.

She dismissed me.

Me: kindly tell me I had came by to say goodbye.

I went out, passing Aunt Nosi who looked like she was standing next to a chimney.

Me: nisale kahle aunti.

Aunt Nosi: yej FUSEG maan.

She clearly looked frustrated. But that wasn't my baby...

We were on our way to Pretoria. The trip was long and I was getting impatient. So I looked outside the window and dozed off. I was woken up by somebody shaking me lightly. I opened my eyes and was met my Mrs Gumede.

Mrs Gumede: we're here alreday.

I sat up straight and rubbed my eyes. I looked around and was mesmerized by the city lights.

We were here indeed.

Insert 6

(Unedited)

*****?

I woke up to a ray of sunshine stinging my face. I rolled over the bed and went to take a shower. I let the warm water hit my bear skin as I stood under it and indulged. I finished and dried myself up. I went to the walk in closet and took out a black vest and grey track pants. I matched those with my Nike kicks. I tight up my afro into a nice bun. I put on some woop earrings on. I was looking all shades of beauty.

It's been a month since I moved here and i was loving every bit of this life. I had my own rented flat which the bursary helped pay for it monthly and other stuff like groceries and a stipend. It wasn't much but I survived.

Soon after Mrs Gumedé had dropped me off,she called her sons,Bandile 29 and Khethelo 22 and formally introduced me to them. She gave them strict orders on how much they should take care of

me. So we've been close ever since. Even though there was some bad blood kinda vibe going on between Bandile and I at first, we eventually clicked. He thought I was preying on his generous mother until he learned that I wasn't that kind of a person. While Khethelo on the other hand was just an easy going guy. So we hang out from time to time because they are also busy with their studies. Bandile was doing his final year in medicine while Khethelo was still in his 2nd year in law. They were quite focused. Which meant I had a positive influence going on. Bandile offered to take me to a good shopping spree one time because he thought I needed a make over. So I bought almost everything that I needed for time being.

I was meeting up with them after class for some quality time.

.

I headed to the kicken to prepare something lite to stomach just before I went to class.

My flat was a walking distance to the campus so I had enough time to do anything before I hit the road.

I browsed through my phone and noticed there was actually a cafeteria down the street that sells coffee and muffins.

It wouldn't hurt to spoil myself with these mouth watering goddjes. I deserve it after all.

I took my bag that was ontop of the kicken counter,my phone and headsets and off I went.

I was on a phone texting Amo when I bumped into this lean tall figure.

Guy: damn it!

I looked up. Gosh...am I short or this guy is really tall.

Guy: Jesus Christ woman, would you watch where you're going?

He had his shirt splashed with hot coffe.

Oh my God.

Me: I'm so sorry. I didn't see you coming.

He looked down on me clearly annoyed.

Him: I'm rushing into an important meeting for heaven sake. Now I can't go looking like this.

He said taking a look at his abbs that had coffee stains on.

"Next time please watch where you're going. And stop texting while you're walking. You could get knocked down by a car you know"

All this time I had zoned out staring at his abbs and arms that were clearly visible in his shirt. He must be working out because this body structure right here looks appetizing.

I was brought back to life by somebody clearing their thought.

Me: I'm sorry. What?

He chuckled.

Him: do you perhaps wanna take my shirt off?

He looked me right into my eyes.

Me: excuse me?

Him: the way you're looking at me. I'm not sure if

you're thinking of taking this stained shirt with you so you'd wash it or it's something else.

He smirked. Raising his eyebrow still gazing at me.

Gosh this man is so beautiful.

Me: I-uhm...

My mouth was dry. I was lost for words. I wanted to speak but my voice failed me.

Him: next time please be careful alright. Or I wouldn't be this nice.

He moved to the side and walked away.

"And quit texting while walking. It's not safe"

He said as he walked away.

I stood there dumbstruck. Like I was clued to my own body and I couldn't move.

What did just happen?

I snapped out of it and stepped inside the cafeteria.

Guy.

I took one last glance at her and walked away.

I bit my lower lip and chuckled.

She's so beautiful. I'd love to see her again.

I got to my car and ignited the engine on. I drove straight to my office.

I couldn't shake this feeling off. I felt it on my chest.

Why was I thinking about her? Why am I experiencing all these foreign feelings in my body?

I pulled over on the side of the road. I rubbed my face in frustration and rested my head on the steering wheel. Her beautifully structured face with dark features still vivid in my head.

I killed the car engine and got out of the car. I Closed the door and leaned on it. I buried my hands deep in my pockets and crossed my legs.

I wanted to go back to that spot but I knew I wasn't gonna find her there.

Where does she live? Who is she?

I rubbed my face again in frustration.

Me: Damn it!

I went inside the car and brought the car engine back to life. 'Ke Rata wena' by Press played in my mind. I immediately requested it to be played in the car.

I drove away to work listening to the lyrics and just reminiscing on my future together with her.

"E kare nka Ema godim'a thaba ke ba jwetse ke rata wena. Botle ba gao ba mferekanya. Jwalo ka suit wa ntshwanelo. We gonna make beautiful babies ba tshwana le wena..."

The song was on full blust.

I kept smiling and shaking my head.

This is madness but I love the feeling.

I arrived at the office and greeted the receptionist.

Me: good morning Inathi.

I said heading straight to my office.

Inathi: Goodmorning boss. Your brother is waiting for you in your office. I told him to wait outside but you know him. He was very adamant.

Me: don't worry I'm gonna kick his balls on your behalf so he'd acknowledge why you're behind that desk.

Inathi: I'd apprecite that.

Me: he's still my brother. Don't you forget that.

I laugh as I took the elevater to my office.

Me: that chair doesn't suit you mfanam. Get up and let me sit.

I put down my laptop bag ontop of the table and took off my blazer and hang it on the chair opppsite to the one lwazi was sitted on.

"Ufunani lana so early ndoda? Yin bakucoshile kwakho?"

I said folding my shirt.

Lwazi: don't get ahead of your self. And that's not what I'm here to discuss. Why don't you tell me what the hell happend to your shirt instead? Did you brake

into some coffee shop and you were caught stealing?

I laugh and shook my head.

Me: a multi millionaire like myself braking into some lousy coffee shop? Ungangibheki ujahile saan. Move along.

Lwazi: Are you gonna tell me what happened Ozi?

Me: let's just say,my days of fucking around are over. I found the one and I'm gonna marry her soon.

I sat down on my chair and spun it around once.

Lwazi: stop talking in riddles man Ozi. you're not making sense. What's that got to do with the coffee stains on your shirt?

Me: Lwazi man it's either you're slow or just plain stupid. I'll let you figure it out. Tell me what you're here for beacuse I've got a company to run and I ain't got all day.

Lwazi: alright listen man uDlomo ngathi usuthanda ukusinikeza inkinga. He's all over the place lately and I suspect he's up to no good.

Me: get the boys on his tail. We must keep track of

all his moves. He's a shady old man and I don't have time, uyabona nawe.

We bid me goodbye and left.

I got started on my work immediately.

Sne

I had a very long day today. Classes were hectic and the quality time with the gents drained me. I just want to shower and get under the covers.

I took a quick shower and resorted to sleep.

But I can't though.

I couldn't stop thinking about the guy I bumped into this morning. I don't know if I'm hallucinating or not but I rememberd how he smelled like.

His arms and abbs that filled up that shirt and his beautiful thick eyebrows are what filled my mind up right now.

Am I inlove? With a stranger?

Haii Snenhlanhla lala maan. You're just a village girl.

You don't stand a chance even.

I don't know what happened but I dozed off thinking
about him.

Insert 7

(Unedited)

I was woken up by my phone vibrating. I reached out for it and didn't check the caller ID. I pressed it and put it on my ear.

Me: hello

Bandile: let us in dude.

I moved the phone from my ear and checked the time.

Me: it's only past 10 Bandile. And it's a weekend. What does a lady have to do to get some beauty sleep around here?

I said putting it down and kicking off the covers .

I put on the gown and dragged my sleepy head down stairs to the door.

Bandile: Hi village girl. Didn't your aunt teach you not to wake up this late?

He said pushing me aside to get in followed by Khethelo.

Me: I didn't say you may come in you guys. But make yourselves at home.

Khethelo: it's not like ufasile or something. Don't make it sound like we interrupted you from anything like that. we all know awuna lutho Sne.

They bust out laughing. Putting the take away brown paper bag ontop of the kicken counter.

Bandile: don't listen to this idiot wena ntwana. Go take a shower while we dish up. You look like you could do with some food.

Me: thanks man.

I went upstairs to shower quick and came down.

I found them sitting on the kicken stools and feasting.

I sat ontop of the counter and joined in.

Khethelo: so... we're actually here to invite you to have dinner with us this evening. Just an outing nyana,nothing special. We haven't done that in a

while.

Just what I needed. I didn't go out much. Especially at night unless it's with them. So I could appreciate some evening summer breeze nyana.

Me: we haven't done that in ages. I'd love to go out and mibble.

I said with my mouth full of food.

Bandile: I expect you to represent the ladies' team tonight and actually look like one. This tomboyish tendencies of yours must fall. Namhlaje we're taking you out for a treat and show you how it feels like to be a lady.

Me: oh come on guys. What about my comfort. Dresses and heels aren't for me and you know it.

Khethelo: uzomthola kanjani umuntu unje Kodwa Sne.

He took my hands and monitored them.

"You don't even get your nails done."

Bandile: her village tendencies must fall. We're in Pretoria. Get out of your cocoon.

Arg!

Me: are you sure you guys aren't actually going to pimp me? Because you're so on my case about my style it's creepy.

They laugh it off and wiped thier hands. They headed to the door.

Khethelo: we'll come pick you up around 6. You've got the whole day.

Me: whatever. Bye.

I shut the door and went upstairs.

.

6 pm on the dot.

A knock came through the door as I gave my look a final touch up.

I had boyfriend jeans on with a white shirt and crystal 6 inch stilettos. I let my afro loose. I can't believe how huge It's grown. I complemented the whole look with button rose gold earrings and a

peach blazer on.

I looked as natural as I could, yet so beautiful.

My lips were glowing from a soft dusty pink lip gloss.

I was impressed by the woman who was staring right back at me on the mirror.

I grabbed my clutch bag and headed down stairs.

I opened the door and the boys stepped in.

Me: your jaws are on the floor boys.

They whistled dramatically.

Bandile extended his hand to take mine and made me do the turn around.

Bandile: if I knew you'd be so beautiful, I would have left Khethelo behind. Daaaaanm. You outdone yourself tonight.

I blushed.

Khathelo: umuhle ntwana. I hope we don't grab unnecessary attention tonight because I'll punch somebody.

Bandile: mina futhi I'm the jealous type you know?

We laugh in unison and went out.

I locked the door and we hit the road.

We arrived at this fancy restaurant shortly. We found ourselves a table and settled.

I took my blazer off and hung it on the chair and sat down.

My heart skipped a bit when I recognised the guy from the cafeteria.

He was there with two other guys who resembled him so well, they must be his brothers.

They were sitted a few tables away from ours.

They were clearly having a good chat and laughs.

He paused the minute he laid his gaze on me and narrowed his eyes.

I felt a lump on my throat and swallowed hard.

I lifted my glass of Orange juice and took a brief sip

from it.

I shifted my eyes back to his and found him still gazing at me.

He smiled and directed his attention back to his brothers.

We sat there having a great time over silly conversations with the boys.

I noticed him stealing glances of me every now and again.

I acted like i didn't notice. I didn't wanna look too obvious that I was clearly impressed by him.

.

What seemed to be an hour had passed and they got up from their table and headed out.

I wished he had just said hi or something but nothing. He just passed by our table like he didn't know me.

Maybe he was still pissed off about the coffee incident. Or he just wasn't into me.

Maybe my feelings about him were making me see things that weren't there.

I mean why would he just pass by my table and not say anything?

Not even a "hey...I got my shirt cleaned up. Thank you "

I was hurt. I wanted to cry.

Bandile: Sne

I snapped out of it.

Me: huh?

Bandile: Penny for your thoughts?

Me: I'm sorry. I think I'm feeling tired. Maybe we should just go home.

I was suddenly annoyed.

Khethelo: enden wena udlawa yin? You've been quiet since we got here. Did you even see the Langa brothers.

Me: what Langa brothers?

Bandile: the three guys who just left.

I tried to smile to suppress the awkwardness look on my face.

Me: no why? Who are they?

I sipped on my drink.

Khethelo: you really are outdated. Ukhulele emazweni ngempela. you don't even know the Langa brothers? Yah neh you're a typical village girl.

He chuckled shaking his head with disbelief.

Bandile: they are the youngest and richest dudes in the corporate world.

Oh...that explains their attire. They looked all shades of formal.

"You don't wanna mess with them. Word in the streets says they are mafias. Their Father groomed them into the corporate world since they were still young and this is why bayizinja ze game. Baya grilla in boardrooms and that attracts more clients into working with them. Langa contractions is big in the business and has been since they stepped over after

their father retired and Ozithobile, the eldest son became CEO."

Why were they telling me all these?

Me: Oh. That's impressive but can we go home now.

Khethelo: yeah sure. Well drop you off.

We requested our bill and paid for it then we walked out.

He was leaning against his car with legs crossed and hands buried in his pockets.

I felt chills travel down my spine.

I thought he was long gone.

He saw us approaching and he stood tall on his feet.

Him: gents.

He said with his hands still in his pockets.

He was in a military green 2 piece suit and a white shirt.

His arms filled out the shirt. And his chest oozing

from the chest coat.

Them: eta bra Ozi.

They greeted back in unison.

Him: fede?

He had his gaze on me the whole time.

Them: grand wena?

Him: ngi grand thanks. I don't mean no disrespect but May I have a word with this princess over here.

He looked at them then back at me.

Bandile: we'll wait for you emotweni.

He looked at Ozi shortly before walking away.

Ozi: Hi.

Me: hello.

I faced down.

He tilted my chin up with his index finger.

Ozi: do you know how long I waited just to see your eye balls again?

I smiled.

Him: so you've got a beautiful smile too?

He looked right into my eyes.

"I didnt get your name."

Me: I never mentioned it.

He chuckled and moved his eyes away then back at me again.

Him: let me initiate this then. I'm Ozithobile but you can call me Ozi.

Me: Sne.

Ozi: Snenhlanhla?

Me: you guessed right.

Me: that's a beautiful name.

He looked very intimidating.

His cologne hitting my nostrils.

He stepped closer and brushed my cheek with his thumb.

Him: you're parents are very lucky to have watched

you grow beautiful everyday.

He stepped back.

"Do you know how beautiful you are Sne?"

I felt my heart sink to the pit of my stomach and a lump build up in my throat.

I looked away blinking away tears that were threatening my eyes.

He tilted his head to my direction and frowned.

Him: Are you alright?

I heaved and nodded lightly.

"Did I say something wrong?"

He looked concerned.

Me: no. It's just...my parents are nomore. I lost them 8 months ago.

I wanted to cry.

He looked at me speechless. He wanted to act but was reluctant.

Ozi: is it okay if I hug you?

I nodded.

He stepped closer and pulled me in gently for a hug and squeezed.

He let out a sigh.

Ozi: I'm sorry for the loss of your parents. And I apologies for triggering the memory. I understand it's all still fresh.

He held the back of my head and rested me on his chest. He rested his chin on my head and rubbed my back gently. I inhaled his sexy cognac and wished for it to last longer.

"I'm sorry okay."

I broke free from his embrace.

Me: I'm sorry for offloading my problems on you like that. I mean I don't even know you.

He frowned.

Ozi: but you know my name and that counts for something. Doesn't it?

Me: it was nice to meet you Ozi but I think I should

get going now.

Ozi: how am I gonna see you again though?

He had his arms folded across his chest.

Me: well...I guess we'll see each other around.

He unfolded his arms and stepped closer. He brushed my hair back, looked at me and smiled.

Ozi: I understand. Can I atleast walk you to the car.

I nodded.

He burried his hands in his pockets and we walked in silence.

Me: thank you Ozi and pleased to meet you again.

He nodded and flashed a smile.

he's got a beautiful set of teeth and that made his smile contagious.

Ozi: like wise miss Sne.

He rubbed my chin and nodded at the guys. He turned on his heels and left.

He's so handsome. My goodness!

I got home and got under the covers.

My phone beeped

'You're a very beautiful woman Sne and I'm so drawn to you. I'll see you soon. Goodnight'

Who is this?

I didn't know the number so I decided to call it back.

It rang a few times before the person picked up.

"Snenhlanhla"

My heart skipped at this sleepy husky voice that came from the other side of the line.

Me: Ozi?

Him: hello beautiful.

His voice was seductive over the phone.

Me: how did you get my number?

I heard him chuckle.

Him: I have my ways sweetheart.

Me: oh really?

I was actually happy to be speaking to him right now.

Him: yes really. Listen Sne... I don't mean to come across as too strong to you but I'd really love to see you tommorow. Is that okay with you?

Me: call me tommorow and let's see.

Him: ulale kamnandi yezwa.

Me: goodnight.

The line died.

I sank deep inside the covers and slept.

Insert 8

(Unedited)

-Ozithobile

The intercom buzzed and I pressed the button

Me: yes?

Meagan: let me in Ozi.

She must be kidding me.

Me: what the hell do you want here Meagan?

Meagan: to see you. Please let me in.

She's starting to get under my skin.

Me: I told you to never come back here again. Which part of that did you not understand?

Meagan: you weren't taking my calls Ozi. So I figured I should come here.

Me: That's because I don't wanna talk to you. Please leave my property.

Meagan: I'm not leaving until you give me a chance to explain myself.

She must be out of her mind.

Me: after 4months,you care to explain now? Get lost.

Meagan: Ozi please. Give me a chance.

I pressed the button and let her in.

She emerged in.

Me: you'd better be quick. I don't have all day.

She attempted to hug me but I stepped back.

Meag: well hello to you too.

Me: you're wasting my time Meagan. What do you want?

I honestly did not have any desire whatsoever to be in the same space with her. We were done and I had made that clear after I learned that he cheated on me with one of her students. She couldn't deny it. Only she knew best not to try and make me look stupid. So she came clean. I finally had the courage to end things with her after a back and forth. I loved

her dearly. It wasn't easy for me to just let go. We'd be on and off until I couldn't take it anymore. So I put a stop to it.

Shortly after she realised that I wasn't for her anymore, she tried to destroy my image by going to the media and told them I was an abusive busturd.

I had my back on her the whole time. I was standing in front of the kicken counter making coffee.

I was in my boxers and flip flops only.

My entire torso out in the open and exposed.

I felt her hands slit from behind.

I let out a sigh and turned to face her.

I removed her hands, took my coffee and headed to the living room.

She followed me.

Meagan: I'm sorry about what I've done Ozi, please underatnd that I was desperate.

Me: which part are you sorry for exactly? The cheating part or you actually going to the papers?

She hang her head down.

"I don't really have time for this Meagan. You've done what you've done. It is what it is. Life has to move on. I'm already doing that and I suggest you do the same"

I stoop up without even looking at her. I took my coffee and headed upstairs.

"You'll see yourself out"

Meagan: Ozi please...

I left her there.

I went to my mini office,took my phone and called Sne.

It rang a few times then she picked up.

"Hello"

My heart smiled.

This woman is able to make me feel things without having to do or say anything at all. It was effortless.

Me: good morning Ndoni. Tell me...how did you sleep?

Her: I slept okay thank you for asking and how did you sleep?

Me: I couldn't have slept better.

There was silence.

"Uhm...am I gonna be able to see you then?"

Her: you aren't going let it go, will you?

I chuckled.

I was sitting in my office chair with my hand under my armpit and the other on my ear, with my head hanging.

Ozi: I wouldn't be able to do that Snenhlanhla.

Her: okay you'll text me when you're ready.

Me: how about you text me your location and I'll come pick you up around 3?

Her: I'll see you then.

Me: okay...later.

Her: bye.

I dropped the call.

I switched my laptop on and sent few emails.

My phone beeped.

'I'm not gonna give up on you. We belong together.'-

Meagan

Is this woman crazy?

I deleted the message immediately after reading it and proceeded with my work.

I jogged down the staircases to the living room where my wallet and car keys were.

I had blue jean shorts on with a black golf t-shirt and all black Nike sneakers. I texted Sne telling her I'll be there shortly before I hit the road.

She lived 30minutes away from our estate. So it shouldn't take me long to get there.

.

-Snenhlanhla.

I received a text from Ozi telling me he's on his way.

I wanted to be as comfortable as I possibly can.

So...I had blue jeans with a simple white t-shirt and sneakers on. I let loose my afro. I Wore my elegant perfume today.

I grabbed my phone and headed down stairs.

I sat on the kicken counter and browsed through my phone.

I was chatting to Amo.

Apparently Joburg was treating her well and she was doing just fine with her studies aswell.

A message popped up on the screen.

'Im outside'

I took a loooooong breath then went out locking the door behind.

He was facing away,kicking the wheel of his white Audi Q2 with his hands in his pockets.

Is it me or he just loves this gesture?

Me: hi.

He turned to face me and smiled.

I think I'm gonna get drunk by the dose of this man's smile.

Him: hello there.

He came closer,kissed my forehead and hugged me.

I heaved a very deep and long sign.

He chuckled

"Don't die on me now."

He let go.

Me: how are you doing?

Him: I'm good. How are you?

He was gazing through my soul almost like he was searching deep.

Me: I'm good. Why are you looking at me like that?

He laugh.

Him: looking at you like what?

Me: like you're trying to search for something in my eyes.

Him: well...I guess I'm just wondering if you're feeling better today after lastnight.

I faced down.

He reached out for my hand and held it. Still looking at me.

"You're so beautiful,you know that?"

Me: thank you.

He let go, leaned agains his car and looked around.

Him: so you stay here?

Me: yup.

Him: this area is mostly occupied by students.

He redirected his focus back at me.

"Are you?"

He raised his eyebrow and narrowd his eyes.

Me: yes I am.

Him: not just beauty but brains aswell. Interesting.
shall we?

Me: yeah sure.

He opened the door.

Him: madam.

I smiled and got in.

I could get used to this.

I used to see my dad open doors for my mother, I just didn't think I'd get to experience it myself.

He jogged to the other side of the car and got in.

Him: are you conservative?

Me: conservative?

What is that now.

Him: you're not used to going to the same place everytime and doing the same things?

He was kinda leaning forward and looking at me.

"You wouldn't mind if I took you to places you're not used to?"

Me: oh. Well no. Just as long as it's not clubs.

He widened his eyes.

Him: you don't do clubs?

Me: no.

Him: even better.

He said that with much contestment in his voice emphasising how much he didn't like it either.

He ignited the car engine and drove off.

He looked like a starter,a full- course meal and dessert all at once.

I noticed his strong arms and abbs that were looking like they wanted to escape from his own skin. He's got beautiful hairy legs and they were out to play.

I sat there drooling while we drove in silence.

.

We arrived at this extravagant looking place and went in.

Me: are you sure we're well dressed for this place?

He laugh and shook his head.

Him: it's not that deep. It's just an ordinary cool place.

Nothing fancy.

Is he flipping kidding me? This place looks like heaven.

Hostess: good afternoon. Table for two?

Him: yes please. Definately a none smoking area.

The hostess lead us to our table and we settled. She handed out the menus and took drink orders.

Me: this place is beautiful.

He was looking at me.

Him: not as beautiful as you are. Anyway I'm glad you like it. I hope it's not too much.

I couldn't stop blushing.

Our drinks arrived and we indulged.

Him: so...

He put his hands on the table and balanced on his elbows.

"What is it you're studying? "

Me: Sports science.

He widened his eyes with shock.

Him: Oh so you're a fitness junkie?

He bit his lower lip

Me: sports is my passion.

I didn't know what else to say with him looking at me like that. I Decided to stick to short replies.

Him: rare but interesting. I thought you'd tell me you're an aspiring business woman or something.

If gazing at somebody was deadly,I'd be dead by now.

Our food arrived also and we digged in.

Him: what else is interesting about you Snenhlanhla?

We got interrupted by a woman who stood next to our table.

I lifted my gaze to look at her.

It's Miss Dube. One of the lecturers at the university.

Meagan: well well well. what do we have here?

She said looking at Ozi then back at me.

Ozi leaned back on his seat and stared at her.

Ozi: can we help you Meagan?

They know each other?

He looked rather bored.

Meagan: is this why you were quick to chase me out of your house this morning?

Is she his girlfriend. Oh my gosh,did he text me last night and called me this morning while he had company? I mean why else was she in his house THIS MORNING! I sat there with many thoughts floating my mind.

Ozi: I asked you a question Meagan and I'm not gonna repeat myself.

He hardened his face.

Meagan: who is this?

Ozi threw the saivet on the table,pushed his chair back and stood on his feet.

He leaned foward towards her face and wisperd something.

Meagan immediately charged to the door and walked out.

He fixed his t-shirt then lowerd himself back on the chair.

Him: I'm sorry about that.

Me: is that your girlfriend.

Him: ex-girlfriend.

I couldn't read his face. It had no emotions at all.

Me: okay.

Him: are you enjoying your food?

He didn't look at me one bit.

Me: yeah, the food is fine.

Him: and you're not?

He focused on his food.

I kept quite.

We ate in selence untill we finshed.

I was starting to get uncomfortable.

Me: can you take me home.

He looked at me and nodded.

We got up and left.

It was afternoon, around 5.

We got inside the car, buckled up and he brought the car engine to life.

He rubbed his face in frustration then faced my direction.

Him: look Sne, I'm sorry for the sudden change of mood. I didn't mean to make you feel how you do right now. I mean you didn't do anything. Is just-

he paused and looked forward.

"Meagan and I have a history. Things didn't end well between us and there's also unpalatable stories about me that you're bound to find out about soon. Seeing her back there just kinda triggered me. But I want you to know that I'd never hurt you. I'm not that guy"

He redirected his gaze back at me again.

he looked genuine.

Him: can I take you somewhere else before I could take you home?

I just looked at him...not sure what to make of this.

"Please."

I nodded.

"I'm sorry okay?"

He brushed my hand lightly while looking at me then drove off.

We parked at some isolated area that we saw the city's view from.

It was beautiful.

I've never seen anything as beautiful as this.

He killed the car engine and smiled.

Him: just so you know,nobody knows about this place. And I've never brought anybody here before.

I was mesmerized.

Me: it's so beautiful.

He stepped out and came to my side of the door.

He opened it and took my hand and helped me out.

Him: come on.

He closed the door and scooped me up.

I wrapped my hands around his neck and held on.

He put me ontop on the car bonnet and joined me.

We watched this beautiful view of city lights in silence.

He cleared his throat and looked at me.

Him: I need to tell you something.

Ohkay...I didn't like the sound of that.

Basically he told me everything that happened between Him and meagan. He went on to telling me about his life. He's the first born of 3 brothers,Lwazi and Banzi. None of them were married. Their mother died when they were still young. So their father raised them alone while building the Langa empire. Hes 32 and has no kids. His brothers and him are very close and they are each other's bestfrieds.

I enjoyed listening to him. He's not as hardcore as he appears to be. He's funny and I actually loved being here with him. We talked and laughed in between.

Me: You're not as bad as they potrai you to be.

He raised his eyebrows and looked at me.

Him: who's they'?

Me: I did my own research on you after the guys talked about you lastnight.

Him: Oh. They talked about me?

He turned and looked away.

Me: they didn't really say much. I just had to go do my research.

He laugh.

Him: so,so far?

Me: I have my reservations about you.

He turned to look at me.

Him: come on. It's not fair that you judge me based on the information you collected on internet. Atleast

give me a chance to prove myself.

I laugh...

"I'm very drawn to you Sne and I cannot help it."

I was shivering from cold.

Him: are you feeling cold?

Me: yes.

He jumped down and went inside the car. He came back with a hoody. He helped me get down and helped me put it on.

Him: there you go.

Me: it fits me perfectly.

He laugh throwing his head back.

Him: are you tomboyish?

Me: something like that.

I smiled.

He narrowd his eyes and pulled me closer to him. He put his hand on my weist and pulled me futher close.

I was. Way too close I felt his jean buttons on my

stomach.

He looked deep into my eyes and stuck his tongue out to moisten his lips.

I was holding my breath looking back at him.

Him: I love you Snenhlanhla.

I looked away and tried to step back.

He tightened his hold on my waist and tilted my head with his finger back to his gaze.

Him: I want to kiss you.

I felt chills travel down my spine.

He leaned forward and placed his lips on mine and kissed them.

I didn't kiss him back.

He pulled back and looked at me.

Him: are you okay?

Me: hmm.

Him: do you want me to stop?

I shook my head.

He pulled the back of my head closer and took my lips in his.

Me: Ozi...

I said in between the kiss.

Him: hmm.

I broke the kiss.

Me: I-uhm...I can't kiss.

He narrowed his eyes and tilted his head to the side trying to figure out what it is I was trying to say.

Him: what do you mean?

Me: I've never kissed anybody before.

He busted out in laughter and hung his head.

Him: are you serious?

Me: yes.

That came out as a wisper.

Him: oh baby.

He licked his lips and looked at me

"It's okay just follow my lead okay?"

I nodded.

He pulled me closer and our lips locked.

He kissed me passionately then stopped shortly and looked at me.

Him: you're so beautiful.

He deepened the kiss.

Insert 9

(Unedited)

*****?

-Ozithobile

Our lips locked and our tongues were exploring on each other. I broke the kiss and placed a soft peck on her forehead.

She buried her head on my chest.

I held her tight and brushed her hair.

Me: Are you good?

Her: Hmm.

Me: How are you feeling?

Her: Foreign.

I chuckled.

Me: So I just broke your virginity?

She hit me on the chest.

You know for someone who's never kissed anybody before, I must say, you're quiet good actually. That was Amazing"

Her: Yes it was. I'm feeling all these foreign feelings all over my body. I don't know what it means.

I kept quiet.

My cock was as hard as a rod.

I haven't felt this excited in a long time and I didn't have sex in four months.

But I wasn't gonna give her the impression that I wanted to sleep with her because I'm not in a rush for anything like that with her. My intentions are good and pure. I love her. I knew that, the moment I laid my eyes on her. I've never felt like this about anybody before and I'm not willing to do anything that will jeopardize what I have going on here. She hasn't said anything about her feelings towards me yet and I wasn't gonna push it. But first I needed to send a very harsh message to Meagan. It looks like she's forgotten who I am and what I'm capable of.

Her: Ozithobile!

Me: Hmm

Her: Where's your mind?

Me: I'm sorry. Did you say something?

I pulled her in for a hug then pulled her back to face me.

"I enjoyed spending time with you Sne and I - "

My phone rang.

"I'm sorry I have to take this"

I answered still having her in my embrace.

"Brother man"

Lwazi: "hey man I've been calling you since afternoon. Where are you? "

Me: my spot. What's up?

Lwazi: "I set the boys on Dlomo's tail like you said and turns out he's been to no good just as I suspected"

Me: How bad is it?

Lwazi: "It's beyond bad actually. Very disturbing. And you're not gonna like it."

Me: Where are you right now?

Lwazi: "just left the warehouse. I'm driving back to Hatfield."

Me: I'll be there shortly.

Lwazi: "sure."

He hung up.

Sne: Do you have to be somewhere else?

Me: yes and im sorry I'm gonna have to cut this short.

Sne: It's okay. I understand. Thanks for bringing me here and taking me out for lunch.

Me: No thank you for trusting me. Let me take you home.

She attempted to walk away when I pulled her back.

Me: Did I tell you how cute you look in this hoody baby?

Her: "baby"? When did we arrive here?

He raised her eyebrow dramatically.

I chuckled

Me: You don't like pet names?

Her: I wouldn't know since I've never been called by one but, isn't it rude to call a random person by pet names?

Me: You're random?

Her: I'm not your girlfriend. So that makes me random.

I laugh

Me: So you're actually saying we're strangers?

Her: well practically, yes.

Me: So you go around kissing strangers Snenhlanhla?

She blushed.

Her: I -

I held her by the waist and smashed my lips on hers. I kissed her like my life depended on it. I slit my tongue through and I heard her breath heavily.

I broke the kiss and let out a sigh.

Me: I'm not a stranger. You're gonna regret calling me that. Come, let's get you home.

We got inside the car and I drove off. I passed by a restaurant and decided to buy her dinner then drove her straight home.

.

I met up with Lwazi to discuss some business and Dlomo. Dlomo is our material supplier who's been working for us for so long. He moved from the villages along time ago after he committed adultery and apparently got some local woman pregnant. His wife wasn't happy about it and the only way to extinguish the fire that was burning between him and the other woman was if he desapperd. So they relocated and came to Pretoria. When I was doing some backround check on him, I also learned that he didn't know that he left that woman pregnant. Lately he's been involved in some shady business which I'm yet to find out about from Lwazi. And that was

costing us business.

I called Lwazi and told him to let me in.

I knocked at the door and he opened shortly.

Him: Ola.

Me: Eita. Fede?

We fist bumped and I got in.

I went straight to his fridge and took out two dumpies.

I opened one with my teeth and threw away the cap across the room.

We followed each other to the living room and settled on the couches.

I drank the dumpie down almost at one go until it was quarter empty.

I took a deep breath and finished it off.

I opened the other one, sipped on it then put it on the table.

He was staring at me the entire time.

I rubbed my face briefly and leaned back on the couch.

Lwazi: Are you okay?

Me: I'm horny.

He threw the cushion at me and I ducked it.

Lwazi: Fuck off man. Find yourself a woman and stop sulking.

Me: I have actually.

I smiled. Just the thought of her in my mind is enough to set me off. I had goosebumps.

Lwazi: Get out of here. Dude you're even Glowing.
Did you get some?

Me: I wouldn't be sitting here drinking down your beers and complaining about being horny if I got some wena dumbass. And anyway...shes not the type to be messed around with. She's special man.

I couldn't believe I was saying this about a woman.

Lwazi: Okay hold it right there. Who are you and what

did you do to Ozi?

Me: She's a special case man. And I'm definately keeping her.

I sipped on my beer and reached out for the TV remote.

Lwazi: In my entire existence that I've known you,I've never seen your face light up like that whenever you spoke about a woman. Not even Meagan.

Me: Uyabona ke. Don't spoil my mood with that person dude. She nearly ruined something compelling I have going on today. That woman has totally lost it. Can you believe she showd up at my place this morning after she ghosted on me for four months?

Lwazi: She did what?

He bust out laughing.

"Can you blame her though. After the sex you've been giving her?"

Me: come on man. Not that again.

Lwazi: It's not my fault that I walked in on you guys a

couple of times. You never liked closing doors. I just happened to be at the right place just at the wrong time."

Me: Lwazi!

Him: I gotta say, you're a tiger dude yoh. I've since realised that I don't perform as much as I'd like to think I do after seeing you in acti-

Me: LWAZI!

he laugh out loud.

"You do realise this is creepy right?"

He stood up and shrug his shoulders then disappeared to the kicken.

He came back with two dumpies.

Me: Don't you have anything stronger?

He chuckled.

Him: We haven't even discussed the real reason why you're here but you already wanna get yourself drunk.

He's right.

"Anyway...turns out our Mr goodie too shoes Dlomo isn't as clean as they come. I actually wanna slit his throat if you ask me"

Me: Stop speaking in riddles and get to the fucken point.

Him: Our supplier is actually not using his Trucks to transport material only but does human trafficking aswell. Strictly on boys."

I did not expect this.

Me: what?

Him: He got on the bad side of some Russian gang so they alerted the cops. Now they're on his tail.

Watching him closely like a hawk. Us too. Which is the reason why he hasn't been doing his job.

Apparently we're also linked to his shady businesses because we're doing business with him. He knows about this hence he's laying low.

I sat there shaking my head and laughed humorously.

That son of a bitch!

Lwazi: Apparently this Dlomo guy traffics this boys

for his own use. He keeps them somewhere in a shady house at an isolated place, feeds them so they could satisfy his sexual needs.

Me: What kind of a sick busturd is this guy? Does he not have a wife?

He lifted his hands in surrender.

Him: Who knows why people do the things they do?

Me: So we're also linked to these sick shenanigans?

He nodded.

I sprang on my feet and moved up and down in frustration.

Lwazi: Sit down. you're making me dizzy man.

I sat.

"So how are we gonna deal with him?"

I looked at him.

Me: We're gonna chop off his manhood and feed it to the dogs. These boys don't deserve this. And most certainly his wife too. What kind of a deranged man this guy is?

I got up from the couch and took a last sip from my dumpie.

"Get this crazy man off the streets as soon as tomorrow. I want him in the warehouse tomorrow night"

We fist bumped and I stommed out.

.

I got inside my car and drove to my house.

I got there and put the car keys and wallet ontop of the kicken counter and went upstairs.

I took off my cloths and went into the ensuit shower. I turned it on and let the cold water hit my body. I needed to cool off.

I faced the wall with my hands against it. I Closed my eyes and let my thoughts about her fill my head. This feeling was giving me chest pains.

I turned she shower off and stepped out.

I dried myself up, lotioned and put on a boxer.

I had this edge to call and just hear her voice. But I figured she could be sleeping so I decided not to.

I took my phone and texted a short and brief sms then put it away.

I got under the sheets and zoned out.

Insert 10

(Unedited)

-Ozi

I woke up around 5am to prepare some paperwork before going to work.

I also called my PI to do some futher digging on Dlomo. I didn't want no suprises anymore. It's quiet clear that I underestimated him. I needed to know what he was up to,in order for me to be prepared.

I had just finished taking a shower when the intercom buzzed.

Me: Yes?

Security guy: Morning Mr Dlomo. I've got people of the law here demanding to see you?

Me: What? Okay let me in.

I grapped a gown, pushed my flip flops in and headed down stairs.

The front door bell rang and I went to attend to it.

Me: To what do I owe this pleasure?

Officer: Mr Langa. We apologies for budging in at your house like this but we've got a warrant of search for your property.

Me: Are you kidding me?

Officer: No sir.

Me: I have to go to work in a few minutes. And what exactly are you here to search for?

Officer: young trafficked boys sir.

I raised my eyebrow and leaned my hand on the door frame.

Me: Is this some kind of a joke?

I chuckled.

Officer: No sir. We could really just get it done and over with soon if you let us in.

Me: you'd better find what you're looking for. Or you and I will have a problem Mr...

I looked at his name tag then back at him.

"Dladla. Live my property as you found it."

I turned to walk away to my bedroom and let them do their job.

This must be some kind of joke because if not,I'll have Dlomo's head on my silver platter.

I took out my Navy blue two piece suit with a white shirt and grey tie. I completed the whole look with a brown belt,wrist watch and pair of formal Italian brown shoes.

I finished dressing up,went into my office and grabbed my laptop bag and car keys.

I went down stairs and waited.

They came down after a few minutes.

Me: Did you find what you're looking for then?

Officer: No sir.

Me: So you just wasted my time?

I had my hands in my pocket.

Officer: We're just doing our job sir. We'll see ourselves out. Thank you for your co-operation.

They stepped out.

I shook my head and took my stuff heading out aswell.

I arrived at the office and greeted Inathi.

Me: Goodmorning Inathinkosi.

I put my laptop bag ontop on the reception counter.

Her: Goodmorning Mrs Langa.

She fixed her skirt that I noticed was way too short.

Me: How was your weekend?

She blushed.

Her: It was good thank you. I couldn't wait to come back to work.

Me: Oh. I didn't realise you love your job that much. Keep up the good spirit.

I grabbed my bag before she could reply and headed

to the elevator.

"Please sent coffee to my office."

I shouted.

I got in my office and made a few phone calls. One was to Banzi.

He picked up.

Banzi: Bhuti.

Me: Hi there champ. How are you doing?

Him: I'm good bro. I just miss home.

Me: You have to stay focused on your studies man.

Him: I Am...but I still miss home.

Me: How's Cape town?

Him: Cold. How are you guys doing that side?

Me: We're good. Just have a few things to sort out but we're good.

Him: Lwazi promised to visit me this past weekend but he never showed up.

Me: I asked him to do a certain project for me so he

got held up. But I'll make sure he pops by this weekend.

Him: Okay. I gotta go to Class. later.

Me: Sharp.

I hung up and started on work immediately.

My door swang open and in came Inathi.

She catwalked towards my table and put the coffee ontop. She sat ontop of the table and crosses her legs. Her already short skirt pulling up revealing her thick and pale thighs.

Me: Thank you.

I said briefly and continued gazing on my laptop.

She cleared her throat. I looked up and faced her.

Me: Is there anything else?

She brushed her thigh and looked at me.

I removed my Glasses and leaned back on my seat.

Her: Do you like?

Me: Excuess me?

She jumped off and came around my chair and span it around to face her.

She sat ontop of me in a straddling position.

"What are you doing?"

She grinded on me unbuttoning my shirt.

I held her hands and pushed her off me gently. I pulled my chair foward,put my glasses back on and focused on my work again.

She stood up and took a few steps back.

Her: What do I have to do to get you to notice me Ozi?

I looked up.

Me: It's Mr Langa for you. Close the door behind you and pretend like this never happend.

I redirected my focuse back on the laptop.

Her: I made an extra effort pulling this attire off just for you.

I looked up and folded my arms on my chest.

Me: Maybe if you looked abit decent. But You look

like a slut and that doesn't attract me one bit. I'm sure there's guys out there who would be impressed by the stunt you just pulled Inathinkosi but I'm not. I'm gonna go back to my work and pretend like you never conducted yourself like a desperate immoral slut in your place of work and tried to seduce your boss.

She pulled her skirt and tried pulling it down then stomed out.

I shook my head and got back on my work.

My phone rang and I picked up.

Me: What do you have for me?

PI: I've sent you an email with all the information you asked Boss.

Me: Okay. I'll check it just now. Thanks man.

PI: sure.

The line died. I put the phone down and opened my emials. My eyes widend at what was there.

I called Lwazi.

Lwazi: eita.

Me: Did you capture Dlomo yet?

Him: Not yet. We're still tracing his moves. We can't be careless going about it.

Me: I want him at the warehouse when I knock off Lwazi.

Him: We're on it man. Relax.

I dropped the call.

I took a look at the e-mail again and hit the table in frustration.

Me: DAMN IT Dlomo!

-Sne

I had back to back classes today. I attended 3 and still had one more to go but I was already tired. I decided to go to the canteen and grab a snack and a drink to freshen up before I could go back to my next class.

I got there and noticed Miss Dube who was seating

at a table with her colleague having lunch.

I went straight to the counter and bought my stuff, found a table and sat down.

I called Mrs Gumedé and Amo's mom then ate shortly after.

I felt a shadow weighing on me so I looked up.

Me: Hi. Can I help you?

Meagan: Stay the hell away from my man, do you hear me?

I ignored her and ate on my snack.

"Don't ignore me when I'm talking to you girly "

Me: why don't you tell him to stay away from me instead?

I focused on my food.

Meagan: You're obviously the one fishing on him. Ozi would never go for your type. You're nothing but a student. What do you have to offer for him?

She said pointing at me up and down.

Me: Something you clearly couldn't offer for him.

Her: Excuess me?

Me: I'd like to have my lunch break in peace if you don't mind.

She lowered herself to my level and faced me.

Her: I'm warning you Sne. You have no idea who you're dealing with. Stay away or you'll regret it.

she walked away.

I sat there dumbstruck and frightened.

How does she know my name?

That unsettled my mind. I Got up and took my stuff and left.

I attended my last class. The whole time I was sitting there thinking about this Miss Dube woman and her threats. The class was finally dismissed and I walked to my flat. I got there and threw everthing on the floor and went to shower. I came back and got started with dinner. I had to put my mom's cooking techniques and teachings into some good use. So I prepared a full course meal while listing to

jacaranda.

-Ozi.

I was glad my day was finally over.

I wanted to call Sne the whole day but after everything that I just found out today I couldn't bring myself to call her.

I grapped my stuff and headed out straight to my car.

I called Lwazi to find out if he succeeded on the project and he said they were already at the warehouse.

I decided to pass by a pub and grab a few drinks before I could go to the warehouse. I needed to drink something strong for me to face that Schaumburg after finding out stuff about him.

I finally drove straight to the warehouse after two glasses of whiskey.

I parked outside and stepped in.

I found the guys sutting at some room.

Me: Eita.

Lwazi and other two guys who worked for us on the shady businesses were also here.

Them: Sure sure boss.

They greeted in unison.

I faced Lwazi.

Me: where is he?

He pointed at the back.

I went it and they followed me.

I found him tied up on a chair with his head coverd with a sack.

I removed it. He brought his eyes up to look at me and laughd.

I grabbed a chair and places it infront of him. I folded my shirt and took a sit direct to him.

He spit out then smirked.

Dlomo: The mighty Ozi Langa. To what do I owe this pleasure my friend?

I looked at him and tightened my jaws. All the pictures of the boys in my head came flooding down and I couldn't help myself.

I stood up from my chair and threw a punch on his stomach.

He groaned then laughd shortly after.

I threw another one on his face.

He spit out blood.

Me: Bring the bucket of Ice.

The guys brought it.

"Pour it all on him".

They did and shortly he was gasping for air.

I took the envelope I brought in with me and opened it.

I took the sit again and faced him.

Me: Do you like the sight on this?

He looked at me shocked then looked at the pictures.

He started laughing out loud.

Him: They are just useless boys. Their parents don't even take good care of them. I took them off the streets and feed them. I'm actually doing them so much favour.

Me: Are you sick in your head?

That came out soft.

"You and the Russian gang capture small boys for drug mules and now you're keeping some of them for yourself so they'd satisfy you sexually. Young innocent boys and you're sitting there laughing?"

Him: You don't know what you're talking about.

Me: Does your poor wife not satisfy you enough?

He hardened his face pissed off by what I just said.

Him: Don't bring my wife into this. What happens between me and her isn't any of your business.

Me: Oh but you made it my business when you turned our company as a front for your shady disgusting businesses. Now the cops are on our tails watching our everything move. All thanks to you. Did you know they came into my house this morning to

search my property because they think I'm in this together with you?

He laugh again shivering from cold.

I stood up and threw the envelope ontop of a table and called on the guys.

Me: Gents...looks like our Mr tough guy here isn't remorseful of his ill-mannerd behaviour. Teach him a lesson.

They came with sjamboks and started beating his freezing cold body up. He was groaning and his skin wa tearing apart.

Me: Bring along the chillies.

They did and poured it on his open wounds.

I looked at him as he was screaming begging for mercy.

I kneeled closer to him.

Me: Shut up.

He toned it down.

"Now you listen to me and listen attentively. You're

gonna take back those boys back to their parents and tell your wife what you've been up to behind her back. Also take your business elsewhere because we don't need it anymore."

He was panting.

Him: No Mr Langa please. I cannot tell my wife. She'll leave me.

Me: She's better off without a pig like you.

I stood up and headed to where Lwazi was standing.

Lwazi: And that's all the punishment he gets?

Me: Did you have a better one in mind?

Lwazi: I thought you're going to kill him.

Me: That's more your style than mine. Clean up this place. I'm going home.

I headed outside but made a u-turn and peeked my head in.

"No killing Lwazi. Let him go home."

He heard him curse.

I got inside my car and rested my head on the steering wheel. How am I going to face Sne knowing that her biological father is a pig who preys on little boys and was working for me. I mean I'm well aware that she doesn't know him or anybody from that family. Now do I go on and pretend like I don't know what's going on and keep lying to her?

This is one big mess. I looked at my watch and it was 10pm. I ignited the car engine and drove away.

I parked outside her flat and called her.

She picked up in her sleepy voice.

Her: Ozi.

Me: Please let me in.

Her: What? Where are you?

Me: At the gate.

She gave me the code and parking number then I drove in.

I knocked at her door and she opened shortly.

Her: Hi

I stood there with my hands in the pockets and my chest coat unbuttoned.

Me: Can I come in?

Her: Yeah sure.

She stepped aside and I got in.

Me: I'm sorry for waking you up.

Her: It's okay. What's going on? You look drained.

Me: Long day. May I take a sit?

Her: Make yourself comfortable.

Me: Thank you.

I loosed my tire and took a sit on the kicken stool.

Her: Would you like a cup of coffee?

Me: I'd apprecite that. Make it strong please.

I watched her as she had her back on me making us coffee in her cute pejamas. I appreciated her beauty by a each day.

She came and joined me shortly handing over the coffee mugg.

Me: Thank you.

Her: You're welcome.

I sipped on it as she was staring at me.

I stopped and looked at her.

Me: What?

Her: What's going on?

I put my arms on the table and rubbed my face. I let out a sign.

Him: I don't know why I came here but It felt like the only place I needed to be after the day I had.

Her: Oh. What happened?

Me: I need to tell you something.

She focused her gaze on me.

Her beauty intimidated me from talking. I just couldn't.

I cleared my throat and took a sip of my coffee and looked at her from the coners of the mugg.

Me: Well there's something I've discovered today

and I -

I paused. What am I doing? This could destroy her for all I know. Urg. Maybe I should wait.

"I'm sorry Sne. I shouldn't have come here. I'll just leave."

I sprang on my feet and headed to the door.

Her: Wait.

I turned to look at her.

"It's already late and you look tired"

Me: It's just a 30 minutes drive. I'll manage.

Her: You can sleep over.

I narrowed my eyes on her.

"No I mean,you'll sleep on the couch "

Me: Are you sure?

Her: uhm...yes I am. I mean I wouldn't let you drive this time of the night.

Me: But I need to shower and I don't have my toiletries with me.

Her: I've got a few unused.

Me: What about clothes.

Her: I'll borrow you my oversized t-shirt and leggins.

I laugh.

Me: Okay that would do I guess.

Her: I'll warm up food for you while you take a shower. 2nd door on your left upstairs.

Me: What about toiletries?

Her: Oh. fcause. Let's go.

We followed each other upstairs. She gave me toiletries and I went to shower.

I came down shortly and found her sitting at the living room with a mountainous plate of food next to her.

Me: Is that for me?

I poited at the plate.

She looked up at me and laugh.

"What's funny?"

She pointed at the tights she had borrowed me.

Her: You look squeezed in those.

I laugh.

Me: I'll survive.

I took a sit and digged in over silly talks.

I finished up then she brought me a pillow and a blanket.

Het: okay. Goodnight then.

Me: Goodnight and thanks again.

She nodded and went upstairs.

I woke up in the middle of the night with my back and neck arching.

Me: Aah fuck.

I got up and headed to her room. I open the door that was half closed gently and walked in.

I shook her lightly.

"Sne. Snenhlanhla. "

Her: Hmm.

She opened her eyes and jumped.

"What the hell Ozi. You nearly gave me a fight. What are you doing here?

She pulled the covers to cover her upper body.

Me: I'm sorry but I cannot sleep on that couch anymore. My body arches.

She raised her eyebrows on me.

Her: So what's the plan now?

Me: Can we share the bed? I promise you wouldn't even notice I'm here.

Her: That's weird Ozi.

Me: I know but I promise not to touch you.

Her: Okay get in.

I got in and kept a distance from us and drifted to sleep.

I felt her butt on my manhood and I woke up. She had her back on me and was fast asleep.

I moved back and faced the other way. I looked in

the covers and my cock was awake.

Me: Shit!

I cursed under my breath and tried to go back to sleep.

She turned to my direction and held me closer.

This is a test God help me win in.

How do I sleep next to this beautiful woman and not touch her?

I turned to face her and pulled her over to my chest and held her.

she positioned herself comfortably and we drifted to sleep.

Insert 11

(Unedited)

woke up with my body cuddled up by a heavy hand and I rememberd it was Ozi's. I smiled and removed it gently. He held on to me and mumbled.

Him: hmhm.

Me: I need to go to the loo Ozi.

He let go and turned to face the other way.

I guess he wasn't gonna wake up anytime soon this one.

I tiptoed to the bathroom and relieved myself. I brushed my teeth and rinsed my face with warm water. I returned to the bedroom and found him still sleeping. I got inside the covers and watched him sleep. I admired his beauty. He's so handsome. His thick and dark eyebrows are well shaped and he has long eyelashes. His lips were pinkish outlined in black.

He open his eyes lightly and smiled.

Him: I'm quiet an art huh?

He smiled lazily. I was embarrassed.

Me: Don't flatter yourself.

He chuckled.

Him: Goodmorning.

Me: Goodmorning.

He got up, sat on his butt and leaned back.

Him: How did you sleep?

Me: I slept okay. How did you sleep?

Him: Just okay?

He looked at me and laugh.

Me: What's funny?

Him: I didn't know you're a springbook in your sleep.

Like literally.

He continued laughing.

Me: What do you mean?

Him: You had your bum on me the whole night.

I covered my face with my hands.

"Don't worry liked the gesture."

Me: it wants a gesture Ozi. Why do you make it sound like I did that deliberately? I was sleeping.

He looked at me like he wanted to eat me for breakfast.

Me: Don't look at me like that.

Him: You're right. I should probably get going.

He got out of the covers and came to my side of bed and kissed my forehead then headed out.

I found him already dressed in his previous clothes and folding the blanket.

Him: Thanks for the nightcap.

Me: would you like a cup of coffee before you leave?

Him: No sweetheart. next time.

I raised my eyebrow on him and teased.

Me: Next time?

He looked at me.

Him: Wouldn't you like waking up next to me again?
Because I would.

He winked at me.

Me: Well I don't know about that.

He put the blanket down and came towards me.

He put his hands in his pockets and looked me in the eyes. He must be obsessed with my eyeballs really.

Him: I love you Snenhlanhla. And I'd like you to give us a chance because I really want you in my life. I know you don't know me and I understand your fears but I would never be able to live a normal life knowing you but not having you as my woman.

Ng'yakthanda maKhumalo.

Me: How do you know my surname because I never told you?

He cursed under his breath.

Him: Are you sure you didn't? Because I think I remember that you did.

Me: Ozi...

Him: Hmm.

He avoided my eyes.

He's lying to me and I can see it.

Me: You're lying to me right now.

He scratched his head and looked at his wrist watch.

Him: I should probably get going. I still need to shower and go to the office.

Me: Okay. Have a great day.

I headed upstairs.

Him: Come on Sne.

I raised my hand at him.

"Not even a goodbye hug?"

I avoided him. I got in my room and made up my bed and went to take a shower. I dressed up and headed down stairs. He was gone. I picked up the blanket and sniffed on it then took it upstairs.

I came back and prepared a simple breakfasts and

sat down to eat.

I finished and left for campus.

I arrived in my class,took a sit and browsed through my phone.

Guy: Hello.

I looked up to face him.

Me: Hi.

Him: Can I sit?

I rolled my eyes and nodded.

He sat on the chair opppsite mine and faced my direction.

"I see you in my classes everyday and also noticed that you're always alone. My name is Sizwe.

Me: Nice to meet you Sizwe. I'm Sne.

Sizwe: Like wise Sne.

He narrowed his eyes on me.

"Do you have siblings in the campus? "

Me: No why?

Sizwe: You ridiculously look like someone in the campus.

Me: Oh. that's strange.

Him: Yeah it is. And creepy even. So...where are you from?

We sat there and got to know each other better. He's quiet a nice guy. Very warm and smart. I think I found myself a buddy over here.

Our lecturer came in and we began with our lessons.

We were finally dismissed so we went outside.

Sizwe: Do you have plans for the day?

Me: No. Not really.

Him: Good because I'd like to take you out for ice cream.

I looked at him.

"It's an honest invite. Don't worry... I've got a girlfriend and I love her dearly "

We both laugh and went ahead.

He drives a Golf 7.

Me: How did you afford this car Sizwe?

He bust out launging.

Him: Privileges of having rich parents babe.

He wingled his eyebrows.

Me: must be nice.

Him: Here we go.

He parked.

Me: Wait,I know this place.

Him: Really? You fancy huh?

Me: Not really. Somebody brought me here.

I flashed a smile.

Him: Boyfriend?

Me: Why would you think of that?

Him: Because of that look on your face. My girlfriend has it everytime she sees me. So I'm right huh?

Me: Something like that.

We laugh and got out of the car and headed inside.

My heart nearly stopped when I saw Ozi.

He was with other 8guys in a bigger table. They looked like they were having a business meeting.

He looked at me then had this serious look on his face when he realised I'm here with a guy.

He focused on his company when we got a sit and settled down. We orderd food and ate.

We orderd ice creams and they came up almost immediately. We indulged on them.

Me: I think we should leave now.

Sizwe: Why so soon though? I thought you liked this place.

Me: I do is just-

I looked over to Ozi's table and noticed he wasn't pleased. He never stole any glances like he did the other day. He just acted like I wasnt even in the room. That broke my heart.

Ziswe noticed that I was staring elsewhere so he

also turned to look.

Him: Oh. The mighty Ozi Langa. When I finish with my studies I wanna be like that guy over there with a black suit.

Me: You also know him?

Sizwe: Hell yeah. Who doesn't. He licked his ice cream.

Me: Well uhm-

Sizwe: Noooo freaking waaaay.

He widened his eyes on me.

"He's the one who bought you here, isn't he?"

Me: No man.

I blushed.

Him: Sneehee. He's your boyfriend?

Me: Not really. Well not yet. Urg I don't know. He's asking me out.

Him: You must be lucky...that guy's very picky on woman.

Me: Can we leave now?

Him: Okay sure.

We paid our bill and walked outside.

My phone beeped as we approached the car.

'You'd better wait for me outside.'-Ozi.

I took a long breathe.

Me: I'm sorry Sizwe but I'm gonna have to stay behind.

Him. No problem buddy. As long as you're safe. I'll see you at campus tomorrow.

Me: Thanks for understanding and for the ice cream date.

Him: No Sweat. Okay bye.

He got inside his car, turned his hip hop music on full blust and drove away.

I turned to see Ozi approaching. I swallowed hard.

Ozi: Hello.

Me: Hi.

Him: I'm still kinda busy inside. Would you mind getting a table and wait for me?

Me: No. I'll just wait out here.

He looked at me briefly and took out his car keys from his pocket.

Him: Come.

We went to where his car was parked.

"You can stay here so long and listen to music. Or relax. Whatever that suits you."

He pressed the sunroof buttons and it slit open. He also switched on an aircon.

"That should do."

Me: Thank you.

He looked at me and nodded then left.

I took off my shoes and adjusted the car seat lower. I switched the music on and a song began to play. I continued to play.

Me: Hmm. Nice music.

I lowerd myself and closed my eyes. I think I drifted to sleep beacuse I was woken up by somebody shaking me lightly.

Him: I'm sorry for taking long. Are you tired?

Me: Hmm.

Him: Can we go to my house tonight.

Me: No Ozi.

Him: Please. I've been to your place. I even slept there. Why wont you return the favour?

I looked at him with disbelief.

Me: I didn't know I was indebted to you.

Him: Come on. It's not like that. You asked me to sleep over your place and I did. Now I'm asking you to do the same.

Me: You were tired Ozi.

Him: Aren't you tired?

He smirked.

I was so annoyed,I wanted to wipe that smirk off

with a hot slap.

Me: Fine. But I'm sleeping in a different room.

Him: What makes you think there's a different room?

Me: Ozi!

Him: Okay okay. I'm sorry.

He smiled and ignited the car and drove off.

He kept stealing glances of me every now and again.

Me: Don't do that.

He chuckled and focused on the road. He sang along to Press's songs not minding me at all. He's got a beautiful voice. I think I'm ready to give this relationship thing a try.

.

We arrived at this beautiful country estate.

I'm pretty sure this place is mostly occupied by whites. It looked super expensive.

We arrived at his house and my jaw was on the floor.

It has a beautiful gardening. And looked like it was well taken care off.

He parked underground and got out.

he came to my side of the door and opend it for me. I Thanked him then came out. We got into an elevater from the underground garage to a living room.

Him: Welcome home my dear.

he smiled warmly.

I just stood there mesmreised by the beauty of this house. It was so bright and everthing was off marble. From the interior designing to the ceiling and floor.

Me: Wow.

Him: I'm gonna go run a shower for you then we'll order in okay? You can drool over the house so long.

He chuckled and shook his head.

Me: Can't you take me for a tour first istead? I mean, how big is this house?

I was looking around clearly mesmerized.

Him: I thought you were tired Sne?

Me: Okay then.

Him: You'll have a plenty of time to do that. Firstly lets get you refreshed.

He came and scooped me up unexpectedly and we headed upstairs using stair cases.

We got into this beautiful master bedroom that dominated with grey and purple colours. It has a huge bed that had so many pillows. What man has so many pillows on his bed. I shook my head and looked over to the huge couch that was by the corner. I don't know how to describe this room but it was a dream.

He came out and handed me toiletries,a towel and t-shirt.

Him: I'll be downstairs when you're done. What would you like to eat?

Me: I'll have anything you're having.

Him: Are you always this reserved?

Me: Always.

Him: Hmm.

He went out and I stepped inside this ensuite bathroom that also had a shower. It had ceramic tiles and smelled Oh so heavenly. I took off my clothes and steeped under the already running shower and indulged. I took ages. I didn't wanna get out.

I heard the bedroom door open and I switched off the shower.

Him: Are you still alive in there?

He shouted.

Me: yes I'm also done.

I shouted back and dried myself up. Lotioned and put on my clothes.

I went downstairs and didn't find him there.

Me: Ozi.

Him: Coming.

He came down shortly dressed in a loose white vest and grey sweat pants.

his muscled arms and chest were out there.

Oh my God.

He had sleepers and socks on.

He looked at me and frowned.

Him: You don't like the t-shirt I gave you?

Me: No. I'm just more comfortable in my clothes,
thank you.

He looked at me one last time and went into the
open planned kitchen.

Him: You do know that you're not gonna sleep with
clothes you've been wearing the whole day in my
sheets right?

He dished up food in plates that I think got delivered
when I was showering.

Me: That's not fair though.

Him: What's not fair is the fact that I slept in your
place squeezed in your leggings and didn't complain
about it.

We laugh.

Me: You looked sexy in them though.

He looked up to face me and smiled.

Him: So you find me sexy?

Me: Just a little.

Him: Well I find you sexy big time it drives me nuts.

He continued to dish up then brought the food in a trey to the living room along with glasses of juice.

We sat down and ate.

Me: Thank you.

Him: You're welcome. So what do you wanna watch?

Me: I'm not really a fan of TV but we can watch whatever you wanna watch.

He chuckled lightly and shook his head.

Him: You're very interesting Sne.

He took the remote and turned to news channel.

Something about a Russian gang and a Mr Dlomo popped up on the news and he quickly changed the channel.

I noticed his uneasiness but acted cool.

We ate over silly talkes untill we were done.

Me: I'll do the dishes.

Him: No it's okay. I'll-

Me: I insist.

Him. Thank you. I'll go upstairs to my office. 1st door on your right if you need me.

Me: No problem.

He went upstairs and I washed the dishes. I finished up and found him busy on his laptop. He felt my presence and looked up. He had glasses on.

Him: Oh hey. You're done?

Me: Yup. You look different with glasses on.

Him: Thank you.

Me: I'd appreciate laying down now.

Him: afcause. Just give me a minute.

He shut down his laptop and he went to his room.

Me: Ozi I think it would be better if we slept in

separate rooms.

Him: But why Sne? Why sleep separately when we can just sleep together?

Me: It's inappropriate Ozi. We're not even dating.

Him: we're not dating only because you dont want us to. You're the one who's holding back. I've made my intentions clear to you and you know where I stand. But if that'll make you comfortable then there's no problem.

He smiled and held my hand to some room opposite his.

"You'll sleep here then. The sheets were changed not so long ago so you should be comfortable. "

I nodded lightly.

Me: Thank you.

Him: You're welcome. Goodnight then.

He kissed my forehead and headed out closing the door behind. This room is also beautiful. But not as beautiful as his.

Why did I suggest I wanted to sleep alone?

I want to sleep next to him. Who am I fooling.

Urg! I stood up and went out.

I knocked on his bedroom door but he didn't answer. I pushed the door and went in. I heard a shower running. He was showering. I saw the t-shirt he had me to wear on the couch and I fetched it. I took off my clothes quick and put it on.

He came out shortly wrapped with a towel on his waist. He startled when he saw me.

He smiled and just stood there.

His chest and shoulders are broad. His arm's, strong. I was literally drooling.

He cleared his throat.

Me: I'm sorry. What?

He chuckled lightly.

Him: Are you having a hard time sleeping in that bedroom?

Me: I uhm..something like that.

He smiled.

Him: Let me help you with those then.

He pointed the pillows. He moved them and I got inside the covers.

Me: Thank you.

Him: You're welcome. I'll be back shortly.

He disappeared to the ensuit for a while then came back dressed in boxers only.

He switched off the lights and switched on the bedside ones then got in.

He pulled me closer to him and kissed me.

We kissed passionately untill he decided to brake it.

Me: Ooozi.

Him: Hmm.

Me: Don't stop please.

He chuckled.

Him: It's for the best sweetheart.

He kissed my forehead and switched off the bedside

lamb.

We sinked inside the covers.

"Goodnight. I love you."

Me: I love you too.

Shit! Did I say that? Oh well.

I heard him chuckle in the dark and squeeze me tight.

We stayed in silence and zoned out.

Bonus insert

(Unedited)

-Sne.

My phones alarm went off and I woke up.

I looked beside me,Ozi wasn't anywhere.

He kicked the door open and came in holding a trey of toasted bread, a bowel of fruit salad and a Glass of Orange juice.

Him: Morning beautiful.

He put the trey ontop of the bed and came to me.

Me: Morning handsome.

Him: Ooh yeeeess. That's more like it.

He placed a soft peck on my lips and joined me in bed.

"Guess what?"

Me: What?

He pulled the trey closer to us and picked a grape and shoved it in his mouth.

Him: It's raining cats and dogs outside.

Me: What? How come I don't hear the sound of rain?

Him: Because sweetheart, the house is soundproofed.

He took 3 more grapes and shoved inside his mouth again.

Me: But I have to go to campus. I've got a class today.

Him: Just one?

Me: Yes.

Him: What time?

Me: In the afternoon.

Him: We still have enough time then.

Me: To do what?

He looked at me and laughd,almost choking on the grapes.

Him: To just chill and bond hao.

Me: Hmm.

Him: Let's eat now.

Me: Did you prepare these?

Him: Yup.

He shoved more grapes in his mouth. Not giving a damn in the world.

Me: They look delicious. Thank you.

I took a bite of the toasted bread and moand

He laugh out loud.

Him: It's just bread Sne.

I also laugh.

Me: I know but it still tastes good.

Him: Well maybe that's beacuse I prepared them with love.

We ate and finished up.

Me: Thank you so much.

Him: You're welcome. I'm gonna run you a shower.

But I didn't wanna shower now. I still wanna stay in bed.

Me: No not now. I still wanna stay in bed. It's a bit chilly.

He raised his eyebrows on me.

Him: Okay.

He got out of bed and took the trey and headed out.

He came back and got back inside the covers.

I cleared my throat.

Me: Ozi...

Him: Yes...

He turned to face me.

Me: Why did you not ask me about the guy I was with yesterday?

He narrowed his eyes

Him: Why should I ask?

Her: Aren't you wondering if he's my boyfriend or not?

Him: Well is he?

Me: No but aren't you wondering?

Him: No I'm not wondering. I guess if he's your boyfriend or asking you out, is none of my business. I can only do my best in exhibiting my love for you and he can also do his part. The choice would be left with you to decide who you want to be with. I never worry myslef about such things. I can only do my best and win your heart over to be mine.

I smiled.

Me: Confident much.

He laugh out loud throwing his head back.

He has one of the most carefree laughs once you get to know him.

Him: You don't say.

He pulled me over to his chest and I laid there.

He smelled so good.

Me: Did you take a shower?

Him: Yes.

Me: What time did you wake up kanti?

Him: Around 6 to do some work outs.

Me: You've got a gym in this house?

Him: Yup.

Me: Wow.

Him: I noticed how firm your thighs are. Do you also work out?

Me: From time to time, yes.

Him: Would you mind being my gym mate?

Me: I don't know. I'll think about it.

We stayed in silence then I brushed his strong abdomen lightly and gently.

He inhaled deeply then exhaled.

I continued brushing them. I don't know why I was doing it but it felt right.

Him: Baby...

Me: yes...

Him: I don't think we're ready for that yet.

Me: Ready for what?

Him: I'm horny baby. I've been horny since I saw you. And it's hard for me not to pin you against this bed right now and make love to you as much as I'd like to. And you brushing me like that isn't doing me or the dude down there some justice.

I looked up to him, he had his eyes closed and leaned his head on the headboard.

Me: But I'm only brushing you.

He opened his eyes and looked at me. They were bloodshot.

Him: You don't understand the impacts you have on me without having to do anything at all. And I respect you that much.

Me: But I'm ready.

He looked me straight in my eyeballs. His look was intense.

"I want to experience how sex feels like"

He narrowed his eyes and tilted his head.

Him: What?

Me: I want to have sex Ozi. I feel ready.

He widened his gaze and looked at me.

Him: Are you a virgin?

Me: Yes.

He dropped his jaws.

Him: But how? I mean you're in Varsity already and you've never had sex before?

He had this amused look on his face.

"Is this why you said you've never kissed anybody before?"

Me: Come on Babe. Yes.

Him: Did you have a boyfriend though?

Me: No. You're my first.

Him: Holly crap.

He placed a soft peck on forehead and looked at me deep in my eyes.

"I love you yezwa?".

Me: I love you too.

He pulled me ontop of him in a straddling position and my cage came in contact with his already hard manhood.

He pulled my face with both his hands and smashed his lips on mine and kissed me deeply. I grinded on him and he moaned softly in between the kiss. He grabbed my butt and squeezed it. I said his name.

Me: Ozi...

He mumbled in between the kiss.

Him: Hmm.

Me: make love to me.

He opened his eyes and broke the kiss.

Him: No baby. I cannot. Not now.

Me: But why? I'm ready?

Him: You aren't ready my love. You think you are. I mean I don't blame you, I'm hot and all but I want you to think with your mind and not your-

He paused and looked down on my cage.

I punched him hard on the chest. He laugh and held my hands.

Me: I'm thinking with my head here and I know this is what I want. I bit my lips.

Him: Baby come on...I want it to be special. If you weren't so pure then I'd have you begging me to sink myself deep in you right now but,you're special and I wanna embrace that.

Me: Ozi...

I sulked...

He looked at me with his horny red eyes and licked his lips.

He flipped me over and I was underneath him.

He deepened the kiss and kissed me hungrily.

I felt his hand slide down on my thighs and he took off my panties. He rubbed my thighs again coming back up. He kissed my neck and stopped then took off my t-shirt. I was bath naked. He looked at my body and smiled.

Him: Youre so beautiful baby.

He came closer to my face and kissed me again. He left traces of wet kisses while going down on my body. With biting and blowing inbetween. I got goosebumps.

He arrived at my thighs and kissed the inner parts of them. He cupped my boobs, stroking and twisting my nipples.

I suppressed the moans that I felt needed to come out.

He rested his tongue on my clit and licked it up and down then circled around it.

Him: You taste so good.

He started to eat me like he hasn't eating anything for days.

He unburied his head and popped it up.

"Are you still good?"

I nodded briefly and bit my bottom lip.

He continued and a moan escaped my mouth as I pressed my legs together with his head in between.

He slit his finger in my cage and digged.

I felt my walls clench in and I tightened my body up.

My legs were starting to shake and I was running out of breath. I held on and grapped the sheets as I call out his name loud.

I was shaking like crazy.

Me: Ozii...

Him: Let it out baby.

He digged his head deep. I felt the need to pee and so I screamed out loud.

Me: I want to pee Ozi...

Him: No that's Orgasm my love. Don't hold it back.

I held on his head and let go.

I felt flushes of hot water coming out and I took a loong deep breath.

I was panting.

He lifted his head up and smiled.

His mouth was cover with whitish shiny fluids.

Me: Eew.

He laugh and licked his lips then came and attempted to kiss me.

"No ways"

Him: But that's yours baby.

He stole the kiss and pulled me up.

Me: What was that?

Him: Now that my love is what we call Oral sex.

He pulled me up then we headed to the ensuit bathroom.

"Let's get you cleaned up"

We got inside and took a warm salted bath.

He took off his vest and boxer and his cock sprang out to freedom, strong and hard.

I think I got traumatised by the size of that thing.

I didn't realised he was looking at me when I quickly looked away.

He laugh shook his head

Him: Do you think you could have handled this?
He cupped it and stroked it a few times licking his lips. It dripped some pre-cum.

Me: Ozi cover that up.

He chuckled and we got inside the bath.

I sat in front of him and his cock was poking me.

Me: Ozi...

Him: Yebo...

Me: Jack is poking me.

He burst out into laughter. So loud I haven't heard him before.

Him: Uthi ubani?

Me: Jack.

He continued laughing.

Him: You have already given it a name?

Me: Yes.

Him: You're something else yazi. Ng'yakthanda.

He rubbed and washed my back.

Insert 12

(Unedited)

-Ozi

I arrived at the office after dropping Sne at Campus shortly after we went to her place to get her change into clean clothes. It was already midday so I just came to check on the stuff and return home. I was standing at the reception when I heard stiletto heels on the ground that demanded attention made me turn to look who was the owner. So I turned to look and it was Meagan. She catwalked her way in, swaying her hips from side to side.

Meagan was beautiful and sophisticated. She had a dark flawless skin like chocolate. And big bright eyes with one of those light up the room smiles with white teeth.

I leaned against the counter and folded my arms as I watched her approaching.

She walked past me and Unathi and headed straight to the elevater.

I took a deep breath, shook my head and followed her shortly.

I found her in my office sitting ontop of my desk.

I got in and closed the door behind.

I stood behind it and looked at her.

Meagan: Ozi.

Me: Meagan.

She looked at me from head to toe.

Her: Going somewhere?

Me: No.

Her: What's with the casual look at the office then?

Me: Not that it's any of your business but I wasn't planning on coming in today.

I approached the couch and sat down.

"What are you doing here Meagan?"

Her: Well...

She got off the couch and came to me.

"I saw the weather and it reminded me of us and how much you like making love in such conditions. So I figured I should come make out, for old time's sake"

She was straddling me.

I shook my head and laugh lightly.

Me: Under normal circumstances yes but, we're not dating anymore so no I'll pass.

I got her off me and headed to the door and open it. I burried my hands in my trackpants pockets and stood next to it.

She came towards me and closed it.

She came around to face me. She pulled me by my hoody and leaned forward to my ear.

Her: Don't play hard to get loverboy. You know you want me too.

Me: You're seeing things honey. You need to stop being delusional.

She grabbed my manhood out of the blue. She knew how much I love that shit, so she was taking advantage of it.

"Meagan"

She licked my ear

"Stop it.

She breath on my neck sending chills down my spine.

I wanted to pin her against the wall and fuck her brains out but I couldn't. As beautiful and tempting as she is, I just couldn't.

A glimpse of Sne's face registered in my head and I punished Meagan away swiftly.

Me: You need to go.

Her phone beeped. She went to attent to it.

She smiled, took her handbag and came towards the door where I was still standing.

She looked at me for a while with a smirk on her face and walked out.

Me: The devil must really be testing me.

I looked down on my shaft and it clearly got excited.

Me: No Jack. Don't be a traitor.

I repositioned it,took a deep breath and walked out also.

I bid Inathi goodbye and went to the parking lot.

I found Meagan on her phone and nearly succumbed stroke when she turned to see me.

Her: I'll call you shortly.

She pressed her phone and looked at me.

She was clearly intimidated by my sudden presence.

"How long have you been standing there?"

She looked guilty.

I looked at her sharp. She avoided my eyes.

Me: What are you up to Meagan?

Her: Nothing. I should go.

She charged to her car almost avoiding more questions.

I got inside my car and drove out shortly after her.

.

-Sne

I was shivering from cold. I Opened my eyes and was met by darkness. I looked around but couldn't see a thing. I tried to move but my body was held down. I tried to shout but my mouth was wrapped with a duct tape. I kicked and screamd with my body tighten on the chair. My heart started to pound fast almost like it wanted to escape from my rib cage.

I started to cry and didn't stop kicking untill the chair fell.

I heard the door open and the lights came up.

I saw heel from my angle and the person approached me.

She lifted the chair with me still on it and I looked up.

Meagan...she had a blank face. I couldn't really tell if she was pissed or what because she showed no emotions at all. Her face was cold.

She kneeld down and removed the duct tape briefly

and I winced.

She looked at me and stood up shortly.

She went to sit on a single bed that was across the room. I looked around and I wasn't familiar with this place.

I swallowd some saliva and noticed my throat was dry.

Me: Water.

That came out as a whisper.

I cleared it and tried again.

"Water please."

This time I was audible.

She looked at me. Took the Jag of water that was on a table beside the bed and poured it inside a glass and came to me.

Her: Are you thirsty?

I nodded briefly. She came and stood tall next to me. I looked at her as she held the glass high and poured the water on my head.

I gasped for air and faced down.

She walked away, stood next to the table and looked at me.

Her: Did you not quench your thirst with my man last night and this morning when you were occupying my space in his place?

I blinked a few times and faced up to look at her.

Me: Look Meagan you-

Her: IT'S Ms DUBE TO YOU BIRTCH!

I was frightened.

Me: Ms Dube... I'm sorry but you don't have to do this please. Untire me.

She laugh with an evil laughter.

Her: So you get to make demands aswell?

She approached me.

Me: No bu-

I felt my cheek burn from a hard slap.

I wanted to rubb on it but I was tight up to this

fucken chair.

Her: I warned you nicely to stay away from my man but you didn't listen. Now you'll learn the hard way.

She walked towards the door and called out names.

3 guys who looked scary with scars in their faces came in.

"You see Sne...I know everything there is to know about you. Let's see if Ozi will still find you precious after these guys are done with you"

Me: What do you mean done with me?

Her: She's still pure and ripe to be tested boys. You can have her as much as you want.

They whistled and rubbed their hands together even licking their lips.

Me: Meag- Ms Dube please don't do this. I'm begging for your mercy.

My cries landed on deaf ears as she walked out leaving me with these men.

One took out a pocket knife and came to me. He

sniffed on my neck and moaned.

He moved the knife on my breast teasing then went on to cut the rope loose.

-Ozi

I was chilling at Lwazi's place discussing business.

Me: I can't find Sne on her cellphone and I'm starting to worry now.

Lwazi: Is Sne the name of your mysterious girlfriend.

Me: Yes. Now focus.

Lwazi: Well can't you call anybody, like her room mate or something?

Me: You're not really that stupid after all.

Him: Fuck off dude.

I took out my phone and called this Bandile guy. I had him tracked down the night I saw him with Sne and had him giving me her numbers. That's how I got to text her that same night.

It rang for the longest time until he picked up.

Bandile: "Ola."

Me: Hey man. Ozi langa here...again.

Bandile: "Eita fede?"

Me: Grand man listen, I've been trying to call Sne with no luck. I'm wondering if you've seen her today?

Bandile: "No actually, I haven't seen her since that night."

I felt heat building up on my body immediately by the thought of what could possibly be going on.

Me: Alright thanks man. Don't forget to hit me up if and when you reach her.

Bandile: "Surething."

I hung up and looked at Lwazi who was looking back at me.

Lwazi: And?

Me: The dude hasn't seen or spoken to her in days.

Lwazi: Maybe she's just fine and just having a flat

battery.

Me: Yeah but I don't wanna take chances. I'm calling Charles to organise me a CCTV of the campus. Especially the one direct to the entrance.

I took out my phone and called Charles and he picked up.

Charles: Ngamla...

Me: I need you to get me the UP CCTV ASAP.

Charles: But that's going to be a bit tricky to get Boss.

Me: GET ME THE FUCKEN CCTV TAPE CHARLES.

Charles: On it Boss.

I put the phone down and sat on a chair.

Lwazi: You really love this chick don't you?

Me: I'd kill for her.

Lwazi: Wow. I cannot meet this woman. Do you want a beer?

Me: I want something strong.

He stood up and disappeared to the kichen and

came back with a bottle of Whiskey and glasses with rocks in them.

"I don't want no rocks man. I want it raw."

He shook his head and sat down handing me the glass.

My phone beeped and I checked it.

Me: Can I use your laptop?

Him: It's in the living room. Was that message from Charles?

Me: Yeah. He sent through the CCTV copy.

We followed each other to the living room. I plugged my phone on and pressed play.

I did not believe my eyes.

It showed Sne being captured by two men just outside campuss. They got her inside a car and it speed off shortly. I hit the coffee table with my fist.

Lwazi: What the hell was that?

Me: It's a fucken Movie dumbass.

Lwazi: Did I just see your woman get snatched off?

Me: I'm going to kill those motherfuckers and get their heads dropped by their door houses.

I got up and paced up and down.

Lwazi: But who would want to hurt her?

Me: I don't know. She's very sweet man. I Can't think of anybody who would wanna hurt her unless-

I paused.

Lwazi: Unlesa what Ozi?

Me: Meagan. I am going to kill her. I swear to God Lwazi. I do not get physical with women but She's testing me that one.

Lwazi: whoa whoa whao,why would you think Meagan would do that? I mean I know she's crazy and all but to pull a stunt like that?

Me: You're clearly underestimating her. That woman came in my office today and acted out of charector. It was like she was trying to buy time or pre occupy me for some odd reason.I also found her in the parking lot and she looked suspicious.

Lwazi: What?

Me: I gotta go find Sne.

I charged to the door.

Lwazi: I'm coming with you. I need to make sure the beast in you doesn't wake up tonight.

We got out and used his car and drove away.

Charles called me and said they knew the car from the CCTV footage and gave me a lead.

We were driving to Meagan's place when he called so we changed directions and headed to Mamelodi where Sne is suspected to have been taken.

Me: Do you have a gun in this car?

Lwazi: I always have guns in all my cars.

Me: Good.

We arrived and parked a few houses away. This neighborhood looks dangerous. But not as dangerous as we are.

We took out the 5mm pistols and got out.

We tucked them in our pants and walked. We saw the car from the footage parked outside. We got in the yard and went to the back. There was a room that looked like a studio from ouside. It had no windows and looked soundproofed.

I took out my gun and Looked at Lwazi.

He nodded at me then I kicked the door open.

She was screaming when the guys turned to look who kicked the door in.

Me: Get the hell away from her.

They looked startled.

"Don't make me do this boys"

I didn't want to shoot them infroin of Sne. So I tried my utmost best to remain calm.

They moved away with their hands in the air.

Me: Move to the side and get the fuck down.

They did as per orderd.

I looked Over to Sne who was bruised and had her clothes torned up.

My heart sank to the pit of my stomach.

I closed my eyes and imagined the possible.

I got infuriated...went to one of the guys an hit him with the bum of the gun.

He graoned in pain.

Lwazi rushed to Sne and held her. He took off his coat and wrapped her with.

Guy 1: Mr Langa sir...we didnt know she's your woman. Please don't kill us. We were only paid to do the job. It's nothing personal.

Me: You had your filthy hands on my woman and you call that not personal?

Guy 1: We were paid Mr Langa. Please spare our lives ngamla.

Me: Who paid you?

Guy 2: Don't be a snitch man.

I went over to him and hit him with the palm of the gun on his face then pointed it on his head...

Lwazi: Don't do it Ozi.

Me: Did you have your way with my woman?

I couldn't bring myself to saying the actual word which was rape.

Lwazi: Ozi...

Me: SHUT UP LWAZI!

The room went silent.

There was so much tension in the room. So thick one could use a knife to cut it.

"Im running out of patience "

Guy 1: No ngamla. She's actually quiet fierce. She's a fighter.

Me: Lwazi take Sne to the car.

Lwazi: Okay but we have to take her to the doctor.

He's right. My woman needed help right away and I couldn't waste no more time.

I was gonna deal with this guys later.

Me: Go out now Lwazi. I'll be with you shortly.

He picked Sne up and went out.

"Who paid you?"

Guy1: Meagan Dube sir.

Me: Right. I'm going to spare your lives just for today. You'd better make sure our paths don't cross. Or so help me lord...

They pleaded that I let them go and I did.

I stormed out and headed to the car.

I got at the back and found her curled up into a small ball. I pulled her in my embrace and she cried her lungs out.

I tighend my hold on and comforted her.

Me: I'm sorry baby. I'm sorry I wasn't there to protect you.

She weeped and Lwazi drove away to hospital.

I tightened my jaws and grinded on my teeth thinking about Meagan.

Insert 13

(Unedited)

-Ozi

I was resting my head on the hospital bed and was woken up by Sne caughing.

She looked tired. Her eyes had bags underneath. Her bottom lip was slightly tornd up.

Me: Hey baby.

Me: Water please.

Him: Okay.

I stood up and poured her water. I helped her sit up straight and gave her the glass.

Her: Thank you.

She took a sip and gave me back the glass.

Me: How are you feeling?

Her: I'm fine.

I extended my hand to take hers in mine but she pulled back.

I let out a sign and stood up.

I went to stand next to the window and looked outside for a while.

I didn't know how I felt. I was angry and sad at the same time.

I went to take a sit next to her bed again.

Me: Sne I'm sorry for what happened. I know I should have protected you agaisnt Meagan an-

Her: Please leave.

Me: What?

Her: GET OUT OZI.

I looked at her before getting off the chair.

Me: Do you want something to eat before I leave then?

Her: I'm not hungry.

Lwazi pushed the door open and smiled.

Lwazi: May I come in?

Us: Yes.

He had a bunch of flowers in a vase and a teddy.

He looked at me then down at Sne.

Lwazi: I brought this as you asked Ozi and I came to check up on you Sne.

He looked at her.

Her: Thank you.

Lwazi: It's nice to finally meet you. But not under the circumstances afcause.

She nodded and looked at me. I was looking at her with so much remose and wondered if she realises how sorry I am.

"How are you feeling?"

Her: I'll survive.

The doctor came in shortly and greeted us.

Doc: Goodmorning Ms Khumalo.

He turned to look at us.

"Mr Langa. I've got great news. Your wife wasn't raped or molested"

Her: I'm not his wife.

I looked at her briefly then looked at the Doctor.

Me: Thank you Doc. That's a relief.

Doc: I'll leave you to it then. Please don't be long as she needs to rest.

I nodded.

The doctor walked out.

Me: I'll see you later then.

She turned to look the other way and didn't say anything.

I went over to her and placed a soft peck on her forehead then we left.

Lwazi: Are you guys okay?

I rubbed my face briefly in frustration.

Me: No. And we're far from it.

Lwazi: She's still angry and traumatized. Give her

time, she'll be okay.

Me: There's more actually and I don't know if we'll survive it.

He narrowed his eyes and gestured me to proceed.

"What happened to Snenhlanhla last night is just a tip of an ice bag. There's more things she's bound to find out about herself that might brake her even further. And I don't know if she'll ever forgive me when she finds out I knew all along."

Lwazi: Things like what?

I took a deep breath.

Me: Dlomo is her biological father.

He widened his gaze.

Lwazi: What? Thee Dlomo?

Me: Yes. And I don't know how to protect her from getting hurt by this. She just lost her parents 8 months ago. She doesn't deserve anything that's happening to her right now man.

Lwazi: Who is this chick? And did you do a

background check on her.

Me: Thoroughly. That's how I learned about all these things.

He looked at me and rubbed his head.

"And things just keep getting more and more out of hand within a short space of time."

Lwazi: What do you mean?

Me: She's got a sister who ridiculously look like her at the campus and she doesn't know anything about her. It's just a matter of time untill she finds out.

Lwazi: This is crazy man. What the fuck?!

Me: And I want to protect her man. I want to make sure nothing ever hurts her. But I've already failed my mission after last night.

Lwazi: Don't be hard on yourself. You've just gotten to know her for a shortwhile now. And you didn't know what Meagan was up to. You still have a plenty of time to make it up to her.

Me: I love her Lwazi. And I don't want to loose her.

He put his hand on my shoulder and squeezed.

Lwazi: Give it time. But for now, go home and refresh. I'll pass by the office to check things out before I go on sight to check on the project.

Me: Thanks Bro.

We headed out of the hospital to the car.

Lwazi: So what's gonna happen to Meagan?

We got in and he drove off.

I hung my head and leaned it on the car sit.

Me: As much as I don't wanna physically hurt her, I'd still need to teach her a lesson she'll never forget. She tends to get under my skin now and I can't have that.

Lwazi: You don't have to be the one reprimanding her you know? I can do that on your behalf. You'll just be soft on her and she might not get the message.

He's right.

Me: Just take me home.

I closed my eyes and drifted to sleep.

He shook me lightly and I woke up.

Lwazi: Home sweet home.

I sat upright and rubbed my face.

Me: Thanks pal. For last night aswell. I don't know if I would have handled it alone.

Lwazi: Anytime mfanakithi.

Me: Ngizokbona ke. Go make us money.

I fist bumped him and got outside the car and headed inside.

I was so tired. I slept on a chair the whole night and my body hurt.

I went upstairs and took a long much needed hot shower.

I finished up and got dressed in grey tracksuits and Nike kicks. I put on a beani and headed down stairs. I grabbed my car keys and took the elevater to the underground garage. I missed driving the Range

Rover so I reversed the Black BMW 3 series out. Banzi calls it a black mamba. It's his favourite he drives it more than I do.

I drove out the Range Rover then parked the black mamba back in the garage.

I drove out and went to a close by restaurant to get something lite for Sne to stomach. I drove straight to the hospital shortly after.

I walked to her ward and was welcomed by voices. I pushed the already slightly open door and got it.

-Sne

After Ozi left I asked the Doctor for my phone and called Bandile and Amo and told them what happened. I asked them not to tell anybody so they promised.

Bandile and Khethelo came to see me and Amo couldn't come because she's in Johannesburg.

I was with the guys chatting and laughing when the door pushed Open and in came Ozi.

He had a brown take away paper bag in his hands.

Ozi: Hello.

Khethelo: Hi Mr Langa.

Bandile and I kept quite.

Bandile wasn't pleased at all with him right now. The fact that I was in hospital because of Ozi's bitter ex-girlfriend infuriated him. He acted over protective for my liking. I don't know if his intentions were purely those of a big brother or there was more to it. But he wasn't pleased at all to see Ozi.

Ozi: How are you feeling now?

He put the take away bag ontop of the table and came closer to the bed.

Me: I'm fine.

I didn't look at him. I focused on the guys.

Ozi: I brought you food.

Me: You shouldn't have.

Ozi: Okay.

He moved way and stood far away from us.

He had this sad look on his face. I could tell that he was hurting by my sudden harsh treatment towards him.

There was an unsettling sudden silence in the room you could hear a needle drop.

Khethelo cleared his throat.

Khethelo: We'll give you guys space.

Bandile: We're not done seeing Sne Khathelo. You can go if you want but I'm not done yet.

He was trying to send a message to Ozi.

Ozi: Thanks but it's okay. I'll just leave.

My heart bled by his gentle response.

He looked at me then went out.

I wanted to stop him but he was already gone.

Me: You didn't have to be so rude Bandile.

Bandile: Oh really?

Khethelo: What's your problem dude?

Bandile: That guy isn't good for Sne.

Khethelo: And you are?

He shifted uncomfortably in his seat.

Bandile: Well...I just think Sne deserves better than that gangster.

Me: He's not a gangster Bandile. And he's been nothing but good to me.

Why was I defending Ozi? After seeing him like that with a gun last night, who was I trying to convince here? Who is he really?

Khethelo: Look Sne...you should follow your heart and do what you feel it's best for you alright. We'll just confuess you. Anyway we have to go. I've got class in an hour.

They bid me farewell and left.

What is wrong with Bandile? Hah.

I found tons of messages from Sizwe so I called him back.

Sizwe: Thank God you're still alive.

What? Does everybody know what happened to me already?

Me: Hello to you too Zwezwe.

Sizwe: Sorry buddy. Is just that I was worried about you. You never skip class and your phone was off.

Me: Oh...I'm sorry. I uhm...I'm fine. I'm just not feeling well.

Sizwe: Oh. Text me your location and I'll come check up on you in an hour.

Me: NO! I mean there's no need. It's just headache and I'll be fine soon.

The door opened and Ozi walked in.

"Let me call you back."

Sizwe: Okay get well ke. Xap.

I dropped the call and looked at him.

Me: Ozi...I thought you left.

Ozi: Is that what you want?

He looked at me with a very intense look.

Me: What do you mean?

Him: Do you really want me to stay away from you?

I kept quiet and looked away.

Him: You can't even look at me.

I remained quiet. I didn't know what to say to him.

He walked to the door.

Me: Ozi wait.

He turned to look at me.

He was annoyed and I could see it.

"Don't leave."

Him: And why must I do that Snenhlanhla? What's the use of being here with you when you won't even look at or talk to me?

He was pissed off. His voice was thick and husky.

I kept quiet.

"Do you even want me to be here ? Because I'm confused. You could just tell me and I'll respect your wishes you know?"

Me: I don't know what I want anymore. I thought it was you but being with you is risky Ozi. I'm scared.

Him: Do you want me to organise a psychologist for you?

Me: I'm not crazy Ozithobile.

Him: I never said you are. I just figured having somebody to talk to after last night might help you deal.

Me: I'm fine. I just need time to figure this out on my own.

Him: On your own?

He looked at me.

"Fair enough. I'll let you do that then. Call me when you need anything."

He headed to the door.

Me: Who are you Ozithobile Langa?

He turned swiftly and looked at me.

Him: What?

He came back.

Me: Who are you behind your tailored suits?

He narrowed his gaze on me.

Him: I'm not sure if I follow.

Me: You had a gun with you last night and was ready to kill those guys.

Him: I wasn't going to kill anybody and I had the gun with me for protection.

Me: Really?

Him: You were captured Baby. And my source told me you were taken to Mamelodi. I wasn't gonna go there unarmed. Also, I didn't know what awaited me there.

Me: Okay.

Him: Are you satisfied with my answeres?

I shrugged my sholders.

He looked at me.

Him: Do you want me to stay and keep you company?

I kept quite.

He headed to the door.

Me: Ozi..

He walked out. I covered myself with the sheets and cried.

I miss him so much.

-Ozi

I've never felt so frustrated before. She doesn't understand how much I love her. Now she's shutting me out.

I got in the car and drove to Meagan's place. I still had the key to her house so I let myself in.

I didn't find her in the kitchen or living room. I went to her bedroom and found her ontop of the bed reading a book.

She startled when she saw me.

She got up and smiled.

Meagan: I knew you'd come to your senses.

She kissed my lips.

"I missed you so much baby"

Me: What did you do Meagan?

I still had a soft spot for her and that wasn't good.
Lwazi was right...I cannot be the one to reprimand
her.

She looked up to me and smiled.

"I'm not gonna repeat myself Meagan. I said WHAT
DID YOU DO DAMN IT!!"

I manhandled her and pinned her against the wall.

Her: Ozi you're hurting me.

I came too close to her our bodies were against
each other.

I leaned foward to her ear.

Me: You have no idea what you've just done this time.
You made a very wrong move and you're going to
regret it. You're lucky I don't get physical with
women otherwise Meagan...

I pulled back and headed to the door.

She laugh

Her: She's nolonger so precious now huh?

That was enough to set me off.

I charged towards her and slapped her hard she fell on the ground with her back.

She held her cheek and was bleeding through one nose.

She widened her eyes and looked at me.

I walked over to her and kneeld down to her level.

I looked her in the eyes deadly.

Me: Don't push me to hurt you Meagan.

That came out very low.

"You once meant something to me but that time has passed now. I don't want anything to do with you anymore. I'm getting sick of your games and you're getting under my skin"

I was very polite.

Her: Did you just hit me for that birch Ozi?

I looked away and tightened my jaws.

Me: Meagan...

Her: She's nothing but a birch wh-

I raised my hand to slap her but formed it into a fist and put it down.

Me: You're really testing me.

I got up and headed to the door. I turned to look at her one last time then walked out.

Insert 14

(Unedited and short)

Narrated.

Two weeks had passed and Sne was discharged from the hospital. She told Ozi that she needed space to wrap her head around what happened. He organised her a house call psychologist and respected her other wishes of not being in contact with her. Sne moved in with the Gumede brothers for time being until her fear subsided. The psychologist came in everyday and Sne struggled to open up about her feelings at first but eventually gave in. She poured her heart out about wishing to know her biological family and siblings if she has because she was tired of having nobody. She was doing good and hasn't seen Ozi Langa for full two weeks since

she's discharged. She stopped taking his calls at first because she was ignoring him but later answered and told him to stop calling because she needed space.

Mrs Gumedé came to see her last week and wasn't pleased at all about the whole situation. Apparently Mrs Gumedé knows the father of the Langa brothers. Her husband and him have history in the line of business that Ozi was also involved in. She didn't want to jump the gun by telling Sne who Ozi is but wanted to wait for the right time.

Zama once reached out to Sne and was checking on her. She told Sne that her mother and big sister were now occupying her parent's house for their own slutty shenanigans.

Sne wasn't pleased about that because that house is all that's left to remind her of her parents.

She knew there and then that she needed to find a way to fight for her parents house.

Aunt Nosi had clue of where Sne was and she was plotting with bra pat to go take and bring her home.

Bandile was having a hard time not having Sne as his girlfriend. Her moving in with them made things worse because he was falling head over hills with her everyday.

Ozi wasn't taking well the fact that he hasn't seen or spoken to Sne for two weeks. As much as he couldn't take it anymore,he still respected her wishes and stayed away.

-Sne

I had a fight with Bandile because I felt like he did not want to understand when I told him I don't love him like that. I made that clear with him that I'm not interested but he didn't seem to accept. That also made me consider moving back to my flat.

I was feeling kinda down so I called Sizwe to come pick me up so I could get out of the house.

He arrived a few minutes later and we went to our favourite restaurant.

I was dressed in a white above the knee body tight summer dress with light brown gladiators and a summer hat. I completed the look with my woop earings and a handbag.

I was simple yet beautiful. I was wearing my expensive perfume. I don't know why I was dressed up but I just felt like doing it.

We arrived at the restaurant and got in. I saw Ozi and felt chills travel down my spine.

-Ozi

I was chilling inside the restaurant with both my brothers.

Lwazi: Is that Sne?

I turned to look at her and was breath taken. She looked different and more beautiful. She looked like a breath of fresh air.

Me: Damn.

Banzi: That's thee Sne? Your Sne?

I bit my lower lip and nodded lightly.

Banzi: Wow. She's quiet a catch. She looks a bit young but beautiful indeed.

Lwazi: That's because she's 18.

Me: Look at that ass in that dress man. Fuuuuck!

I was tearing her clothes off with my eyes.

Lwazi: Ey fuck off mjita. You're here drooling over your woman's ass from a distance while you're sexually starving.

I didn't hear any word he said. I had zoned out looking at Sne.

Banzi: Who's the guy she's with?

I couldn't take it anymore. I know Sne said she needed space but fuck that.

I lifted my glass of castle draft and finished it off. I stood up, grabbed my car keys and bid the boys farewell.

Me: I'll see you endlini champs.

Lwazi: Where are you going?

Me: I'm taking my woman home.

Lwazi: Halala. Ungambulali kodwa ke.

Me: Fotsek saan.

I walked over to them and stood very close in front of Sne and didn't acknowledge the guy.

Me: Can I talk to you?

She wanted to say something when I pulled her gently and we went outside.

Her: Ozi I -

I pinned her against the car and kissed her.

I grapped her ass very tight and heard her breathe heavy.

Me: Let's go home baby.

I said in between the kiss and she nodded lightly.

I broke the kiss and opened the door for her.

She got in, I jogged to my door side and got in.

We hit the high way and I speed off.

Me: I missed you.

I brushed her thigh.

We arrived, I parked and got outside. I opened her door and she stepped out leading me.

I looked at her ass and bit my bottom lip. We got inside and I immediately scooped her up and headed upstairs. She held on to my neck and buried her head on my chest.

We got in the room and I put her down on the bed.

I got ontop of her and kissed her hungrily.

Me: I want you.

She was breathing heavily and didn't say a word.

I undressed her until she was left with just panties on.

I pecked her lips then kissed her neck.

"You smell good baby"

I flipped her around so she'd sleep on her back. I grabbed her ass and squeezed it. I kissed her bare back going down her spine leaving wet traces and blowing cold air. I arrived at her ass and kissed it.

"This is some real firm ass"

I heard her giggle.

I flipped her around again to face up. I slid her soaked panties down while looking deep into her eyes. She covered her face with her hands and I chuckled.

I parted her legs wide open and kissed her inner thighs. I arrived at her cage and it was wet. I licked it a few times then sucked on it.

She held my head and pinned it further down.

I felt her legs shake then soon she released.

I crawled back to her face and looked at her.

Me: Hello.

Her: Hi.

I stood up and undressed. I finally took off my undies and Jack sprang out to life.

I looked at her and she looked at it and gasped.

Her: Ozi that's not gonna fit.

I chuckled and got ontop of her.

Me: I'll be gentle. I promise.

I opened her closed legs with my knees and got in between.

Her: Aren't we using a condom?

Me: I wanna taste you baby. I Can't brake your virginity using a condom.

I kissed her passionately trying to distract her.

My hand disappread inbetween out legs and I slid my middle finger in and out for like five times. She was ready.

I positioned myself on her entrance and pushed in gently...she winced.

Her: Ozi...

Me: let me in.

I pushed again for the 2nd time. She jumped up and I held her down. She closed her eyes and looked away.

I touched her cheek and made me face me.

Me: Look at me baby.

She looked at me as I pushed for the 3rd time and this time it went in.

Me: Fuck!

I slid in gently and she was moaning in pain.

"I'm sorry baby"

I pushed futher in and was welcomed by the warmth of her cage.

I moved in and out slowly a few times, her walls were clinging on my cock.

I started to thrust her and she had her eyes closed.

Me: Don't close your eyes baby. Stay with me.

She nodded and I increased my pace and thrusted her deeper. She jumped but I attacked her with a kiss. She moaned against my lips.

Me: Are you in pain?

I don't think my voice was audible enough.

Her: hmm.

She shook her head no.

I balanced with my hands on the bed and pulled my body up away from hers. I digged her for a while.

She was moaning and I was groaning.

Me: You taste so pure Sthandwasam.

I got back on top of her and kissed her.

"Ng'yakthanda Snenhlanhla "

Her: I love you too.

I slid my hand underneath her thigh and grabbed her ass and pulled her up while I sinked deep into her.

Me: Fuck!

She screamed out loud.

"I'm sorry. Did I go too deep?

Her: I love it.

That was enough to set me off.

I thrusted her and she was moaning with passion.

Her moans were fueling me so I spooned and thrusted and grinded and pounded her. I went crazy

till I felt then coming.

I burried my head on her neck and pounded her deeper and faster then I let out what I'd like to believe was a very loud groan.

Me: Uuuuuuurrug fuuuuck!

I collapsed ontop of her and tried to catch my breathe.

I kissed her forehead and and pulled her next to me.

Me: That was amazing baby.

Her: I wanna bath. I feel dirty.

I chuckled.

Me: It's not dirt baby. And we're not done.

She raised her head up and faced me.

I looked at her and smiled.

Her: We're not done?

I shook my head with my eyes half closed.

Me: I still want you. You were amazing and I can't get enough.

I took her hand and placed it on my hard cock and she laugh.

"Uyabona ukuth I still want you?"

Her: I still want you too.

Me: Oh really?

Her: Yes.

I flipped her around and inserted myself again.

This time it was passionate. I made love delicately taking my time with her. She's so beautiful. I'm definately marrying her. We enjoyed ourselves untill we both came.

We finished up and took a bath. We also finished and came back into the bedroom.

Her: It hurts baby.

She sulked.

Me: Really? Let me see.

I laid her on the bed and opened her legs to check.

"Yeah you're right. It does look off colour"

Her: Angithi you fucked me like it wasn't my first time.

I frowned.

Me: Oh baby. Really? I thought I was gentle. I'm sorry. Come here.

I pulled her closer and hugged her.

"But we're not done for tonight angithi? I promise to be gentle"

She pulled away from me.

Her: Kanti do you wanna eat me to finish me?

I laugh.

Me: No but I find you very irresistible Snenhlanhla. And I do not eat you.

I licked my lips and teased her.

"Uzongipha futhi angithi?"

Her: You're crazy. She went out of the bedroom leaving me laughing.

Me: We'll order in tonight.

I shouted.

I changed the bedding and put on a clean one.

She came back looking like she's seen a Ghost.

Me: What's the matter baby?

Her: Do we have company?

Me: No why?

Her: I heard voices downstairs.

Me: Must be my brothers. Are you comfortable to be round them?

Her: It's their brother's house. We can't kick them out.

Me: Are you sure?

Her: Yes.

Me: Okay let's get you in more cosy clothes.

I took out my grey shorts and a vest and gave them to her. She put them on and she looked amazing.

Me: You're a very natural woman. I'll never get used to your beauty.

She smiled and I took her hand and we went

downstairs. I found my brothers eating.

Me: you'd better not be eating my groceries.

They looked up and laugn. They stoop up and greeted Sne.

Lwazi: Hi Sne. Nice to see you again.

Banzi: Hi I'm Banzi. The youngest and more handsome version.

We all laugh.

Her: Nice to meet you Banzi and good to see you again Lwazi.

Me: Okay. now that that's out of the way,what are we eating?

I went over to see they brought take aways.

Banzi: we though we should bring food.

Me: Thanks actually. We're starving.

Lwazi: I'm sure you are.

Me: zibambe Lwazi. Musa ukukhipha lemikhuba yakho esnux.

We laugh. I dished up for both Sne and I then we went to chill in the living room.

We sat on the same couch and ate.

The boys joined in shortly and we had some quality time.

Lwazi: So maDlomo. How do you keep busy?

I nearly choked on my food.

I looked at him and he avoided my eyes and looked directly to Sne.

Her: My surname is not a Dlomo but Khumalo and I'm a student.

Lwazi: Is it? Where are you from again?

Me: That's enough Lwazi.

He avoided me yet again.

Lwazi: Do you have siblings? Because I'm sure they are as beautiful as you are.

Her: Not that I know off. No.

Lwazi: Wouldn't you like to find out if you did?

Me: Lwazi I said that's enough.

Her: what do you mean?

She looked at me then back at Lwazi.

Lwazi: I mean you do have siblings an-

I flew across the table and pulled him up.

Me: Do not disrespect me like that Lwazi. I'm warning you.

Banzi: Here we go again.

He stood up and left.

Sne: What are you talking about Lwazi? Do you know anything that I dont?

I let go of him and looked at him deadly.

Lwazi: Why don't ask your boyfriend here.

He walked out.

I took a deep breath and cursed under my breath.

I looked at Sne who was looking at me with searching eyes. I knew there wasn't getting out of this one.

Insert 15

(Unedited)

-Ozi

Her: what is Lwazi talking about Ozi? What does he mean I've got siblings? First you called me by my surname that I never told you about and you insisted that I did, even when I remember well that I didn't. Now Lwazi addressed me by a certain surname that I don't even know. What's going on and Who are you people?

Me: Sit down baby.

Her: Don't tell me to sit down because I don't really trust you right now.

Me: You need to calm down Sne because I

don't really appreciate your tone.

Lwazi and Banzi came in and I turned to look at them.

Me: You'd better go home Lwazi before shit hits the fan.

Banzi: It's probably best that you leave bro.

Sne left us and went upstairs.

I turned to look at Lwazi.

Me: how dare you defy me like that?

I charged towards him but Banzi stopped me.

Lwazi: I did you a favour and saved your relationship. How long were you planning on keeping her in the dark?

Me: Untill I saw it fit to tell her. Do you think she'll be able to handle that now after everything she's been through?

Lwazi: It's better now than later. I wasn't going

to let you build your relationship based on lies.

Me: Now you know what's good for me?

Banzi: He's got a point though Ozi. Whatever it is that you're hiding from her might backfire if you don't come clean soon.

Me: Stay away from this champ.

He lifted his hands up in surrender.

Lwazi: I don't expect you to see it now but I'm actually looking out for you.

I looked at him with so much rage, I wanted to punch his face.

Me: Go home Lwazi.

I headed upstairs and got to the door.

I stood before it for some time and gathered some strength. I pushed it in and walked inside.

She was standing in the middle of the room.

This does not look good.

I let out a sigh and went to her.

Me: Baby please sit down.

I took her by the hand and lead her to the couch.

I sat down next to her and buried my face in my hands for a moment then rubbed it briefly.

I heaved before looking at her.

Me: I need to tell you something.

She looked at me briefly and I also looked at her.

"Uhm...I...when I first saw you I was very drawn to you and I knew I wanted you to be mine so... after that night at the restaurant I kinda hired a PI to investigate who you are and also do some background check. So uhm... that's how I found out about your surname that-

I paused and took a very long deep breath.

She was nolonger looking at me so that was fine for me because it made things easier.

I didn't have to see her reaction. Othewise I might stop what I've already started.

"I Actually also learned that your biological father is an employee of our company"

She widened her eyes and turned to look at me.

Her: What? You know my father?

Her face lit up with excitement.

Me: Yes. But he's not a good man baby.

Her: What do you mean?

Me: That's not important. I released him off his duties soon after I learned about his immoral acts.

She turned to face down in disappointment.

I guess it's best if she doesn't really know

details.

"You also happen to have a sister who's the same age as you and attends the same campus. She turned swiftly to look at me.

Her: I have a sister?

Me: Yes and you look ridiculously the same.

ter: Do you know her? Have you met her?

Me: No. Only on pictures. This information was only gathered for me about 3 weeks ago.

Her: And you didn't think it was important for me to know? To tell me that I was attending the same campus as my sister that I didn't know existed?

Me: I was waiting for the right time Snenhlanhla. And you were in hospital when I found out and soon after that, you told me to

stay away from you, remember?

She looked at me with disbelief.

Her: Now you're blaming me?

Me: No bu-

Her: You withheld an imperative Information
about me now you're blaming me for it?

Me: I'm not blaming you. I'm trying to explain
that the timing was not right.

She sprang on her feet and stood by the
window.

Her: What about my father?

Me: What about him?

Her: How long have you known he's my father?
I swallowed hard and cleared my throat.

Me: I uhm...

I stuttered.

She turned her whole body and faced my

direction.

I avoided her eyes.

"Around the same time."

Tears threatened her eyes.

Her: all this time you knew who I was and didn't tell me?

Me: We never really got a chance to talk about your family. And after I realised how much talking about your late parents had a negative impact on you, I didn't really want to take you there again... unless you volunteered to talk about it.

She was now sobbing.

Her: it does not have a negative impact on me. I'm still grieving Ozi.

Me: I know and that's what I meant.

I stood up from the couch and headed to her.

"I'm sorry for not telling you sooner but trust

me,you don't need your father, Embrace the memories you have with Mr Khumalo."

Her: And how would you know if I don't need him or not?

I grinded my teeth.

Me: Because he's a pig that's why.

She moved a few steps away and looked in shock.

I gave her a straight look.

Her: I deserve to know him Ozi. What gives you the right to tell me that I don't deserve to know a father I always wondered about my whole life?

Me: Wasn't Mr Khumalo to you?

Her: He was but I still need my biological father Ozi.

Me: No you don't.

Her: How would you know that?

I was getting pissed off by her referring to that

pig as a father.

So I remained quite and suppressed my anger.

"I'm asking you a question Ozithobile?"

Me: BECAUSE HE SEXUALLY ASSAULTS

YOUNG VULNERABLE BOYS,DAMN IT!! HE'S A

PIG AND HE DESERVES A BULLET IN HIS

HEAD.

I took a deep breath and looked at her.

"Look I'm sorry okay. Is just...I want what's best for you Snenhlahla and I don't know how else I can tell you this.

Her: I want to go home.

I looked at her blankly as she took out her phone and made a call.

Me: Please don't do that. We need to talk about this for heaven sake.

Her: Zwezwe Hi. where are you?...would you come pick me up please.... yeah I'll sent you the adress just

now. Thanks"

She turned to look at me as I was also just looking at her.

Her: What's your address.

Me: 25 Karoo street. Silverlakes.

Her: Thanks.

I watched her type it on her phone and I shook my head.

"May I please have my clothes?"

I walked out and went downstairs and left her there.

I got downstairs and sat down.

The intercom buzzed and I answered.

Me: Yes?

Security guy: Mr Langa. There's a Sizwe guy here who says he's here to pick up a Ms Sne.

Me: Let him in.

The door bell rang shortly after and I stood up and went to the door.

I opened it and looked at him.

Him: Oh Mr Ozi Langa.

He took off his bucket hat and squashed it in his hand.

"I didn't know I was coming to your house. I'm really sorry. This was a mistake. I'll just leave.

Sne came down and found us at the door.

I turned to look at her then back at him again. He cleared his throat and brushed his head.

"Hi Sne. Uhm...I'm sorry but I can't take you home ntwana. I hope you understand."

Her: What do you mean Sizwe?

She turned to look at me.

"Did you threaten him Ozi?"

Sizwe: No he didn't. I just don't think it's a good idea for me to interfere. My apologies Mr Langa. Nisale kahle."

He turned on his heels and left.

I closed the door and headed back to my sit.

Me: You could have just asked me to take you home nicely you know? I would have just done that.

She stormed upstairs.

I'm so frustrated. She probably hates me right now and I don't know how I'll ever regain her trust.

My phone rang disturbing me from my thoughts.

I looked at it and let out a sigh.

Me: Baba.

Dad: Ozithobile Mfan'wam. Kunjani?

Me: Ngiyaphila baba. Unjani wena?

Dad: I'm flying down to Pretoria tommorow.

Me: Oh. Business or pleasure.

Dad: Neither. There's something I need to talk to you about.

That doesn't sound good.

Me: Sounds serious.

Dad: It is.

Me: You're not dying are you?

He chuckled.

Dad: You of all people should know that I'm not the dying type. You should ask that Gumedé guy.

I laugh.

Me: he could have killed you if I didn't arrive there on time baba. I saved you. Anyway I'll see you tomorrow.

I hung up and went upstairs. I found her curled up on the bed.

Me: Baby.

I went over to her.

"Ngyacolisa for hurting you. My intention is to live my life making you happy. And I know I'm going to stumble along the way because I'm not perfect. But I'd really like you to find it in your heart to forgive me and give me another chance to make things right.

Her: How are you going to make this right?

she sniffed. She was craying.

"I lost my parents in a verg horrific way and now I

just learned that my biological father is an abuser.
How are you going to make anything right?

Me: All I want to do is to love you Sne. And I wanna spend the rest of my life doing that.

Her: Untill when? Untill you get tired then you also leave me?

That stung my heart.

Me: I'm not going to leave you Snehlanhla. I love you.

Her: I don't deserve you Ozi. Nothing positive is going on in my life. I'm a curse. My sister might not also want anything to do with me. So why would you bother loving me while you can just love any other normal person out there?

Me: Because there's no one out there for me but you. They might not want you but I do.

Her: Do you know how much I suffered since my parents died?

I held her to sit up straight and wiped her tears.

Me: Talk to me. I'm here for you.

So she went on and on and told me every single thing and even about her parents house.

"So you can't even go inside your parent's house at all now?"

Her: Yes. I'm scared.

Me: It's okay. I'll help you. I've got a lawyer friend who owes me a favour. I'm sure he wouldn't mind.

Her: You'd do that for me?

Me: And more.

She rested her head on my shoulder. I wrapped my arm around and pulled her closer.

"No one is going to hurt you from now on. Not even me. I'll protect you okay?"

She nodded.

"I love you so much wena mfaz bra Pat"

She laugh out loud.

"There you go. Anything to hear that lively laughter"

Her: I'm not bra Pat's wife through.

I laugh.

Me: Yes ngoba ubalekile angithi. Kube you're a shebeen queen now. Umfazi we phepha.

We both laugh.

"I can just imagine you dealing with drunkards all day everyday for all your life. My poor woman."

We remained in silence.

Me: Do you think you can forgive me?

She nodded.

Her: I forgive you. I guess you were only trying to protect me.

Me: Do you still want to be with me?

Her: Yes. I'll give you a chance.

Me: Thank you. And I'm not going to take advance of that yezwa?

Her: Time will tell.

I can only pray and hope my past doesn't resurface because I'll be doomed.

Me: Aren't you hungry?

Her: No I'm still full.

Me: Okay. But our beautiful moment was ruined hey.

She turned to look at me.

Her: We can still have a replay.

I looked at her and felt jack move.

Me: Are you sure?

She nodded.

Me: I won't say no to that.

I picked her up and she crossed her legs on my waist.

We kissed and headed to the ensuit.

I put her down and undressed her.

Her: Are we going to make love in the shower?

I wiggled my eyebrows and smirked.

I ran the shower and also undressed.

We got in and started kissing.

I pulled her closer and grabbed her ass.

I sucked on her bottom lip and bit it.

I slid my hand between our legs and played with her cage. She was already wet.

Me: Are you feeling better now?

She nodded.

Me: Good.

I turned her to face the wall then I inserted myself from behind.

I held on her waist and thrusted her gently.

Me: This is so good baby. I don't think I'll ever get enough.

She was moaning.

I turned her head and kissed her passionately then focused on her ass again.

I got her to bend down and touch her toes.

Her: Baby it's gonna hurt.

She sulked.

Me: I'll be gentle my love. I promise.

I started to move in and out slowly until she begged me to thrust her deeper and faster.

I turned off the water and increased my pace. There were sounds of my front part hitting against her ass. She was moaning in pleasure and I find that very sexy.

I pulled out and turned her around to face me.

I lifted her up and pinned her against the shower glass and she wrapped her legs around my waist.

I balanced my one hand on the wall and held her ass with another and pounded her deeper until I felt the need to release.

Her: I'm cumming baby...im cumming

Me: Wait for me baby.

She held on to me as pounded her deeper. She screamed and I groaned. We both came.

I let her down and ran the water again.

I turned her around and washed her back.

Me: You're so amazing you know that.

Her: You too.

Me: You don't talk much, do you?

Her: Yes. I'm very quiet.

Me: I noticed. Not that I'm complaining.

Her: Thank you. You'll get used to me.

Me: I love you just the way you are.

We continued to shower.

"My father is flying down from Durban tomorrow."

She turned to look at me.

Her: Oh. Okay I'll leave early then.

Me: There's no need for that. This house is too big.

Her: Yes baby but I still have to go back to my place.

We cannot co-habit. My mother would turn in her grave.

I smiled and turned her around again.

Me: Don't worry I'll fix it.

She attempted to turn back but I held her forward.

Her: What's that supposed to mean?

Me: Don't worry about it my love.

We finished taking a shower and went to the bedroom. We got inside the covers naked and made love all night.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MYSELF

Insert 16.

(unedited)

-Ozi

I came back from taking the shower and woke Sne up.

I shook her lightly and she opened her sleepy eyes.

Me: Wake up baby. You have to shower quickly. I have to drop you off. I've got an important board meeting with my father and other board members at 10.

Her: What time is it?

Me: It's seven.

Her: Oh. I also have to go to class.

Me: okay tell you what. How about I leave you behind uzohamba ngeskhathi sakho. I'll tell one of my guys to come fetch you when you're done.

Her: You have chauffeurs?

Me: No. Not really. But I could get you one if you like.

I winked at her.

Her: Hai. Hamba I'll call a cab.

Me: Kodwa what kind of a man would that make me baby?

Her: Ozi go. I'll be fine.

Me: Okay but I'll see you later angithi? What time is your last class anyway?

Her: 12 pm. And yes. You may come see me it's fine.

I went over to her and pecked her cheek.

Me: I gotta go now. Let me love you and leave you.

Her: Bye.

I walked to the door then stoped and turned to face her.

Me: Oh and there's a helper in the house. Don't make up that bed. You'll find her downstairs. Don't be alarmed.

Her: ohkay. Alright then. Bye.

Me: Bye love.

I headed downstairs and took the elevator to the underground parking. I used black mamba today.

I reversed out and drove to work.

I got there and found Inathi busy on the laptop.

She raised her head and greeted me.

Inathi: Goodmorning Mr Langa.

Me: Goodmorning Inathi. Unjani?

Her: Hay ndiphilile wethu.

I went to the elevator and got in my office.

I took off my blazer and hung it on the coat rack. I requested Inathi to get me one because I didn't like hanging my blazers on chairs.

Speaking of Inathi...I'm glad she's professional enough to conduct herself like nothing happened the other day. We've had her working for us for so long, I'd hate to have to let her go. So I was just glad she's matured enough.

I lowerd myself down on the chair and opened my laptop and worked on the company's figures.

A lite knock came through the door and before I could answer it,it swang open and in came my father.

I cannot get enough of how handsome he really is. He's like fine wine. He's aging well.

We inherited our looks from him. He's a very fine old man. He's in his late 50s but you wouldn't tell. He's a piece of art.

I rose from my chair and approached him. He opened his arms with a smile and we hugged.

Me: Langa. Sothole. Sodumasa...

Him: Sawbona mfanawam. Uyaphila kodwa?

We broke the hug and he patted my back and we took a sit.

Me: Ngyaphila baba. Kunjani kuwe?

Him: Hai Ngi right mfanwam. Kodwa ukuguga sekufikile nezizukulu anginaso kodwa.

I looked at him under my spectacles and smiled.

Me: Hao Langa. Waze wanehamba boh.

He shrugged his shouders, leaned back and fixed his coat.

Him: Seng'yasho nje Ozi. nishada nini kodwa?

Ngizokwazi ukubona izizukulwana zami ngisaphila.

I Actually rememberd that I had a raw sexual intercourse with Sne and needed to sent over morning after pills.

Me: Maduze nje baba. Futhi wena usazo phila.
Please Excuess me a bit.

I walked out to the reception and told Inathi to organise me fresh flowers, ferrero rocher and morning after pills and gave her the adress.

I orderd her and walked back to the office.

Me: Ucolo baba. Ikhona into bekade ngisafuna ukuyilungisa.

Him: Akukho inkinga mfan'wam. Yonk'int irth kodwa? You look different and happy.

He looked at me carefully.

I blushed.

Me: Something like that baba. Anyway...you still haven't told me why you're here.

He shifted uncomfortably in his seat and cleared his throat.

Him: Yes Act-

The door swung open and Inathi peeked her head in.

Inathi: I'm sorry to disturb but they are waiting for you in the boardroom.

Me: Already?

I looked at my wrist watch.

"Okay we'll be there just know. Thank you
Inathinkosi."

Him: We should get going. I'm not going to say much.
I'll just observe.

Me: No problem.

We stood up and went to the boardroom where 12

more members where seated.

I greeted them then we got started. Our new intern was briefing us on the latest company figures and apparently it was doing good. We build 8 hundred thousand houses at a developing surbab and that made us alot of money even though Dlomo costed us alot. We managed to bring in 50million and everybody was happy.

Me: We could have made much more had we not came across the challenges we had. Now that we all Know Dlomo was our supplier, I hate to stand here and inform you that I've released him from his duties with immediate effect. He's nolonger a part of our team.

Baba: What happened?

Me: Mr Dlomo got involved in shady businesses that got us also linked in and it was putting the company under threats. So I had to let him go.

Baba: If that's the case then you did good.

I continued to update them on other company related issues and progress then the meeting was

dismissed shortly.

Everybody left and Baba and I remained.

Baba: I'm proud of you my boy. I don't regret handing you over. You're taking the company in bigger heights.

Me: Ngyabonga baba. So what is it that you're here for?

The door opened and in walked a very light skinned and lean woman with legs of those of models.

Blast from the past.

What the hell is she doing here?

I looked at baba then looked at her.

She sat down across the table direct to me.

Her: Gentlemen.

Me: Mercy. What a surprise.

I looked at ubaba who was facing down.

Mercy: It's nice to see you again after such a long time Ozi Langa.

She ozzed with confidence.

Her chin was up and her chest was out.

Me: Like wise.

Baba cleared his throat.

Baba: Please wait outside Mercy.

She looked at me briefly them took her hand bag and walked outside.

Me: Baba what the hell is going on? What is Mercy doing here?

Baba: She's the reason why I'm here. We flew down together and I wanted you to see her again.

Me: Why?

Baba: Because Ndodana I want you to marry her.

I laugh out loud.

Me: With all due respect mdala kodwa that's insane.

He gave me a straight face.

He is not kidding is he?

"You're not pulling my leg are you?"

Baba: I do not play games Ozithobile. You have to marry her.

Me: Ngobani baba?

Baba: Because it's the right thing to do. She's less fortunate and we all know why.

Me: That's because I killed her fucking father trying to protect you baba. How do you expect me to marry somebody that I robbed of their father? How am I going to live with her?

Baba: This is why you have to marry her Ozi.

I banged the table and sprang off my feet.

I looked at him directly.

Me: I am not going to marry that girl. Not to clear your conscious and most definately because I DO NOT LOVE HER.

I said emphasising the last part.

Baba: You'll learn to love him. Love grows.

I shook my head and chuckled.

Me: I feel so much disrespected right now. I killed

people. Morethan once protecting you. Now you come at me sideways? This is nonesense and I'm not doing it. I'm old enough to choose who I want to marry. This... isn't happening.

Baba: Ozi list-

Me: NO BABA! I do not appreciate you flying down here to dictate my life. I've proven myself enough to you. It ends here.

I fixed my tie and took my file and walked out.

I got into my office and took my blazer,laptop and car keys then stormed out.

I called Sne and she answered.

Her: Hi baby.

Me: Hey. Are you still at the campus?

Her: No. It's past one. I'm home.

Me: Okay I'm coming to see you.

Her: Okay.

There was an incoming call from Lwazi. Sne hung up so I answered.

Me: Ola.

Lwazi: Ekse mjita howzit.

Me: I couldn't get better.

He chuckled.

Lwazi: Kanti has your old man lost it?

Me: Completely. He's crazy.

Him: He just called me and told me what happened.
I'm glad you told him the way to get off.

I chuckled.

Me: I thought you were gonna take his side.

Him: I'm not crazy mina mfwethu. I like Sne better
for you. For all we know, this Mercy chick could be up
for vengeance.

I let out a sigh.

Me: You're right. We must find out what she's up to
and be ahead of her.

Him: Where are you?

Me: Leaving the office. I'm going to see Sne.

Him: Are you guys okay now?

Me: Yeah and I hate to say this but thank you for initiating that I come clean. We're good now so...

Him: Anything for you man. You know I got you. Anyway... I got to go see my woman. We'll talk.

Me: Sure.

The line died.

I drove out and headed to Acadia.

-Sne

Ozi called and said he's on his way.

I heard a knock and I went to attend the door.

I opened up and attacked him with a hug.

He spun me around then put me down.

Him: Somebody is in a good mood.

I smiled and held his hand in.

Me: That's because I'm the luckiest girl in the world. I got the gifts and thank you.

He heaved and sat down.

He looked drained.

Him: You're welcome baby.

I looked at him and frowned.

Me: Are you okay?

Him: yes. It's just work but I don't want to bore you.

Me: Are you sure?

Him: Yes. How was school today?

Me: It was good actually.

I went on and he was just watching and listening to me talking. Just Nodding and laughing here and there.

Him: Baby.

Me: Hmm

Him: I thought you didn't talk much.

I looked at him.

Me: Am I boring you?

He chuckled.

Him: No. I'm actually amused and happy to see you so excited. It's a good thing.

I blushed.

Me: I'm sorry I didn't offer you anything to drink.
Would you like something?

Him: What do you have?

Me: Juice.

He frowned.

Me: Come on baby. Just juice?

I smiled and nodded.

"I want something strong."

Me: Like what?

Him: Beer or whiskey.

Me: But I don't drink any. How do you expect me to have them here?

Him: I'm going to bring some for when I'm here. And please don't touch them.

I laugh out loud.

"Ngiyak'khuza njalo baby"

We both laugh and my phone rang.

I answered and put it on my ear still giggling.

Me: Hello.

Woman: Woza uzotshela lomattshingelani ukuthuyasazi wena.

I killed my smile immediately and looked at a blank space.

"Yewen Vezandlebe ndini. Did you heard me?"

I quickly dropped the call and held the phone to my chest.

Ozi: What's wrong?

I just remained silent.

He came and shook me briefly.

"Snenhlanhla"

Me: She's here.

Him: Who?

Me: My aunt. She's here Ozi. What if she's here to take me back and I -

Him: Hey hey hey. Look at me.

I looked at him with my glassy eyes.

"Take a deep breath"

I inhaled then exhaled.

"Good. Now slow down and tell me what's going on."

Me: Aunt Nosi just called and she said she's outside.

Him: How did she know where you stay?

Me: How am I supposed to know Ozi.

Him: Calm down alright. I'm on your side here.

I paced up and down.

"Baby you're going to make me dizzy. Go down and let her in.

Me: Are you crazy? I cannot do that.

Him: Yes you can. Now go and welcome your aunt.

I looked at him confussed.

Me: What if she snatches me like they did in the campus? I can't Ozi.

I was all worked up and my heart was racing.

Him: Nothing is going to happen to you. Now be nice and go welcome your guest.

My phone rang again and I startled.

Me: Please make sure you fetch me back if they take me away.

I walked out hesitantly and approached the gate.

A cressida was parked.

My heart was beating fast and my palms were sweating. I wanted to run back back she saw me.

Aunt Nosi: Yeey wena. Kunini silindile lana?

I approached and greeted them.

Me: Sawbona Aunti. Nawe bra Pat.

Aunt Nosi: Siwonyiwe. Singenise endlini phela sikhathele Kusek'deni lana.

Me: Okay kodwa kumele nithole a proper parking

down the road kucala.

She told bra Pat to find parking and he went on then came back shortly.

I lead them inside as nervous as I was. And for the fact that Ozi was in there.

We got in and I found him sitting on the kicken stool facing the opposite.

Me: Ningangena Aunti.

Aunt Nosi: Syabonga. Wubani manje lo?

Ozi stood up and turned to face them.

"Wubani wena. Who is you endlin yontanam?"

Ozi chuckled and folded his arms. Clearly unbothered.

Ozi: Sawbona nawe Aunti

bra Pat came closer dragging his unbuttoned Omega sandals and stood side by side with Aunt Nosi.

Aunt Nosi: I says. Who is you and ufunani lana?

Ozi just looked at her with a blank face. Or rather

bored I don't know.

Ozi: .Ngiyakhuluma nami mah. Yesihla kancane kwi singisi.

I wanted to laugh but this wasnt the right time.

Bra Pat: Yini ngathi uyadelela wena mfana? Uyazi ukuth ngizophuma manje ng'lande isagila sami emotweni?

Ozi chuckled and shook his head.

Aunt Nosi: usuya feba lana edolobeni wena little devili? Uyibiza iskolo lento oyenza manje?

Me: No aunt kodw-

Aunt Nosi: Futhi ngiwonyiwe maan. Unawo ubeer lana.

She went over my fridge and opened it.

"Haaauuu madoda. Usudla ucheeze? I fridge yacwala kangaaka? Uthenga ngani sisi? Nge ndunu? That man is he buys you this food?

I looked at Ozi who was clearly annoyed now.

Bra Pat: Umfaz wam kumele athengelwe yimina

ukudla. Hai lento eyenzeka la.

Aunt Nosi: You didn't even offered us to eat or drink something. Angiku khulisanga like that. It's not how I grow you. Awusana ma manners.

Me: What do you want lana aunt.

Her: we're here to take you ubuyele ekhaya.

Ozi: Over my dead body.

He approuched and burried his hands inside his pockets. He stood tall and very intidating.

"Listen here Aunt Nosi. I'm actually being nice with you right now. But you've over stayed your visit. Sekunele nihambe manje. Sne isn't going anywhere with you"

She laugh out loud and bra Pat contested.

Ozi approuched and stood before looking down on him.

"Lalela lah madala. This isn't your space to own. I'm running out of patience by just looking at your fat self right now. Thatha isgogwana sakho and leave. Make her a wife maniphuma lana and leave my

woman alone uyangizwa."

Bra Pat was nodding like a little boy being bullied. He turned and grabbed Aunt Nosi by the clothes and dragged her out.

I laugh.

Me: Did you just shake aunt Nosi off her boots.

He looked at me.

Him: What kind of people are those? Is that the man you're supposed to marry?

I chuckled.

He laugh and shook his head.

Him: Are you okay?

Me: Yes I am now. Thank you.

I went over to him and hugged his waist.

He rested his chin on my head.

Him: You're welcome mfaz we phepha. We laugh and remained in silence.

I hope they don't come back here ever again

because I cannot deal with them.

Insert 17

(Unedited)

One month later.

At an unknown location mercy had a meeting with Mr Gumedede and it wasn't for pleasure. plotting and scheming was the agender for the night.

Mr Gumedede: Sit down.

He said after Mercy walked in.

She pulled the chair and lowerd herself on it.

Mr Gumedede just looked at her with questioning and nervous eyes.

Mercy: Don't look at me like that.

Mr Gumedede: Well speak up. I don't have all night.

She rolled her eyes and fixed her dress.

Mercy: Well Ozi refused to his father to marry me.

Mr Gumedede banged the table.

"Relax now. Take it easy on the anger tantrums. I'm on it."

Mr Gumedede: You'd better be quick because we're running out of time. We have to win over everything and we must be smart doing it.

Mercy: I don't understand why I should marry a man who killed my father in order for me to take over their company while we can just use that girl to get him to sign everything.

Mr Gumedede: what do you mean?

Mercy: We hold that Khumalo girl hostage and demand that Ozi sign over the company as ransom.

Mr Gumedede stoop up and paced up and down in the room.

Mr Gumedede: No. That's not going to work. He loves that girl.

She leaned on her seat and crossed her legs.

Mercy: Exactly my point. Every man has a weakness and Ozi's is that girl.

Mr Gumedede: No Mercy. That will just trigger the

sleeping beast in him and we all know what might happen. This is Ozi Langa we're plotting against.

Mercy: More reason why we should get rid of him once and for all.

Mr Gumede: It's too risky.

Mercy: Well do you have a better plan then?

Mr Gumede remained quiet and continued to pace up and down.

Mr Gumede: We've got to be smart about this. Because if we fail he's gonna come after my sons.

Mercy stoop up.

Mercy: Get your guys ready tonight. Ozi will not escape from this one.

Mr Gumede: What's your plan.

Mercy: leave that one to me.

She took her hand bag and walked out.

"I want them armed Gumede. 9pm sharp."

Mr Gumede remained in the hotel room and regreted

having met up with mercy.

Mercy's father,Mr Gumedede and Ozi's father were business partners for years untill Mercy 's father got greedy and plotted on stealing the business all to himself. So he plotted on killing both Mr Gumedede and Langa Senior but Ozi beat him to it. He found out and killed him first. Mercy grew up to learn about it and vowed to seek revenge. She's done her research about the Langa Brothers and even when she knew she didn't stand a chance,she just had to get justice for her father.

-Mercy

I got in and spotted him at the bar section.

He was sitting alone on one of the bar stools.

I approached to where he was sitting and sat next to him crossing my legs.

Me: Whisky.

The bar man nodded and got on to it.

I took out my cigarette and lit it. I puffed a few times

without looking at him.

They gave me my glass of Whiskey and I drank it down at one go.

"Another one"

He turned to look at me.

Banzi: You need to take it easy on the shots lady.

I turned to look at him. I blew the cigarette smoke at him and smiled.

Me: Do you want a smoke?

Banzi: No thanks. I don't smoke.

Me: Is it?

I shifted my gaze from him and looked forward.

"It's a pity because I find men who don't smoke very boring. Their kisses are very dry also."

He chuckled and shook his head.

Him: Is that based on your experience of them?

Me: Yes actually.

I killed my cigarette and turned my whole body to his

durection.

"Every smoking man I dated was way a better kisser than those who don't."

Him: Well miss...

He looked at me

Me: Mercy.

Him: Miss Mercy...I can give you a different experience if you allow me.

I chuckled.

Me: really? You look quiet young.

Him: Even more better reason.

He looked at my exposed thighs and licked his lips.

Me: I dare you.

He leaned forward but I tilted my head to the side.

He chuckled

"Not here"

He stood up and finished his drink.

Him: Your place or mine?

Me: Definately mine.

Him: That shouldn't be a problem. Let's go.

Me: Let me use the rest room first. I'll find you outside.

Him: Sure.

He walked out and took my phone and called the guys.

Me: Blue jeans and a Black t-shirt. He's coming out now.

I stoop up and went to the loo.

I did my business and went out.

-Ozi

My phone rang waking me up from my sleep.

I reached for it...pressed and put it on my ear.

Me: Hello.

Lwazi: Is Banzi by your place?

Me: I Don't know. I'm in my room sleeping.

Lwazi: Go check if he's home.

Me: Why what's going on?

Lwazi: That's what I'm trying to find out.

Me: I'll call you back.

I hung up and went to check if the BMW was in the garage from the garage camera and it wasn't there. I looked at the wall clock and it was just after 1 am.

I checked the room he sleeps in and he wasn't there.

I returned to the bedroom and called his phone. It didn't go through. I hung up and called Lwazi back. He picked up immediately.

Lwazi: Is he there?

Me: No and the car isn't here either. His phone takes me straight to voicemail.

Lwazi: This is odd. It's unlike him to be out till this late.

Me: I'll call the tracking company and tell them to track my car. I'll call you shortly.

Lwazi: Sure.

I hung up and called them and they gave me the location.

I texted Lwazi the info and went into the walk in closet and put on tracksuits,a beanie and kicks.

I headed downstairs to take my car keys then went to the garage and drove out.

I arrived there and found Lwazi leaning on his car that was parked just infront of the Black Mamba.

I parked infront of his and got out.

Me: Did you find him?

He shook his head.

I went to the car and peeked inside...he wasn't there.

Me: There's got to be an explanation to this.

Lwazi: Did you get into a fight or something?

I looked at him.

Me: Are you really stupid? Is he my girlfriend or

something?

Lwazi: I'm just asking man. No need to bite my head off.

I went to the pub's entrance and checked. There was a camera.

Me: There's a camera facing this direction here. We could get the CCTV footage of tonight.

Lwazi: How?

I shook my head and took out my phone.

Me: Dad wasted his money taking you to those expensive schools. You're quite slow.

I searched for the name of the pub on internet and found multiple numbers on their page.

One has to be the owner's. I called a few in vain and tried on the last one. He picked up.

I talked to him and explained what was going on. He said he'll be here shortly.

He arrived after what seemed like a life time.

We got in and he played the CCTV footage fast

foward from 9 PM and we saw Banzi getting out of the pub and shortly two guys attacked and got him inside a car.

Lwazi: Dude I know this isn't the right time but you attract Psychos. First Meagan now Mercy.

Me: You're right. This isn't the time. Focus.

We thanked the owner and walked out.

We got to the cars and leaned on them.

"This is frustrating."

I rubbed my face in frustration.

Lwazi: How do we find this Mercy chick?

My phone beeped.

It was a message with a location on it.

Me: I think we found him. Let's go.

I jogged to my car.

Lwazi: Where's he?

Me: Drive behind me.

I got in and requested for the location. I speed off for

what took about 35 minutes drive.

We arrived and parked 1 kilometer away from the location.

We got out and I opened the car boot and took out pistols. I threw a few to Lwazi and we walked.

Lwazi: What is this place? And who sent you the message?

Me: I don't know. I'm as surprised as you.

Lwazi: well what if it's a trap?

Me: Don't get cold feet on me. You can still go back if you're not sure about doing this.

We remained silent and continued to walk.

We arrived after a while at what looked like a huge old house.

-Banzi

They had me tied on a chair and my head was pounding from the gun they hit me with. There was like five guys in here holding AK47s and by the look

of things, there are more outside. They were patiently waiting for my brothers.

Mercy: I'm sorry you got yourself caught in the cross fire but I had to use you as a bait to get your brothers.

Banzi: Why are you doing this?

Mercy: Wouldn't you like to know?

She dragged a chair and sat direct to me.

"Well poor Banzi...you see, the money you're swimming in doesn't only belong to you guys. The Langas don't own it. You're here living lavishly while you're big brother killed my father in cold blood for it. I was still young when it happened. But I vowed to seek revenge for my father and today is the day I fulfill it. I'm sorry boy.

She stoop up.

My jaw was on the floor shocked by what I just heard.

I was deep in my thoughts when I heard sounds of gunshots coming from outside.

I closed my eyes and said a little prayer.

Me: God please be with my brothers because there's no way they can defeat all these people. I know I-

I couldn't finish my prayer. The gun shots persisted and I was now shaking from fear.

One guy came running in and panting.

Guy: Kubi sister boss. All our 12 guys are down.

Mercy: WHAT THE HELL. GO OUT THERE AND KILL THOSE GUYS. I WANT THEM DEAD DAMN IT!!

They hesitated going out pushing one another in fear.

She paced up and down and gun shorts were fired again for the longest time then followed by silence.

She pulled out a gun from her waist and pointed it on my head. She was heaving and shaking while looking at the door.

She clearly wasn't ready for what was going to come through that door and she knew it by the look on her face.

The door was kicked open and in walked Lwazi then

followed Ozi.

Mercy tried standing her ground but she was clearly failing.

Ozi: It's over Mercy put the gun down.

She held on to it still pointing at me.

Lwazi: Put the gun down bitch.

Mercy: NO! I WANT TO KILL HIM LIKE YOU KILLED MY FATHER.

She stood her ground still.

Lwazi: I don't really have a soft spot for women like my brother here. I'll blow your brains out if you don't FUCKEN PUT THE GUN DOWN NOW!

she moved the gun away from me slowly and lowered her hands.

She sank down,sat on the floor and cried.

"Throw the gun over here."

She did as she was ordered.

Lwazi picked it up and handed it to Ozi who was just

standing there looking like a zombie.

Mercy: Why did you do it?

She was crying her lungs out.

"All I wanted was a normal life with a father but you took that away from me. Why Ozi?"

I looked at Ozi who couldn't bare to look at Mercies site.

Ozi: I didn't mean to kill him. Everything happened so fast at a very short space of time. He was going to kill my father if I didn't kill him first. He-

Lwazi: You don't owe this bitch an explanation Ozi. She kidnapped my baby brother.

Lwazi flew across the room and slapped her hard.

Ozi: Stop it Lwazi.

Lwazi: She needs to be eliminated. Like the rest of the guys. She's a loose end and won't stop at nothing until she destroyed us.

Ozi: NO. we're NOT going to kill her.

Lwazi: Take Banzi home and I'll deal with her alone.

Followed by that Psycho Meagan. I hate stupid bitches.

Ozi: No Lwazi. I said we're not going to kill her.

Lwazi: Untire Banzi and go home. NOW!

get him out of here.

Mercy: Ozi please don't let him kill me. I'll leave town and you won't have to-

Lwazi threw another piercing slap across her face her nose bled.

Lwazi: SHUT THE FUCK UP!

Mercy held on to her cheek still laying down and soabing.

He turned to look at Ozi.

"If we let her live,she'll only cause problems for us. She has to go."

He had a deadly look in his eyes that I've never seen before.

Who are these guys and what are they caple of?

I feel like I don't know them at all. How did they take out on all those armed guys?

Ozi came and untied me.

I got up and approached the door.

Ozi: I'm sorry Mercy but you have to face quencequenses of your actions.

He said without looking at her then followed me and we walked out.

We heard gun shorts shortly and we continued to walk.

We got in Ozi's car and Lwazi arrived to his shortly then we drove out.

I stole glances of him while he had his focus on the road.

Ozi: Are you okay?

Me: Yeah. Just a pounding head. Nothing a grandpa can't fix.

He nodded and continued to focus on the road.

I cleared my throat.

Ozi: Do you want to say something?

Me: Umh...yeah. thanks for coming through to me,I guess.

Ozi: You conducted yourself in a very reckless manner at that pub you know that?

I swallowed hard and looked outside the window.

"Don't you have anything you can say for yourself?"

Me: I'm sorry. Please don't tell dad.

He turned to look at me briefly.

Ozi: That's all you're worried about? Dad finding out?

Me: No. I've been careless and It will never happen again,I'm sorry.

His phone rang and he connected it to the bluetooth.

Ozi: Yes?

Lwazi: Slow the fuck down.

Ozi: I didn't realise I was speeding.

Lwazi: Did you kick his ass for being reckless?

He chuckled and looked at me.

Ozi: I'm on it.

Lwazi: Good. Do you also want me to drive to your house?

Ozi: We don't need babysitting Lwazi. Go home.

Lwazi: Goodnight then. I'll see you later.

He hung up and I looked at the car screen, it was past 4 am.

I sank deep into the seat and closed my eyes.

Who are my brothers? What I saw tonight impressed me. It's time I lived close by them now.

I dozzed off.

Insert 18

(Unedited)

-Snenhlanhla

It has been a month and a couple of weeks since Ozi and I been dating and he treats me like nothing but a queen.

I was looking at a very busy day today.

I had back to back classes that end at 16:00 and an assignment that's due tomorrow.

I needed to touch base on it then it will be ready.

I was heading to the campus when a car stopped beside me and I turned to look, it was Sizwe.

Him: Hey you. Hop in.

I got in front.

Me: Wenzani lana so early Zwezwe?

I found coffee in his car and I salivated myself on it.

Him: I come from my friend's flat in this neighborhood.

Me: So early in the morning?

I looked at him from the corners of the coffee takeaway cup.

He laugh and looked at me.

Him: It's not even what you think uyazi. We came back late from parting last night and I used a nightcap.

Me: Hmmkay

Him: Anyway. Do you remember the chick I was telling you about that you look alike?

I shifted uncomfortably in my seat and took a sip from the cup.

Me: Hmm.

Him: She's my girl actally.

I jumped and nearly spilled the coffee.

Me: What? Since when?

Him: Since since.

Me: All this time she's the one you've been referring to as your girlfriend?

Him: Yup.

Me: And you didn't think you should enlighten me?

He laugh.

Him: Hai phela I knew you'd see her eventually. Futhi nawe you've been busy angithi.

Me: But still Sizwe. Does she know I exist?

Him: What do you mean?

Me: Does she know you have someone like me as a friend?

Him: Yeah. I showed her your picture this other day and she said she recognised you from campus.

I kept quite and didn't know what else to say.

Maybe I should just ask him questions about her.

"So where does she stay?

Him: eKasi. Mamelodi.

Me: That's her home?

Him: Yup.

Me: Does she have siblings?

Him: No she's the only child from her mother but apparently her father knocked down some woman back in the villages before they came here. Atleast that's what her mother told her.

Me: Do they know about her?

I cleard my throat.

"Or him I mean?"

Him: No. They're back in the villages and they haven't been there since.

Me: Okay. Aren't you attending classes today?

Him: I am. I just need to go home and change into clean clothes and grab another coffee seing that you took mine.

Me: Hai phela.

Him: Please take notes for me. I'll be a bit late.

Me: Okay. Later then.

I jumped off and headed inside.

I was busy on my phone when I bumped into somebody.

I lifted my head and nearly fainted. It was like looking at my own reflection on a mirror.

Me: I'm so sorry.

I lowered myself to her level and helped her pick her books up.

Her: It's no problem.

She narrowed her eyes on me.

"Hey...I know you. You are Sizwe's classmate and new friend right? "

I looked away avoiding her gaze.

Me: Yes. Snenhlanhla. Sizwe told me so much about you. I'm just not good in catching people's names.

Her: Amanda. Amanda Dlomo.

That comfirmed it. She really is my sister.

We extended our hands for a shake.

Me: It's nice to finally meet you Amanda. As Sizwe's girlfriend afcause.

She laugh

Her: like wise babe. He told me we look alike but I didn't want to believe it at first untill now. You're like the darker version of me and it's creepy.

Me: I know right. It's crazy.

Her: We should hang out some time. I like you already.

Me: I'd love that.

She smiled.

Her: I got to run now babe. See you around?

Me: Definately. It was really lovely to meet you.

She smiled again and off she went.

I watched her disappearing then turned on my heels and walked to class. I got in and got started with my day.

I felt a sense of relief and I'm guessing it's got everything to do with Amanda.

I felt a smile creep out from corner to corner and I let it.

-At the Langa Residence.

The Langa brothers were sitting at a big table having breakfast with their father.

There was so much tension in the room that cutleries and crockeries were the only things making noise.

Lwazi: You're very quiet today Banzi. Are you okay?

Ozi stole a glance at Banzi and continued to focus on his food.

Banzi: Yes I'm okay. I'm just thinking.

Lwazi: About what?

Banzi: Maybe it's time I came back and stayed with you guys.

They all raised their heads from their plates and

faced him.

Ozi: What?

Baba: What's with the sudden change of interest?
What happened?

Banzi: Nothing. I'm just tired of being in Cape Town alone.

Ozi: What about your studies?

Banzi: I'll do a correspondence.

Lwazi: You're crazy.

Ozi: You cannot just switch provinces when you feel like it.

Banzi: I can and I will. I'm moving back and that's it.

He wiped his mouth with a cloth and threw it on the table.

He pushed his chair back and walked out.

Lwazi attempted to call him back but his father raised his hand and signaled him to let him be.

Ozi: He's crazy if he thinks we're gonna let him ditch

Varsity just like that.

Baba: What happened last night?

They looked at each other then looked at their father.

Lwazi: What do you mean baba?

Baba: I received a phone call that Mercy was found dead during the wee hours of this morning along with other seventeen guys at some abandoned house half way to Jorburg.

Lwazi: She had it coming.

Baba: What's that supposed to mean?

Ozi: You brought her here and she kidnapped our brother baba. What did you expect we must do when that happens?

Baba: You refused to marry her. She must have felt rejected and seeked for your attention.

Lwazi Chuckled and digged back in his food.

Ozi: She had Banzi kidnapped and you go on about her like she was some kind of an assert to us. What is wrong with you?

Baba: You could have just made things right by agreeing to marry her.

Ozi: Did you even do a proper background check on what she's been up to all these years before you actually brought her into our lives?

Baba: She automatically became a part of our lives the day you killed her father in cold blood damn it.

Lwazi: He was protecting you. You could have been a ghost now if Ozi didn't walk through that door when he did that day. You cannot continue guilty tripping him for saving you. It should stop baba. And I'm the one who killed Mercy,not him.

Mr Langa turned to look at him.

Baba: What business did you have, to kill her?

Lwazi: She was a threat to our family business. She had to go. I was protecting the Langa empire.

Banzi: And I want it.

He came down the stairs and they all turned to face him.

Ozi: What?

Banzi: Yes Bhuti. I also want to be involved in the family business. You've kept me in the dark for so long. I want in now.

Ozi: You must be having a loose screw somewhere in that head of yours because you're clearly loosing it.

Lwazi: You want in to do what exactly? Do you think we're selling chips there? Does it look like we're playing to you?

Banzi: I'll switch careers and study something in line with the Corporate world.

Ozi chuckled and shook his head.

Ozi: What a load of nonsense you're spitting out.

Baba: What made you change your mind mfanawam?

Banzi: I just want to be like my brothers.

Ozi: There's nothing fascinating about being us
Banzi. Find your own parth. You're only 20.

Lwazi: Finish your studies first and then we'll talk.

Ozi: Don't you have a bucket list to tick anymore?

Lwazi laugh and looked at Ozi.

Lwazi: What is that?

Ozi: A very stupid way of living life in a nutshell.

He turned to look at Banzi.

"Listen Banzi. We'll organise you a therapist to talk about what you experienced last night. But you'll need to be careful because that might land us in hot water."

Baba: Let him decide what he wants.

Ozi: NO LANGA. We're not letting him decide on anything. He's still traumatised from last night and he needs help. That's what we're going to get him. He needs to go back to school and finish his chosen course."

He got up and headed upstairs.

-Snenhlanhla.

I looked around and was the only one left in the campus library.

I checked the time and it was just before 8pm.

Oh shucks. How am I going to get home?

I packed my books and my phone rang.

I checked the caller ID and a smile creped out.

Me: Baby.

Him: Hi sweetheart. How are you?

Me: Exhausted.

Him: Where are you?

Me: At the Library.

Him: What? This time Sne,are you alone?

Me: I had an assignment to touch base on and I lost track of time and yes,I'm alone.

Him: Stay right there and don't go out untill I say so.

Me: Oka-

The line died.

Just great.

I took my phone and called Amo to buy time.

She picked up instantly.

Amo: Our very own south African NAN.

I laugh out loud and she joined me.

Me: Hi my friend.

Her: How are you doing babe?

Me: I'm good actually. For a change,I can't complain.

Her: How's Mr CEO treating you?

Me: Good actally. He's goals. I'm falling inlove with him by each day.

Her: I should come to Pretoria soon and you arrange a meeting with his brothers. I also want a hunk.

I laugh.

Me: No. I don't want them blaming me when you abuse him.

Her: I won't have to if he's not weak. I hate men who don't own their balls. They turn me off.

I laugh and we continued to talk for a while.

We finally said our goodbyes and I just sat there and

relaxed.

I must have dozed off because I was woken up by phone ringing.

Me: Hey.

Ozi: I'm outside. Come.

I took my bag and thanked the security guy for letting me stay in till late then I walked out.

I saw his car parked just in front of the gate.

He flashed his lights at me and I went straight to it.

I got in and we hugged briefly.

Ozi" Were you sleeping already?

He monitored my eyes.

Me: I dozed off.

Ozi: Don't ever stay here till this late okay?

Me: Okay.

He drove away.

Him: Would you like something to eat?

Me: Yes please. I'm very starving.

Him: When last did you eat?

Me: Emini.

Him: Why are you starving yourself?

I remained silent.

We drove in at some fire place and ordered deck wood with drinks.

It arrived after some time and we drove out.

Me: Can we go to my place tonight please.

He looked at me and didn't say anything.

We arrived at my flat and he parked.

We went inside and I dished up almost immediately.

I promised to bring some beers for when he's and he did.

He walked to the fridge and took out dumpies.

He came back and sat on the kicken stool and looked at me dishing up.

Me: Do you also want food.

Him: No baby. I had just eaten when I came to you.
Mam Rose cooked.

Me: Okay.

I finished dishing up and joined him on the table.

I digged in and he was just watching me eat.

Him: How was your day?

Me: Busy.

I said almost not audible. My mouth was stuffed up with food.

He chuckled and shook his head.

I finished and we went upstairs.

"You can make yourself comfortable. I'm just going to shower quick."

Him: Can I join you?

Me: Didn't you shower when you came here?

Him: I did but It wouldn't hurt if I did again. With you this time.

He wingled his eyebrows and smiled.

Me: Why do I sense like it's not going to be an innocent shower?

Him: It doesn't have to be if you want.

He started to undress then shortly he was naked.

He passed by me and headed out to the bathroom.

I shook my head and laugh.

I went out either and found him leaning with his hands on and facing the wall. the water was hitting his naked body.

I steped in and held him from the back.

He grabbed my hands and made me hold his hard cock.

Me: Why are you always horny?

He chuckled and turned to face me.

Him: I'm not always horny. Only when I'm with you. And we haven't had sex in two weeks baby.

Me: Why is that?

He reached for the soap and turned me around to

face the other way.

Him: I find you very irresistible. And the fact that you granted me the privilege of your pureness, turns me on each time I think about it.

He was washing my back.

We finished showering and went out to dry ourselves.

He scooped me up and we headed back to my room.

He sat ontop of the couch and put me in a straddling position.

We started kissing passionately for a while then he laid on his back and burried his hands under his head.

Him: Do your thing baby.

I sinked his cock deep in me and found my ass on the air.

I started grinding on him slowly.

He closed his eyes and groaned.

Insert 19

(Unedited)

-Snenhlanhla

I tossed the sheets off me and rolled over and got out of bed.

I headed downstairs and there was no sign of Ozi in the house.

I love him and all but there's just something I cannot put my finger on about him.

He'd disappear for hours at times and come back during the wee hours of the morning.

I don't want to suspect that he might be cheating on me but there's something going on that I just cannot comprehend.

I thought we'd be spending the whole day together indoors and lazing around all day but he left without even saying goodbye.

I made coffee and returned upstairs to make up the bed.

I cleaned the whole flat while jamming to Jacaranda hits.

The bedroom door swang open and he budged in.

I remained there and looked at him.

Me: You cannot come and go as you please to my flat Ozi. It's unpredictable.

He narrowed his eyes in confusion.

Him: What went wrong?

Me: Where did you go?

He looked down at himself then back at me.

Him: Gym. Doesn't the gear speak volumes?

I looked at him. I didn't even notice he was in his gym gear.

Me: Where did you get those?

Him: They are always in my car. The only time they aren't there is when they are being washed.

Me: Okay.

Him: Do you feel like spending the day indoors?

Me: No. I've got plans.

I don't even know why I said that because I didn't have any. I was annoyed and I couldn't understand why.

Him: Did you make those before or after I left?

Me: It doesn't matter.

He looked at me like he was trying to figure something out.

Him: What happened?

Me: Nothing.

Him: I go to gym and come back to you looking like you've just eaten a pig for breakfast and you're gonna tell me nothing happened? You do know that's a very childish way of voicing your issues with me right?

I rolled my eyes and folded my arms across my chest.

"Are you on your periods?"

I widened my gaze on him. I don't know why I'm getting annoyed by the sight of him but I wanted to bite his head off.

Me: That's a very stupid question. I said nothing happened.

Him: So you're just being rude for fun?

Me: I need to get ready Ozithobile please.

Him: Do you want me to leave?

Me: That's up to you.

Him: Okay. I'll leave. But just so you know, I don't find this childish behavior cute. Stay here and regroup.

With that said, he banged the door and left.

I took out my phone and called Khethelo but he didn't answer.

I called Bandile and asked him to go out with me, he said he was busy.

I called Amo and it rang for a while until she picked up.

Amo: Mngani.

Me: Hey friend. I'm so lonely. How about you come to Pretoria.

Her: As in today?

Me: How about now?

Her: What? That's short notice. What's wrong?

Me: Nothing. I just feel like unwinding a bit. And you're the only person I think could help me do that.

She remained quiet for a while.

"Amo are you coming or not?"

Her: What about transport fare. You're the one who wants me to come there, You pay"

I grinned like an idiot.

Me: I knew you'd say that. I'll call you an uber.

She screamed in excitement.

Her: I cannot wait to get there. Let me get ready then. I'll see you soon.

Me: I can't wait to see you my friend. Bye for now.

I hung up and twerked a bit.

I feel like going out. It wouldn't hurt to just go out there and have fun. I'll see Ozi on Monday.

Time was 15:35 and I was busy with my books buying time.

My phone rang and I reached for it.

Me: Hey. Ukuphi?

Her: Outside. Come fetch me.

Me: Okay I'll be there in a minute.

I put my phone down and sprang out.

I was really excited that she really came.

I got to the gate and we ran to each other.

We hugged and screamed grabbing attention.

"You came."

We broke the hug and she took a few steps back and scrutinised me.

Her: Look at you. Oh my gosh you look beautiful.

Vitamin dick is really doing you wonders.

We laugh and hugged again.

Me: you look good too babe. Even gained complexion I see.

Her: We don't use ground water to bath but running and processed, honey.

She swung her head dramatically and her braids swung from side to side.

I laugh and held her hand.

Me: Come, let's go in.

We got to my flat and she settled down.

She decided that we cook before our big night out and so we did.

Her: So...how's Mr CEO treating you honestly?

I smiled and looked at her.

Me: I couldn't have asked for a better boyfriend. He understands me.

Her: How did Mrs Gumede take it though?

Me: She didn't say much but she wasn't pleased about the fact that his ex-girlfriend had me captured.

I told her about the kidnapping incident in details and she was fascinated about the Langa brothers.

Her: They sound like real mafias to me. But as long as you're happy and safe then I'm good.

Me: Hai Amo. They are good guys. Futhi I haven't heard from or seen Meagan since. I think she left town.

Speaking of Meagan, I never really saw her in campus after that night. I suspect they must have threatened her to leave town.

Oh well...good riddance if you ask me. She was like a bad odour that wouldn't go away.

We continued to cook while talking about almost anything and everything. She shared her Jorburg stories with me and I shared my Pretoria experience with her.

It was lovely. I didn't realise how much I missed her untill now.

We even called her mother and she was happy that we were together.

It was 6pm and we had just finished dressing up.

Her: So where are we really going?

Me: I was thinking Dross Hatfield.

She raised her eyebrow and looked at me like I was crazy.

Her: Isn't that a food and wine cellar restaurant?

Me: It is.

Her: Hell no. I think we should go to a much vibey place than that.

She took out her phone and browsed through it.

She looked at me with a smirk on her face.

"We're going to Jack budha."

Me: Isn't that in Mamelodi?

Her: Yes it is and that's where we're going.

Me: No Amo. That's far and I heard that neighbourhood is quite dangerous.

Her: I've been there a few times and it's not that bad
come on. Don't be a pussy.

I was very reluctant but I had to trust in her.

Me: Okay but we're not using a taxi right.

She had an annoyed look plastered on her face.

Her: When did you become a snob?

Me: It's late and I don't trust the taxis at night
Amogelang.

Her: Call your hunk and ask him to take us then.

Me: NO! no no no. He doesn't even know that I'm
going out this late. I don't know if he'd agree or not
but I hope he's cool with it when he finds out.

Her: So you didn't tell him?

Me: No. And I'd like to keep it that way. Let's just
leave already.

She shook her head and laugh lightly.

We finished up and we left.

We requested an uber and we arrived after a while.

"I hope I don't regret this."

Her: We're here already. It's too late for that now.

Me: What's that supposed to mean Amo?

Her: Nothing man. Let's just go have fun okay.

She took my hand and we got inside.

The place was packed to capacity.

There was very limited space inside.

Me: AMO.

I leaned foward to her ear and shouted.

Her: WHAT?

Me: I THINK WE SHOULD GO OUTSIDE.

Her: NO. COME.

We got to what looked like a VIP section and found a table and sat down.

"This is much better angithi?"

Me: Yes.

I nodded briefly with my eyes wamdering everywhere.

Her: You need to relax. You don't want to look like an upright snob. You'll grab an unnecessary attention.

Me: Okay I'll try.

Her: What would you like to drink.

Me: Orange juice please.

She looked at me and laugh.

She got up and went to the couter then later came back with ice cream looking glasses.

She put them down and shoved one my direction.

"This doesn't look like an Orange juice."

Her: No. It's something better.

Me: What is it?

Her: Taste it first.

Me: Is it ice cream.

I took a sip and frowned.

She looked at me and laugh.

Her: It's a blow job cocktail. You're not supposed to

be sipping it.

I widened my eyes.

Me: A what? It tastes nasty. How am I supposed to drink it kanti?

Her: It's gonna taste nasty at first but your taste buds will get used to it. Just drink it at one go.

I took another sip

She laughed her lungs out.

"Come on Sne. That's not how you drink that thing"

I closed my nose and took it down at one go.

I gagged and stuck my tongue out.

"Come. Let's go sit by the bar. It's boring here. Even the music sucks."

We got up and I followed her.

We got to the bar section and sat down on the stools.

She kept them coming and I kept taking them down at one go.

I think they were reaching their destination now

because I couldn't stop laughing.

Dj Maphorisa's hello song played and I got down to the dance floor and danced like nobody's business.

I felt somebody grab my arm lightly and I turned to look it was Amanda.

Me: OH HIIIII MANDY BABE. HOW ARE YOU?

If that didn't destroy her eardrum then she's hardcore.

She grapped me and pulled me outside.

Amanda: You're not supposed to be dancing like that Sne. You'll -

I gagged a few times and puked.

She rubbed my back gently untill I was done.

"Are you okay?"

Me: Yes. I feel much better now. What are you doing here?

Amanda: I live in this neighbourhood. I should be asking you that question. I didn't know you vibe in such places.

Me: I don't vibe at all actually. My childhood friend is the one that brought me here. She wanted to have a good time so...

Amanda: where's she?

I looked around and didn't see her.

Me: She must be inside.

Her: Is it your first time drinking?

Me: Yes. I need water.

Amanda: Let's go inside. I can't leave you out here alone. It's not safe.

We walked back in and she bought me water.

Me: Thank you so much.

Her: You're welcome. Take it easy on th-

Amo: I've been looking all over for you.

She looked at me and looked at Amanda then back at me again.

"I must be really drunk right now because there's like two Snenhlanhlas standing before me now"

That's how alike we ridiculously look. Amanda also has an Afro.

We laugh at her.

Me: No silly. This is Amanda, my campus mate.
Amanda this is Amo, my childhood friend.

Amanda: Nice to meet you Amo.

Amo: Like wise Amanda. Please explain to me why you ridiculously look alike...

She burbed.

"Tomorrow though, not tonight. Tonight let's dance.

She went back to the dance floor and enjoyed the music.

Amanda and I took a sit at a table and watched her dance her butt off.

Amanda: What have you been drinking?

Me: A blow job cocktail they said.

We laugh.

Amanda: That's too much for a first timer. You

should take it easy on those. I'll buy you a belgravia cider.

Me: I don't know it but hey, bring it on.

She walked to the counter and came back with a pack. She sat down and we started drinking.

Another Dj Maphorisa hit blusted up the speskars and I returned back to the dance floor.

I found myslef dancing with some ramdom guy.

Guy: A reye kontle. Ke nyaka ho bolela lwena.

Me: No. Don't spoil the mood man. Let's just dance.

Guy: Come on. Don't play hard to get. Ka itsi wa mpatla lwena.

Me: No man. I don't even know you. I'm not going anywhere with you.

I found myself being pulled out of the crowd heading outside.

"Where the hell are you taking me?"

He pinned me against the wall and kissed me.

There were people around but even if I was to scream for help, everybody was just minding their own business here. They might even think I'm his girlfriend by the look of things.

I tried to push him off me but he was too strong and I was too drunk.

"Get the hell away from me."

He licked my neck and grabbed my ass.

Guy: Come on baby girl. Ska eira nkare ao batle.

Me: Nooo. Let me go.

I was craying and putting his up.

He got pulled away from me and a few punches landed on him. He fell on the ground and received kicking of his life.

I looked up and nearly succumbed a stroke.

He stood his tall figure before me and had a very frantic look plastered on his face.

He looked at me intensely in my eyes and didn't say anything.

Me: Ozi. What are you doing here.

I don't know if I believed that he rescued me yet again from whatever that was supposed to happen or I was rather alarmed by his sudden presence here. How did he find me? How did he know where I was? Is he having me followed or stalked?

His Voice startled and brought me back from my wonder land.

He came closer and pinned me against the wall and caged me in.

Ozi: What is it that you're trying to get me to prove to you Snenhlanhla?

His voice was strong and husky.

I don't think I've ever heard it before.

Me: Baby I...

I smiled weakly and tried to utter another word but it was in vain.

I gave up trying to speak. Words failed me and my mouth became dry. I'm very intimidated right now.

Ozi: What do you want to see?

Me: Nothing baby. I just wanted to have fun.

He pulled back and looked at my eyeball.

Ozi: You're really testing my patience with you, do you know that?

I remained quiet and was afraid to break the eye contact.

"Go get your friend."

I nodded like a little kid and ran inside.

Amo: You're making this disappearing stunt a tendency now. I don't like it.

Me: We have to go Amo.

Amo: It's only after 1am Sne. The night is still young babeeeey.

She danced her way back to the dance floor but I pulled her back.

Me: Amo it's either we're leaving now or I'm leaving you here.

Amo: Go ahead. I'll find you home.

"You'll go out of this place now if you know what's good for you."

I turned and swallowed hard.

I looked at Amo and pleaded with her with my eyes.

Amo: Who are you manje wena?

She stumbled and balanced on Ozi's biceps.

Ozi: Somebody who doesn't appreciate being in this filthy place and aguing with you. I'm running out of patience. Get your hands off me and start walking now.

She looked at me and I signaled to her with my head.

She looked up at Ozi and raised her hands in surrender and walked out.

We followed her and we got in the car.

I attempted to go infront but was warned not to.

"Don't even think about it."

I got at the back and sat with Amo.

He ignited the car engine and drove off.

I looked at the rear view mirror and found him staring at me.

If looks could kill,I'd be dead by now.

He switched off the lights and we drove in silence.

We were woken up by somebody shaking us roughly.

We opened our eyes...I looked around,we were at Ozi's garage.

Ozi: Get out.

We got out and stumbled to the elevator.

Amo: Where's this place?

Nobody answered her. She'd better shut her mouth or she'll get us entoragated.

I stole a glance at Ozi and found him looking at me pissed off.

I shifted my gaze swiftly and looked foward.

We got in and headed upstairs.

Ozi: Come,I'll show you your room.

He looked at Amo

Amo: My room?

Ozi: Did I stutter?

She just laugh

Her: Hey relax now alright. Easy tiger.

Ozi hardened his jaws and walked away. She followed him shortly.

I went to his master bedroom and threw myself on the bed and zoned out.

I felt him undress me then picked me up and carried me to the shower.

He put me down and ran the water.

I winced as the cold water hit my naked body.

Me: The water is cold Ozi.

Him: Don't you dare adjust it.

He walked out.

I stayed in there and allowed the water sober me up a bit.

I finished and he stepped in.

He pulled me out and dried me with a towel.

We went back to the bedroom and he threw me my pijamas.

I couldn't dare to look at him.

I don't know if I was embarrassed or scared but I was uneasy.

He opened the covers and I dressed up and got in.

Me: Baby I'm sorry. I didn't mean for tonight to happen.

Him: You'd better sleep Snehlanhla.

With that said, he disappeared into the walk in closet and came back wearing his boxer only.

He got inside the covers and switched off the bedside lights.

Me: Good night. I love you.

Him: Lala.

I sanked deep and before you know it, I was out.

Insert 20

(Unedited)

-Snenhlanhla Khumalo

I woke up to my head pounding. I tried to get up but threw it back on the pillow.

Do you know that feeling when you feel like your head is carrying all your body weight and if you were to get up, it would actually knock you down? This is how I'm feeling right now. My stomach is in knots and I feel sick. If this is what alcohol and partying does to people the morning after then I'm not cut for it.

Even though I don't remember much about what went down last night, I do know that it wasn't for a good course. It's safe to say I regret every single bit of it.

Ozi came in and I wanted to jump out of my skin and be someone else. That's how embarrassed I am

about myself right now.

Ozi: Goodmorning.

He was holding a glass of what looked like a smoothie. Only, the colour of it didn't look much appetizing.

Me: Hey baby.

I looked him in the eyes trying to read any emotion they might display but I failed.

His face was as blank as a new book.

He didn't show any emotions at all and this made things worse for me because then I couldn't figure out how deep in shit I was with him. I hated not knowing.

Ozi: Here. This should help you.

I got up and sat upright and he handed me the glass.

Me: What is it?

Him: It's a home made remedy.

I took a sip and it tasted nasty. I lifted my eyes to look at him and he was leaning against the door

frame with his ankles crossed and his arms folded on his chest.

Me: Thank you. Why am I feeling like this?

Him: It's called hangover. It happens when you've been drinking the night before.

Me: Oh.

Him: I made some for your friend too. She's already up and looks nothing like the torture you're going through. I take it she's used to this?

He looked at me with questioning eyes.

I cleared my throat

Me: Yes actually. She's quite experienced in this department.

Him: And you're not?

I glanced at him and he was not moving his eyes an inch away from mine.

He was really taking his time with me and I sensed some grilling coming my way.

Me: What are you insinuating?

Him: I thought you didn't like clubs. Or was I imagining things?

Me: I don't baby. What is this? You don't trust me now?

I know what I did last night was wrong and I regret it, but I wasn't going to give room for him to feel dominant towards me.

Him: I don't know Sne. You tell me?

Me: It was jus-

I felt my insides turn and I felt the need to throw up.

Him: Are you okay?

I just nodded and felt puke building up and I coverd my mouth with my hand and ran to the bathroom.

I threw up untill the was nothing left to come out but I kept on gagging.

I got up and rinsed my mouth with water.

I looked on the mirror and I was looking pale. My eyes had bags underneath and I definately looked horrible.

I pulled my afro back and realised it needed some attention. I brushed my teeth and washed my face then went back to the bedroom.

I found the bed made up already and he was out of sight.

Why haven't I ever seen mam Rose coming to make up our bed whenever I'm here? It's like Ozi orders her not to come to our bedroom and he prefers to do it himself.

Anyway...

I got out to where Amo was sleeping and didn't find her. The room looked like nobody was sleeping in it.

I went out and headed downstairs. I was welcomed by loud voices and I walked in...she and mam Rose were sitting down having coffee. Ozi wasn't there.

Me: Sanibonani.

They turned to look at me.

Mama Rose: Molo mntanam.

Amo: Hello sleepy head. Why didn't you tell me your boyfriend is living such a luxurious life? Look at this

house. It's E.X.T.R.A.V.A.G.A.N.T!

Me: Amo stop please. You're embarrassing yourself.

I looked at mama Rose and she smiled weakly.

Amo: Would you like coffee then?

Is she freaking serious right now? Who's a guest here between she and I?

I looked at her and rolled my eyes.

Me: I'd like some coffee please mam Rose. Make it strong.

Mama Rose: Okay mntanam.

Amo: Hlala phansi phela. Yoh last night was lit neh? Mamelodi is definately a place to be. I've never danced like that in ages. Not even Jorburg is that lit.

I just sat there and listened to her going on and on and on. She sounded like a bee in my ears. My head wasn't doing me justice either.

Mam Rose gave me my coffee and I attempted to take a sip but the smell of it was too strong.

I pushed it aside and found mam Rose looking at me.

She smiled and just kept staring.

Me: Is there something wrong mama?

Mama Rose: Qha mntanam.

She just couldn't stop smiling. Is this woman okay upstairs? Gosh!

Me: Amo kanti wena aren't you suffering from this...what do you call it? Handover?

She burst out in laughter.

Amo: It's hangover and no. Mina ngiyinja ye game. I'm a motherfucker. Kudala ngiyenza lento.

I was about to say something when I saw Ozi standing up the staircase looking down on us.

He called me by hand and I stood up and headed upstairs.

Me: Excuse me.

I got to the room and found him sitting on the couch.

Ozi: Please sit down.

I sat at the edge of the bed and faced his direction.

He was also sitting at the edge of the couch, leaning forward, balanced hand on his lab by it's elbow and he was holding his chin.

He narrowed his eyes on me like he was trying to figure something out.

I maintained the eye contact untill it was starting to get uncomfortable.

I broke it and moved my eyes away while stealing glances at him and he didn't move his an inch.

I shifted uncomfortably on my seat.

Me: Is there something you want us to talk about?

Ozi: Are you proud of the way you conducted yourself last night?

I swallowd hard.

Me: No. I'm not. But I don't regret it. I wanted to explore.

I folded my arms with so much attitude trying to intimidate him.

He chuckled.

Him: You've got an attitude baby. I would find it cute under normal circumstances but it's got no room here to fit in right now. You acted out of character when you got rude to me yesterday just so you'd get me to leave and you get up to no good.

Me: I'm sorry for being rude but that wasn't my ticket to go out.

Him: Your sorry doesn't cut it. You compromised your safety last night. All for what? Could you have been able to defend yourself from that guy should I have not arrived there in time?

Me: Why were you there even? How did you know where I was Ozi? Are you stalking me?

Trust me to use reverse psychology on a person to try and get away with murder.

Him: Don't patronize me my love. I'm actually trying to be civil here.

Me: Why are you dodging my questions? Are you having me followed?

Him: The bracelet I bought you and made you

promise to never remove it from your wrist has a tracker on it. I'm not having you followed.

I sprang off my feet.

Me: It has what ? Are you crazy?

I looked at my wrist.

Him: Sit down.

That was very polite. I looked at him and he had a blank look plastered on his face.

"Sit down Snenhlanhla ."

I lowered myself back on the bed and crossed my legs.

"I did that because I'm very concerned about your safety. I didn't want to be uneasy everytime you're not by my side. Not after you got captured."

Me: I'm not some 12 years old kid Ozithobile. I can take care of myself.

Him: Is that so?

I was very reluctant to answer to that because of the way he was looking at me But I just had to reply.

Me: Yes.

That wasn't so convincing.

Him: Did you protect yourself when Meagan had you kidnapped? Did you protect yourself against that guy last night?

I remained silent.

"It looks to me that you cannot be more responsible and that I overestimated your intelligence. And I'd like to believe that I'm right after how you conducted yourself. You went to the most dangerous neighborhood and got yourself drunk for the first time in your life. Does that sound responsible to you?"

Me: No but it was for the first time I just wanted to have fun.

Him: And that's supposed to make it right?

Me: No but Amo is the on-

Him: Don't you dare Snenhlanhla!

That came out firm as a warning but low.

"Don't play that blame card crap on me. You cannot fuck up and blame it on someone else."

I was crying. Why is he being so harsh. I thought he loved me.

"I cannot overlook the fact that you didn't pick up my calls all night only to find you pined against a wall of some fucken pub. You were dishonest and you I'm not going to take that laying down."

He was getting pissed off.

Me: I'm sorry.

My voice was trembling.

He let out a sigh.

Him: Come here.

I stood up and sat on his lap.

"I'm not going to let you be someone that you're not. This isn't the woman I fell inlove with. If I wanted a floozie,I could have found myself one a long time ago. I've waited for a more decent woman to cross my path and that was you. You're very exceptional and I don't want you to loose yourself. I'm not being

harsh because I want to hurt your feelings. And I'm also not trying to be dominant and belittle you. But it's my duty to make sure you become the best wif-... Look baby, I understand that you're still young but I'm here to mold you. And I'm going to come across as harsh at times but that's because I love you so much. I don't appreciate how you conducted yourself last night and I'm not going to let it go without you facing consequences of your actions. You have to be reprimanded."

Me: how am I gonna get my punishment?

He chuckled.

Him: Aren't you so impatient? You'll have to wait and see.

He pushed stance of my afro back and played with it.

"Is the remedy making you feel any better?"

Me: Yes but I just feel funny.

Him: Alcohol is not for babies my love. And is certainly not for women. If there's anybody that disgusts me to the core, is a drinking woman.

Me: Please let's not go back there. I heard you loud and clear and it's not going to happen again.

Him: It better not because I don't take kind to empty promises.

He kept playing with my hair.

"It needs some attention shame."

Me: Leave my hair alone please.

He laugh.

Him: This Amo cheek is very ratchet.

I punched his chest.

Me: Baaaby.

Him: Come on baby. You know it's true. She looks like she can stand one on one with a man.

Her: If only you knew she want one of your brothers shame.

Him: What? Never. Not that she's bad or anything but she's definately not Banzi's piece of cake and Lwazi isn't the gentle type. They'll kill each other.

Me: Hai she's not that bad hao.

Him: Babe...you're just used to her.

Me: hai suka.

We laugh it off.

"We should probably get going."

Him: And when should I come pick you up?

Me: I don't know.

Him: I'll transfer money into your account. Please go do a make over. I'm taking you out for dinner tonight.

Me: What about Amo.

He got me off his lab and stood up.

Him: What about her?

Me: She'll get bored.

Him: She must find herself a man or return to Jorburg today.

He walked out.

"I'll see you later."

He shouted.

I headed upstairs and found her fudging with her phone.

Me: Hey

Her: Kunini ni upstairs? Make up sex?

This one really needs deliverance. I'm unable to can with her shame.

Me: I'm not addicted to sex Amo.

Her: Yeah right. Anyway, I have to go back to Jorburg today. Ibhari yam iyangfuna.

Me: Hau kanti you've got a man? Yet you've got your eyes gallavanting all over and salivating on other men.

She laugh.

Her: I do but I still need a taste of the Langa brothers.

She winked.

Me: What you need is Jesus. let's go.

I called a cab and we left.

My phone beeped. R5000 was transferred into my account. I felt my clit do the Thuso Phala.

-Langa Residence.

Narrated.

Ozi Langa invited his brothers and father for lunch to discuss some personal affairs. He was going to ask them to represent him in lobola negotiations for Snenhlanhla Khumalo ASAP. He is head over heels in love with her and didn't need any time frame to dictate his assurance about his future with her. He's never been sure about anything in his life before, his words, Not mine. He felt guilty for getting privileges of her while he's just a mere boyfriend. Also...he was getting tired of the up and down movements. The sleep ins and outs from different places in order for them to be with each other everyday wasn't really ideal for him. Despite the fact that he's a hardcore and super sexy business man, he was still deeply rooted. He's a Zulu, not your everyday typical but

your classy and sophisticated Zulu man. His Stay in the U.S during his Harvard University years didn't detach him from his roots and so he wanted to do things right and by the book and marry the love of his life. So many women's hearts are going to get broken when they learn he's off the market because they all want a piece of him and hoped they'd become Mrs Langa. Ozi Langa is rumoured to be a ladies man and has a reputation about being very picky. Every woman he's ever dated was uniquely beautiful in such a way that they would turn heads everywhere they went. The media's observations however, is that every sizzling hot business tycoon out there struggles to keep it zipped. They believe a man of his calibre and status should move from one woman's bed to another also judging by the fact that women everywhere wanted a piece of him.

Surprisingly the charismatic and hunky CEO has got his eyes on one woman and one woman only, Sinenhlanhla Khumalo. She's all he wants and all she needs. She is what makes him feel fulfilled. He saw a very vivid picture of his future projected in the depth of her eyes the first day she saw her and

couldn't stop wondering how beautiful their babies would look with her as their mother since that day.

Insert 21

(Unedited and short)

-Ozithobile Langa.

Have you ever felt chest pains due to loving someone? And the only thing you ever want to do is live your life waking up next to, exploring life, sharing dreams with and making them happy ? This is a very foreign experience I'm having since my entire existence of knowing anybody but Snenhlahla Khumalo. The woman is making me feel things I've never felt about anybody before. Being raised by my father only, denied me a previllage to exhibit the projection and an exchange of love between him and our mother. He raised us the best way he knew how and had a very few demonstrations of love to show to my brothers and I. I don't know about them but I wish I had the previllage of seeing him loving my mother. That way, I would have experienced what it means to love a woman through them.

Snenhlahla isn't the most beautiful woman I've ever dated. Her beauty is natural without efforts. She wakes up in the morning like she just took a shower from heaven. I had an ex whom I'd like to believe was the most beautiful then, but she never, even for one day, made me feel how I feel about Sne.

I opened the ring case and it's diamond cluttered. A woman like Snenhlahla deserves to have this kind of a ring on her matrimonial finger. And tonight, I'm slitting it in. I'm taking a step in making her mine.

I put on my blazer and grabbed the bunch of flowers that were laying down ontop of the table along with car keys and exited.

Journeys usually take longer and you only hate the road when you're anticipating to see someone.

It's quarter past 8 and I'm speeding on the N4 highway.

I arrived at the residence and made my way in.

I knocked at the door and she opened shortly. Our eyes met and I couldn't help but grin like an idiot.

Her: Hey.

She flashed a smile.

Me: Hi baby. You look breath taking.

I stepped closer and kissed her neck.

"You smell good either."

Her: Thank you.

She blushed. I handed her the flowers.

Me: You look a million dollar.

She was wearing a cream tight long sleeved dress with collars. It was revelling her cleavage all the way down to her belly button. The dress was hugging her in all the right places. She complimented the look with rose gold 7 inch stilettos, a rose gold wrist watch and dangling earings. Her hair was revived and hand free styled. She looked powerful.

She took the flowers and smelled them.

Her: Thank you baby. They are beautiful and smell good.

Me: Not as beautiful as you are. Shall we leave?

Her: Yes. Let me quickly put them inside a vase then we'll leave.

She turned to face the kicken counter and gave me the view of her firm ass that was sticking out of that dress. I tilted my head to the side to take a good look and stuck my tounge out to moisten my lips. Damn!She was done shortly and we locked the door and walked out.

I held her hand all the way to the car. I opened the door for her then I walked to my side and stepped in.

I ignited the car engine and we drove off.

Me: How was your day?

I turned to look at her then focused on the road again.

Her: It was busy. I never shopped till I dropped untill today.The salon was packed to capacity and I was just going crazy waiting.

I looked at her briefly with a stupid smile plastered on my face.

This woman is ridiculously beautiful.

Me: It was worth it if you ask me. You look absolutely stunning.

She blushed.

Her: Enough with the compliments. They making me shy.

I took her hand in mind and played with her matrimonial finger. She had no absolute idea and didn't even get the hint. I smiled and we drove away while conversing.

-Snenhlanhla Khumalo

We arrived at the most extravagant and expensive looking restaurant in Brooklyn. He came to my side of the door and helped me step out.

Affluent men like Ozi Langa always go all out to looking their best.

He was wearing a navy blue polo neck with a dark striped grey two piece suit. He filled it up nicely that the blazer was hugging his biceps and his abbs

were oozing underneath the blazer and polo neck. His pants were revealing his fit quadriceps and he was looking flat handsome.

He took my hand in his and we walked in. We got ushered to our table and as we walked in, I noticed the place was empty and there was only one table and the rest of the places had Red and White flower petals all over the floor. The lights were dimmed and candles were on. I was mesmerized.

Me: Why is this place empty?

I enquired looking around and admiring the whole set-up.

Him: I booked the whole restaurant tonight.

He pulled my chair and I sat down. He walked to his side of the table, took his blazer off and hung it on his chair before swiveling down.

Me: You did?

Him: Yes baby. I wanted us to have a good time alone.

He looked at me and his eyes were strangely

compelling.

Me: I love it. It looks beautiful.

He extended his hand across the table and took mine in his and kissed it.

Him: You look so amazing. I'm failing to contain myself.

Me: What you're feeling is nothing compared to how I feel each time I lay my eyes on you. I still cannot believe how a man of your calibre could fall for a girl like me.

He chuckled.

Him: You hold no idea how much of a dime you are, do you?

I shook my head lightly.

"My plan is to live my life making you realise that about yourself."

A waiter came with our staters and we indulged.

"I hope you're not allegic to anything because I couldn't ask. Otherwise I would have raised

suspensions about this surprise."

Me: I grew up avarage baby. Poor and middle class don't suffer from allegies.

He laugh throwing his head back.

Our main course dinner came and we digged in.

"I don't think I'll stomach all this."

He was clearly enjoying his food because he was all smiles.

Him: But you haven't touched much of it. Don't you like it?

He cut a piece of meant and fed me.

"We can share my meal if you don't like yours."

Me: No. It's not that. I don't want to suffer from constipation.

Him: Oh, well, I won't let all this good food go to waste.

He continued to eat while I indulged on my Appletizer and we convesed.

He finished up shortly and the waiter cleared the table.

Music played softly from the speakers and a familiar voice came out thereafter. I turned to see it was Press. I held my cheeks in shock.

He came towards us and sang the lyrics from the song titled: Ke Rata Wena, that Ozi langa loves so much.

'Ceto ke inkile... Ngwanenwa kea mo nyala...I can't imagine life without you,ba kampa bare o njesitse..ke hopola tsatsi la pele keo bona...your smile brighten up my day baby...you're the beat in my heart...onceta matla baby...a ke sa kgonal e go itswara'

I turned to look at Ozi and found him kneeled down on his knee with an opened ring case in his hand. My jaws dropped to the floor and my hands held my cheeks. I was blown away. The music sound toned down

Him: Baby...

His voice was quivering and his eyes were red. He was trying by all means to suppress the tears that were breaming in his eyes.

"Thank you for fidgeting on your phone and bumping into me the other day. Because then I wouldn't have met you when I did. I know I've only known you for a short while but I realised my whole life had no meaning until you came in it. I don't know what the future holds but I promise to live my whole life making you happy."

I was craying. Tears came rolling down my cheeks and I gave up trying to wipe them off.

"I love you Snenhlanhla Khumalo. And I want to spend all the days of my life with you by my side. Would you fulfill my dreams and be my wife?"

I didn't want to let him finish.

Me: Yes.

He widened his eyes and blinked a few times

Him: Yes?

He enquired carefully.

Me: Yes baby. I'll marry you.

He sprang off his feet and picked me up from the chair and span me around.

I hugged his neck and giggled with joy. He put me down and took my hand in his and slit the portable one piece dimond ring on my finger and kissed it.

Him: perfect.

Me: It's a perfect fit baby. How did you know it would fit.

He smirked.

Him: let's just say, I measured your finger while you were sleeping one night.

I punched his abbs lightly.

"You're making a habit of punching me baby. That's abuse."

I bust into laughter.

Me: I'm sorry my love. Mr Langa wami.

He had this stupid grin on his face by me calling him that.

Him: Say that again?

Me: Mr Langa, Sothobe, Sodumase, Madevu
aqgabul'inkomishi...

He bust out into laughter hanging his head back on air.

Him: Where did you learn that baby?

Me: I did my research.

Him: Is it? Kudala ungfuna wena.

We both laugh and he pulled me by my waist gently and took my lips into his and they locked. We kissed with our lips exploring on each other's own tune.

He broke it and placed a soft peck on my forehead.

"I love you baby."

He looked inside my eyeballs and I looked into his.

Me: I love you too.

The music came up and Press contuined to sing.

He rested his forehead on mine and we danced slowly.

Me: It is me or you love Press's songs.

He smiled widely. It's ridiculous. I cannot comprehend how a Zulu man like him loves Tswana songs.

Him: His songs conveys deep meanings of love sthandwa sam. I might be Zulu but I know good music when I hear one. And press is one of those artists for me.

We contuined to dance while litening to Press singing to us live. I'm sweaped off. Nobody's ever done this for me. Me...a whole Snehlanhla Khumalo, village girl. What a twist of fate.

I looked at my finger that glittered from this beautuful diamond ring and a smile creped from ear to ear.

We contuined to enjoy what was left of the night.

Insert 22

(Unedited)

-Snenhlanhla Khumalo

I was chained down to the bed with both my legs and arms parted. I tried to scream at the top of my lungs but the voice wasn't coming out. My throat was so dry from all the crying and screaming I've been doing. She looked down on me and let out an evil laughter. She was wearing gloves that were covered in blood. In her hands she had scissors that were dripping of the same blood. I tried to move but my body was numb. I looked over when I realised the bump wasn't there anymore. I turned to look at her with tears falling down from each corner of my eyes.

Me: Where is my baby Meagan?

She continued to laugh in the most evil way.

"WHERE THE HELL IS MY BABY? WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY BABY?"

I wimperd.

Her: SHUT UP!!

she demanded.

"I warned you to stay the fuck away from my man but you did not listen. Ozi is mine and I'll do whatever it takes to have him back."

She took off the gloves and her finger glittered from the diamond that reflected from the light. She kissed it and looked at me.

"You see Sne...this is what happens when you come from whichever hell hole that you came from and take over my life. This ring was supposed to me mine. Along with that baby you were carring. But you decided to have what was meant for me. Don't be alarmed though, your baby is safe and I'll raise it together with Ozi and we shall live happily ever after like a perfect happy family that we were meant to be, before you intruded."

Me: NOOOOOOOOO!

I jumped off from my sleep and woke up.

I found Ozi looking down at me with a frown on his face.

Him: Hey. Hey hey hey. It's okay baby. You were just dreaming.

I glanced around frantic. I was panting and soaking wet in the pijamas that I was wearing.

I looked at Ozi and held him for dear life.

I wimpered in his arms and he comforted me.

"It's okay my love. It was just a bad dream. I'm here now."

I finally placated. I looked at him before looking down on my tummy and touched it.

"What is it baby?"

Me: I dreamed I wa-

I couldn't finish that sentence. I sprang off to the toilet and puked. I felt his hand brushing me gently on my back. He walked out and came back with a glass of water.

"Here, drink this. There's nothing coming out

anymore."

I raised my scrunched-up face and took the glass of water and gulped it down.

Me: Thank you.

He nodded looking at me with a frown plastered on his face.

I brushed my teeth and rinsed my face with warm water then walked out. He followed me.

Him: Are you okay?

Me: Yes. I am now.

Him: What's wrong? You vomit often lately.

Me: How am I supposed to know that Ozi? Am I a doctor?

I lashed out and regretted it almost immediately. I raised my eyes and found him looking at me with so much remorse.

"I'm sorry. Is just...I don't know what's going on with me."

Him: Are you going to tell me what you were

dreaming about?

Me: No. Not today. I don't want to talk about it.

Him: Okay. Can I book you an appointment to see a doctor atleast? I hate to see you puke like that. And it's happening more often now.

Me: I have to go to school. I've got a test today.

Him: What time ?

Me: 12 P.M.

Him: Can't I book it for afternoon then?

I looked at him.

Me: You're not going to let it go if I refuse,will you?

Him: No, I wont. It's imperative that you do and I need to know if everything is okay with you. You're my finacée after all.

I turned to look at him and he was smiling widely.

Me: Are these the perks of being someone's finacée or of being yours in particular?

He chuckled.

Him: It comes with being a future Mrs Langa.

I looked at my elegant ring and flashed a smile.

"It looks even more beautiful during the day. I love it so much. Thank you baby. You can book it for 4 P.M please."

I went over to him and hugged his waist and looked up at him.

Him: It's a pleasure Sthandwa sam. I had just finished preparing breakfast when I came up here. I don't know if you'll be able to stomach anything now that you vomited.

Me: It wouldn't hurt to try.

He kissed my forehead and took me by the hand and we headed downstairs.

I found the table already set up and the food looked appetizing.

"Hmm. This looks mouth watering. I can get used to it "

I said swiveling down on my chair. He sat opposite me and laugh shaking his head.

Him: Dont get used to it. I don't like being in the kitchen.

Me: But you're a best cook.

Him: That's because I had to learn how to cook during my university days in the U.S. take away can deny one of the zest of home cooked meals. So I took cooking classes to survive.

Me: Wow. Now I know I won't even try to cook for you. It was better when I didn't know all that you just told me now.

He smiled.

Him: We have our whole lives for me to teach you.

He winked and digged in his food. I joined in on mine also.

Me: What time did you wake up?

Him: I woke up around 5 a.m and appreciated your sleeping beauty then I got up around six to prepare break fast.

Me: You're very naughty baby. But why do you always wake up so early?

We convesed while eating.

Him: I run a multi billion rand company babe. I have to work hard or else the Langa empire will collapse. And anyway you know what they say...Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.

Me: Where do you get all the time to juggle everything in your life though?

He had his head buried in his plate.

Him: I'm a pro when it comes to time management. I'm very strict so that works for me.

Me: I'll learn a thing or two then

Him: You sure will. So tell me baby...

He wiped his mouth with a cloth and leaned foward on the table. He was suddenly intimidating. He looked at me straight in the eyes. I don't think I'll ever get used to his serious self.

I learned backward on my seat and paid attention to him.

"Who will handle your lobola negotiations when I

sent my people to your house?"

I heaved and rubbed my eyes. I knew some day this would happen but I just didn't think it would be so quick.

Me: I don't know but I'm guessing my father's brothers would die to be there so they'd share the money. aunt Nosi will be there either as my aunt.

Him: At your grandmother's house?

Me: Yes.

I let out a sigh.

"I wish we'd elope or something. They don't deserve to get a cent."

Him: No baby. I know you don't like them much but we have to do the right thing. It's not about money even.

Me: They didn't raise me baby. Why are they deserving of my lobola money?

Him: Because their brother raised you as his own and now he's not here to handle the affairs. They are the right people to take over now. Besides...I want to

marry you fair and square. Also...I want you to take pride in being my wife.

He pushed his chair back and stood up.

"Let me go jot down a letter I'll be sending to them then."

Me: Already?

Him: I want to have you as my wife once and for all. That aunt Nosi woman uyadelela and I want her along with her goon off my case.

He jogged up the staircase.

Me: I'll do the dishes then.

Him: Thank you.

He shouted and disappread upstairs.

I washed the dishes and mam Rose walked down the staircase and hurried to me.

Mam Rose: Oh no, please mtanam. Uzawundiqothisa emsebemzini. Khawuyeke ezi zitja wethu.

She took out my hands from the sink.

Me: Haibo mama. It's okay. I just want to help. I insist.

Her: No please. It's my job. You sit down and relax.

Me: Okay ke.

I pulled the kicken stool and sat down. I fiddled on my phone and texted everybody in my small circle sharing the good news with. She kept stealing glances of me.

Mam Rose: URight?

Me: Yebo ma. Yindaba?

She smiled. Is this woman okay upstairs or she's just a fan of smiles.

Her: Uya glowisha. Undikhumbuza mna ngelaxesha ndi mithi i first born yam.

She grinned.

Me: What do you mean ma?

I shifted uncomfortably on my sit and fixed my t-shirt.

Her: You are pregnant wethu.

I'm what? She's crazy. Who told her this nonesense?
Also, can't she mind her own business. Nxa!

Me: That's nonesense ma. I'm not pregnant mina.

I stood up.

"Please Excuess me."

I headed upstairs and turned to face her again. She was still smiling like a retard. What the actually fuck. Such audacity though.

I walked in the bedroom and didn't find Ozi there.

Me: Baby...

I shouted.

Him: In my office...

He shouted back.

I walked out to his office and found him swiveled on his chair gazing on the laptop screen. He had glasses on.

Me: You will not believe this?

He spun his chair around to face my direction. He

pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose and looked at me.

I smiled at this view. He looked so cute and different in those.

Me: Do your employees know you are less intimidating with your glasses on?

Him: Are you hinting that I'm cute?

He smiled and I giggled while standing by the door frame.

Me: Yes baby.

Him: Don't let them hear you say that. They'll stop respecting me.

I laugh.

"What did you want to tell me?"

Me: Uhm...urg I forgot. It probably wasn't that important.

Him: I'm that distructive?

He bid his bittom lip.

Me: No you're not.

Him: proove it then.

He got up from his chair and motioned to my direction. He pulled me in and closed the door behind.

"Kiss me."

He was kissing my neck and his hand was wandering on my ass. I giggled.

Me: hmm.

He smashed his lips on mine and we kissed. I was breathing heavy untill he decided to brake the kiss. I sulked.

"Why are you teasing me?"

He chuckled.

Him: Sit down there's something more important than sex I want to tell you.

I sat onto of his desk and looked at him.

"I spoke to my lawyer friend and he agreed to helping you with having access to your parent's house

again."

I jumped down and hugged him dearly.

Him: You'll brake my bones baby.

I pulled off and kissed his face all over.

He was laughing like a small boy.

Me: Thank you so much baby.

Him: You're welcome. Can I get a quicky now?

Me: Yes.

I sprang off and ran out laughing to the bedroom.

I sat down and couldn't shake off the dream I had about Meagan. I touched my belly and brushed it.

Insert 23

(Unedited)

Snenhlanhla Khumalo

Growing up I always wanted to study what I was passionate about and fitness as a whole is what I love. That's why I strived to get good marks in order for me to get through university and study sports science. I was writing my first test ever today since and it's safe to say I surpassed it. I nailed it. I showed it flames. I was made for this.

I was packing my books when Sizwe and Amanda sat down next to me.

Sizwe: How did you write the test ntwana?

I was about to reply when I saw Amanda looking at my hand and held her chest in shock.

Amanda: Oh my God. Is that what I think it is?

I looked at her and smiled. She screamed her lungs

out and jumped over to me.

Amanda: Congratulations doll. Oh my gosh.

We hugged. She took my hand and observed the rock.

"Babe...you should take notes here. This is a real rock."

She looked at Sizwe who was just looking at us laughing.

Me: I'm starving you guys. Let's get something to eat,sit down and talk.

We walked out and headed to the canteen. We ordered food and sat down. I noticed the attention that I was getting and I didn't understand why. It made me feel uncomfortable.

Two girls were pointing at me while staring. One decided to come over to our table and disturbed our peaceful lunch.

Girl: So you're Ozi Langa's fiancee?

She looked at me with so much resentment.

Me: Yes I am.

Girl: You guys won't last. You're not even his type.

Amanda: Excuess me. Did your mother not teach you to greet people? Or disrespect is just home brewed?

She looked at Amanda then back at me from head to toe before turning on her heels and walking away to her table.

I looked at Sizwe and Amanda who were totally amused.

Amanda: Serves her right. Bloody hoe.

Sizwe: Haibo baby.

Amanda: No babe. She's got a liver. Who is she to rock up on our table on some 'you guys wont last' type of shirt?

She mimicked her voice and I just laugh.

Sizwe: Une drama kodwa.

Amanda: Hai she must fuck off maan. So doll...

She looked at me with questioning eyes.

"You're dating Ozithobile Langa?"

I cleared my throat. I know what this means. She probably knows him first hand because her father who just got fired was working for him. He's might not be her biggest fan right now and will dicourage me from dating him.

Me: Uhm, yes.

I avoided her eyes.

Her: I don't personally know the guy but I know my father worked at his company. They fired him though just recently and I've got no idea what happened but...I'm so happy for you babe.

I raised my head to look at her. She was genuinely happy for me.

Me: Thank you so much Mandy. That means alot to me.

Her: So where did you disappear to that other night?

We bust out into laughter and I told them what happened.

We got interrupted once again by two girls who

asked to take a picture with me. Haibo kanti when did I become Kim Kardashian? Hai! We took a few selfies and they told me how pretty I am and all that stuff then they left.

Me: What's going on guys? Why am I getting so much recognition?

Sizwe: You're about to marry one of the most affluent business man in the country. What do you expect?

Me: Okay but how do people know about our love and personal life?

Amanda: Ozi is always under a spotlight doll. You might find an article about you guys on the gossip column even.

Me: What gossip column?

Amanda: Let me check if there's anything.

She took out her phone and fidgeted on it then gave it to me. There was indeed an article with a picture of Ozi and I the night he proposed. It covered all the night details and also touched on the fact that the

mighty Ozi Langa is nolonger on the market.

I gave Amanda her phone back and remained in shock.

Me: How did they find out? Ozi booked the whole restaurant mos?

Sizwe: This is Ozi Langa we're talking about baby girl.

This is ridiculous. I know my fiance is a business man but I wasn't aware he is this affluent and famous. We continued to eat while talking about stuff in general. My phone rang. I checked the caller I.D and smiled. I picked it up and answered.

Me: Baby.

Ozi: Hey Wifey. Are you done?

Me: Yes. I was still having lunch with my friends.

Ozi: Can I come pick you up then?

Me: Yeah sure.

Ozi: I'll call you when I get there.

Me: Okay. Bye.

Ozi: I love you.

Me: Bye.

Ozi: Yewena Snenhlanhla.

I giggled.

Me: Baby I've got company.

Ozi: So? Put me on loud speaker. I want your friends to know that I love you.

Me: Baby no. You're wasting time.

I head him chuckled.

Ozi: I'll see you shortly then.

Me: Bye babe.

I hung up and we contined to finish our lunch. My phone beeped after a while and it was a message from Ozi. He said he parked outside.

"Guys I have to go. My man is here to pick me up."

Sizwe: Okay we'll walk you out.

We walked out and found him standing next to his car with his hands burried in his pockets. I blushed. I

can't get over how handsome he really is.

Me: Hey baby.

He stepped closer and we shared a hug briefly. I turned to face Sizwe and Amanda.

"Guys this is my fiance Ozi. Ozi this is my sis-
I cleared my throat.

"I mean my friend Amanda."

He extended his hand to shake Amanda's.

Ozi: It's a pleasure to meet you Ms Amanda.

Amanda: Like wise.

Me: I'm sure you remember Sizwe over here.

I looked at Sizwe and he was pale in the face. He looked like he wanted to run for his life.

Ozi: Fede my auty?

He flashed a smile and formed his hand into a fist and they bumped.

Sizwe: Grand grotman.

Ozi chuckled.

Ozi: Call me Ozi.

Sizwe: Sure sure grot- I mean Ozi.

He stepped back and rubbed his hands together.

Me: I'll see you guys tomorrow. We've got somewhere to be.

Amanda and I hugged then they left. We got in the car and drove away.

Ozi: I didn't know you and Amanda met already.

He glanced at me briefly before focusing on the road.

Me: We've only met a few days ago. And I just found out she's Sizwe's girlfriend.

Him: Does she know you guys are sisters?

Me: No she doesn't. But she's a good person. I don't think she'll have a problem when she finds out.

Ozi: Hmm. How was your test?

Me: A walk in the park.

He looked at me briefly and smiled.

Ozi: Ms smarty pants wami maan. Must be nice to

be this smoky hot and have brains aswell. What a package.

I flicked my shoulders and we laugh in unison. I turned to look out the window and suddenly my mood changed. I was nervous of what we'll find out at the doctor. I don't know how I'd take it if I find out that I'm pregnant. I've only known Ozi for a short while and I still want to get to know him better without bringing a child into this. I love him and he loves me too. But I feel like everything is moving way too fast. He's a good guy and he's treating me with nothing but respect but what if it's all too good to be true? What if it's all far fetched? Is he ready to be a father? I was worried about his reaction.

I was brought back to life by a soft brush on my hand and I turned to look at it then raised my eyes to look at him.

"Where are you sweetheart?"

Me: I'm just nervous baby. That's all.

Him: About the doctor's appointment?

Me: Yes.

He took my hand and squeezed it.

Him: Whatever it is, well deal with it together, okay?

Me: Okay.

We drove in silence and arrived shortly. We walked inside and sat down. A doctor came in shortly and called us. we stood up and followed each other.

Doctor: Good afternoon Mr and Mrs Langa. How may I be of help today?

He looked at us at the top of his glasses.

I looked at Ozi who was just sitting there smiling like a retard. I'm sure he's tickled by me being addressed as Mrs Langa. I turned to look at the doctor again.

Me: Well...I'm suffering from nausea and I've been vomiting often lately.

Doc: Hmm. Have you been eating out of your diet?

Me: What do you mean?

Doc: Did you change your diet in the past couple of days?

Me: No. Not that I noticed.

I looked at Ozi who was just shrugged his shoulders.

Doc: Okay. Any allergies?

Me: Not that I know of, no.

Doc: Okay. Please step over the bed I'll come check you just now.

I did as per orderd and he came over to check me.

"Your blood pressure and temperature seems fine. I suspect a typical allergy but I don't want to guess."

He contined to check me up.

"Are you having normal periods? "

Coming to think of it, I'm late. I haven't seen my periods this month. I looked over to Ozi who looked puzzled.

Me: Actually doc, I'm late.

I cleared my throat and avoided Ozi's eyes.

Doc: Okay. Behind that door is a rest room. Bring me a sample of your urine please.

I got off the bed and disappeared to the toilet and

came back with my urine inside a cup and handed it to him.

I looked at Ozi who was just sitting there looking at me with an expression that I couldn't make much of. I can only hope it's positive thinking. We sat in silence waiting for the results.

Doc: Alright... the results are ready.

He looked at Ozi then at me. "Congratulations Mr and Mrs Langa. You're pregnant."

I felt flashes of hot air burning my cheeks. I felt like I've been stung by a bee and my head was buzzing. For a moment felt like I was deaf. I heard voices from far away. The doctor's voice echoed from so far away in my head. I was trying to register what I was just told. I faced up and looked at Ozi. He had his face buried in his hands crying. He stood up and came towards me.

Doc: I'll give you space to digest. I'll be outside when you need me.

With that said, he walked out.

Me: I know you probably think I trapped you or something but I didn't. I don't know what happened. I know we've only known-

He attacked me with a kiss and picked me up.

Him: Would you just shut up for a second.

He was laughing during his tears.

"Oh my God. We're pregnant baby."

He kissed me and spun me around. I giggled.

Me: Put me down please.

He put me down and kissed my face all over. He kneeled down and touched my belly and brushed it then rested his head on it.

Him: Hello there little champ. This is your daddy speaking. I cannot wait to meet you.

Me: Come on baby. It's too early for that.

He rose up and looked at me.

Him: It's never too early for a child to get to know his father's voice.

Me: Are you happy?

Him: Happy? That's an understatement s~~t~~handwa sam. I'm over the moon. I've been waiting to be a father for such a long time now.

Me: Okay but let's not get ahead of ourselves. We're not hundred percent sure. Let's have the doctor draw some blood first then we'll take it from there.

Him: Don't bust my bubble please. I've never been this happy since...well forever.

Me: Come on baby.

Him: Are you craving anything?

I looked at him.

Me: Call the doctor and let's get this done with please.

He peeked his head through then came back in.

Him: He's coming. Are you craving anything?

I gave him a deadly look and he just grinned not bothered at all. The doctor came back and he drew some blood.

Doc: I'll call you in a few days once the results are back.

We stood up. Him and Ozi shook hands then we walked out. We got in the car and he drove off.

Me: I'm scared baby.

He took my hand and squeezed it.

Him: I know hey. But don't worry. I'll be with you every step of our pregnancy. we'll subdue everything that comes our way together.

Me: Aren't you scared?

Him: I am. But I've been waiting for this moment forever. I wanted to be a father so much but I wanted to bring a child into this world for all the right reasons. With love and with the woman I love with every fibre in my body. And that's you right now. You're making my dreams come true.

He looked at me briefly then looked ahead.

"So yeah sure, I am scared but not morethan I am excited."

Me: Okay. I'm glad because I don't want it to seem

like I trapped you or something. He was still grinning. I wanted to wipe the stupid grin off his face with a hot slap.

Him: Do you want ice-cream?

He turned his focus on me.

One more word from him,I swear I'm gonna crack.

Me: Take me to my place.

Him: But I wanted to call my brothers to share the good news with.

Me: We can do it at my place,it's fine.

He called his brothers and told them to come to my flat. We arrived almost at the same time.

Lwazi: Hello stranger.

He pulled me in for a hug.

Me: Hello Lwazi.

Lwazi: You look so beautiful. I see my brother here is taking good care of you.

Banzi: I was about to say the same thing.

He gave me a hug either and took few steps back and scrutinised me.

"You look good shawty."

Ozi: Enough with your compliments now, I'm jealous.

Me: Let's get inside you guys.

We walked inside the flat and I cooked a simple meal while they watched soccer drinking their beers and making noise. I finished and dished up and took the plates to the living room.

Lwazi: There's something clittering somewhere in this room but i don't want to be too forward. I'll just wait.

We all laugh in unison. I put the plates ontop on the table and Ozi pulled me to sit on his lap.

Ozi: Actually boys... I did not call you here so we'd spend some quality time.

Bamzi: Ouch! Here I was thinking you missed me.

Ozi: I did but that's not the real reason why you're here.

He wrapped his hand around my waist.

"Sne and I are getting married. I proposed lastnight."

I waved my hand and flaunted my ring. They whistled.

Lwazi: Finally bafo. I was getting tired of you eating and finishing my groceries in my house.

They bust into laughter.

Ozi: Thank you bafo but That's not all.

He put his hand on my belly and brushed it.

"There's a bun baking in the ovan already. We're having a baby."

The gents stood up and did the victory dance.

Lwazi: He's going to be his uncle's son that one.

He twerked.

Banzi: I'm going to be an uncle. Imagine him having an awesome uncle like myslef.

Lwazi: Congratulations bro. We're so happy for you guys.

Banzi: Yeah it's a double celebration. We should

throw a brai.

Me: No guys. Don't be extra please.

Lwazi: Let's toast to having a big family.

Banzi: Yeah and welcome to the family princess.

Lwazi: Just so you know ke. You're a wife to all of us now.

We laugh in unison.

Banzi: Yes wifey. You found a handsome husband in me. Here's to you guys and to a promising future.

Cheers...

They all raised their dumpies and toasted. Ozi pulled me closer and kissed me passionately.

Ozi: Thank you so much baby. I love you.

Me: I loveyou too.

Insert 24

(Unedited)

-Snenhlanhla Khumalo

It's been two weeks since Ozi proposed to me. His brothers were totally happy and today he's driving me home. I suggested that I'd use a taxi because I'll be travelling with Amo and Amanda but he insisted that he'll take us. He sent his letter home two weeks ago and my uncle's approved it. So tomorrow he'll be sending his people to negotiate lobola and ask for my hand in marriage. Amanda and I are getting close. She still doesn't know that we're sisters and I don't know how to break it down to her. I don't want to scare her away. The bond we have is incredible and it feels good to have her in my life as a sister...even though she doesn't know it yet. When I told her that I'll be going home because Ozi will be paying lobola, she insisted that she's coming with. She's already met Amo and there are no bad vibes between them

so that I had two best female warriors in my circle. I couldn't be more happier. I also received a letter from Ozi's lawyer friend that granted me full permit to my parents house and I was going to show it to my wicket aunt when we arrive. Ozi promised to help me regarding that and he lived to fulfill his promise.

We were on our way to the bundus. Ozi was driving us when Amo and Amanda were sleeping the entire journey.

We arrived after few exhausting hours and I told Ozi to park at my parent's gate and not my grandmother's. Amanda and I will be staying here for the entire weekend since I've got full access.

Ozi: What a long journey baby.

He stretched his arms and I chuckled.

Me: Says a man who comes from KZN.

He also chuckled.

Ozi: So, this is where my beautiful wife to be is from?

Me: Yes baby. This is my place of domicile. Born, bread and buttered.

He looked out the window and observed.

Ozi: Is this your parent's house?

He pointed with his eyes.

Me: Yup. That's your child's grandparents' house.

He smiled looking passed me through the window.

Him: It's beautiful.

Me: Thank you.

Ozi: Your girls are still fast asleep.

He looked at them through the rear view mirror and I turned to wake them up.

Amo: Oh my God. Finally.

Amanda: We're here already?

Me: Yes babe.

Amanda: Thank God.

Amo: Why are we parked here and not there?

She signaled with her head pointing at my grandmother's house. I laugh.

Me: Because we'll be staying here for the rest of the weekend.

Amo: Eh. Do you want aunt Nosipho to go bananas on you? I don't want to be skinned alive mina.

Amanda: Who's aunt Nosipho?

Amo: A woman who's got a very loose screw in her head. Crazy if you ask me.

Me: Don't be alarmed Mandy. She'll not harm you.

We got out and they offloaded the luggage and groceries and took them in.

Amo: Kanti why usbari angamane a fake lemoto ngendunu once and we offload in the yard?

She said carring a pack of onions to the yard and Ozi just looked at her suppressing the edge not to laugh. He was getting used to her and Amo wasn't intimidated by him one bit.

Me: He's not allowed to set foot in here untill he's officially a son in-law.

Amo: Hai fuck rules bra. Look at us. we're suffering now.

She came and picked a pack of potatoes and rolled her eyes on me.

"Look at you standing there like a queen. "

Me: You know we'd be long finished by now if you weren't complaining this much my friend.

Amo: Hai bra. I'm tired.

Ozi: Does she ever shut up?

He whispered and I laugh. Soon they were done and I gave them the key to they house, they went ahead.

I turned to face Ozi and he pulled me closer.

Me: Baby we're standing in front of my parent's house you know.

He let go of me quick and burried his hands inside his pockets.

Ozi: Oh. I'm sorry. I'm not used to this.

Me: So you're going back?

He was now leaning against the car.

Him: Yes my love, I'm driving back.

Me: But you're coming back tomorrow right?

Him: Yes. I have to drive them here. They don't know this place.

Me: I miss you already.

Him: Don't be a cry baby. I'll be back before you know it.

Me: Let's get back in the car. I want to kiss you.

Him: Huh-uh baby. Your aunt Nosi could be peeking through those twitched cartians. Next thing you know, they'll be charging me extra for that. So, no.

Me: Come on. Just a goodbye kiss.

Him: No my love. They don't even know we're having sex.

We both laugh in unison.

Me: Haibo I'm pregnant though.

He looked down on my belly and smiled warmly.

Him: Are you going to tell them?

Me: No. It's best if they don't know. They'll charge

you millions just to be spiteful.

He chuckled.

Him: Money is not a problem sweetheart. As long as I'll have you as my wife tomorrow.

I got closer to him and we hugged.

"I have to go sthandwa sam."

I pulled back.

Me: Okay. Are you going to use a GPS going back?

Him: Yes. I don't want to end up in the mountains somewhere not knowing where I'm going.

He said laughing and winking his eye on me.

Me: Okay drive safe then.

Him: I love you yezwa?

Me: I love you too baby.

He stepped inside the car and brought the car engine and drove off. He waved goodbye and I waved back at him till it disappeared. I stood at the gate for a while observing my environment the I

walked inside.

I found them already cleaning and everything was already packed.

Me: We have to go greet that side.

Amo: Who's we? I'm not going there.

Me: Haibo Amo don't be rude.

Amo: I'll just stay behind and finish up here. You go.

I looked at her and she wasn't kidding.

Me: Mandy let's go babe.

Amo: Brace yourself Mandy.

Me: Amo stop being extra please.

She laugh and continued to mop. Amanda and I walked out went to my grandmother's house. There were two cars parked outside. I guessed they were my uncles'. We approached and I noticed the yard was clean and the grass was cut. Atleast they were taking my guests serious. We got in and found them sitting on a stoop. They were a total of 8 My 3 uncles, their wives and few of their sons,my cousins. Aunt

Nosi and her kids weren't amongst them. We made our way to them and I felt my heart starting to race.

They turned to face us and immediately looked at us like they were seeing ghosts.

Me: Sanibonani.

"Yebo".

They greeted back in unison still staring at us.

Amanda and I sat down next to each other.

Me: Ninjani bantu abadala?

Them: Siyaphila. Unjani wena?

Me: Ngiyaphila nami.

There was an awkward silence.

Uncle 1: We're received a letter from a certain Langa family that asked for your hand in marriage. Uyabazi?

I looked down shying away.

Me: Yebo babomcane, ngiyabazi.

Uncle 1: Okay. Akuna nkinga ke sizobabona kusasa.

Me: Ngyabonga babomcane.

As Amanda and I were getting up, aunt Nosi appeared from the house.

Aunt Nosi: Look what the summer wind dragged.

Amanda along with my male cousins laugh. I tapped Amanda's thigh and she bottled it.

Me: Sawubona aunty.

Aunt Nosi: Usuze wafika ekhaya?

I remained silent.

"Kungani ufileke endlin ka bhuti?"

My cousin: It's her home actually aunt.

She turned to look at him.

Aunt Nosi: Who is speaks of you manje wena cheese boy?

My cousin just chuckled and shook his head. Now my cousin here was meant to be the one to marry me. His parents adored me since I was young and they said him and I were compatible. I always thought they were playing when I actually grew to realise they were serious. But who does that?

Me: I've got a letter from court that states that I'm permitted at my parent's house Aunt Nosi.

I looked down not moving my head an inch. I'm really scared of this woman.

AuntNosi: Uthi kwenze njani?

Cousin: It's her home. She should come and go as she pleases. Is that simple English for you?

Kanti why was this guy on a mission to grill his own aunt?

I stole a glance to see aunt Nosi holding her waist looking at him defeated. She cliked her tounge and turned on her heels.

Hayiye. Not today Satan. Today you met your match. I was celebrating from within.

Uncle: Who's the young woman you're with
Snenhlanhla?

I raised my head to look at him. They probably know my biological father because they were of the same age group. Perhaps they even grew up together who knows. But at this moment, I knew by how he was

looking at her that he comprehended what was going on. I can only hold my breathe and hope he doesn't spill the beans.

Me: Uhm...wumngani wami from the University.

He nodded his head lightly not convinced.

Him: Okay.

Cousin: You guys look so much alike. It's creepy.

I nodded my head with a deceiving smile on my face.

Me: We get that alot.

Uncle: Okay akuna nkinga mantombazane.

We stood up and I told Amanda to go ahead I'll find her in the house. I wanted to see Zama so I went inside the house but she wasn't there. I'm starting to think she avoids being at home and would rather spend much of her time elsewhere. I saw Khosi and greeted her but she didn't greet back. Whatever demon she was suffering from... It's not my baby. I walked out and went back to my parents house to find Amo already done. It reminded me of when my patents were still alive. It was clean and warm. Like

the home it used to be. Amo called her mother and told her she'll be home later. So we cooked and finished. We dished up and went to sit outside watching the sun set. It was almost dusk and the neighborhood was dim with chimneys smokes from coal stoves. Children were playing soccer in the streets and I felt like home. We sat down and ate while I'm thinking about tomorrow.

Insert 25

(Unedited)

Naratted.

The day Ozithibile Langa and Snenhlanhla Khumalo have been patiently waiting for is finally here.

Sne, Amo and Amanda woke up during the wee hours of the morning to prepare for the day. The negotiations were to take place at Snenhlanhla's parent's house. So everybody else was already there helping where they can.

Ozi and two of his brothers drove together in a white Mercedes benz C63 while his father and two uncle's all drove down in a seven seater Volkswagen T6 kumbie.

They've been standing at the gate of the Khumalo premises since 10 a.m in the morning.

Time was now 12 P.M and the Langa men had woken up around 4 a.m to travel down here but they

were still stood up outside. Hungry, thirsty and tired. Ozi was sleeping ontop of Lwazi who was flat rested on the grass just infront on the gate.

Mr Langa woke them up. "Vukani. This isn't acceptable." He said. And they woke up rubbing their faces. The sun wasn't doing them justice either. "Ozi shouldn't be here. He was supposed to stay behind in the car." Babomcane said. "When are they letting us in? This is ridiculous." Lwazi said very annoyed. Ozi got up and headed to the car to call her soon to be wife.

Snenhlanhla Khumalo

Amanda was busy doing me a total make over when my phone rang. She passed it to me and I answered without checking the caller I.D.

Me: Hello.

Ozi: Hey beautiful.

My heart smiled.

Me: Hey baby. How are you?

Him: Hungry. Please fix me a plate of food.

I chuckled.

Me: Where are you?

Him: Outside. This is ridiculous baby. When are they letting my people in? It's been two hours for crying out loud.

Me: I don't know my love. But I'm sure they will soon.

There was silence.

Him: What are you doing?

Me: I'm getting ready.

Him: Did you guys cook?

I laugh.

Me: Afcause we cooked Ozi.

Him: Where's Amo?

Me: Here with me.

Him: Sent her with a plate of food. I'm starving.

Me: I cannot do that. Hang in there.

Him: Baby ngizofa yazi? Where can I find a store around here then?

Me: Okay I'll sneak out a plate for you backdoors.

Him: Thank you so much. Don't let my brothers know.

I laugh.

Me: I have to go.

Him: I can't wait to see you.

Me: Me too. Bye now.

I hung up and Amanda did final touch ups on my make up and we all got dressed in our tailored dresses and waited.

Zama and Amanda were going to accompany me to the living room.

Amo's mother came in shortly and gasped in shock.

Amo's mom: You look so beautiful mntanam.

Her eyes were breaming with tears.

"You look just like your mother."

Me: Thank you mama.

Mrs Gumedé: Enough with the tears now. You'll ruin the make up. This isn't a day for that. Contain yourself my baby.

We smiled and she fixed my head wrap.

My uncle's wife came in shortly and told us they are ready.

I got up and took one final look at myself in the mirror and looked at Amanda and Zama who looked so beautiful in their dresses.

I took a long deep breath and we walked out to the living room where my uncles and the Langa men were seated.

We got there and sat down on a grass mat and bowed our heads down.

Uncle: Which one between these flowers did you pick?

Lwazi: The one in the middle.

We remained bowed.

Uncle: Snenhlanhla.

I raised my head to look at him briefly before facing

down again.

"Do you know these people?"

Me: Yebo babomcane.

"Kulungile. Ningahamba."

We rose up and walked out.

Zama: Which one amongst those men is yours?

We looked at her with disbelief then laugh.

Me: He wasn't in there. He's not allowed to be part of the negotiations.

Zama: Oh. Good because I've got my eye on the younger looking one."

We laugh in unison.

The negotiations took longer than expected. I wonder how much they charged them. My uncles are very greedy. I'm sure they charged them an arm and a leg.

It was finally over. They took the blankets and a few presents to them and all was sealed.

I went to the kicken to help the elders dish up then they took the plates to the living room and I went back to my room and sat there reminiscing about all the past events that took place between Ozi and I.

A text came through my phone disturbing me from my blissful thoughts.

'Hey Wifey.' It read.

'Hey Hubby.' I replied.

My phone rang and I answered.

Me: Hey baby.

Him: Am I allowed to see you now?

Me: Sure. I'll sneak out. Where are you?

Him: I'm at the car. I parked a few houses away from yours.

Me: I'll be there shortly.

The line died. I pushed my sleepers in and headed out.

I walked towards where the car was parked and he was leaning on it with his hands burried inside the

coat pockets and ankles crossed. He flashed a smile as he saw me approaching and revealed his beautiful set of teeth.

Him: If it isn't my beautiful wife.

He opened his arms and took me in for a hug. He squeezed me and we stayed in that position for a while.

"I missed you so much."

I pulled free from his embrace and tiptoed on my feet to give his giant self a kiss.

Me: Hey baby.

Him: You look so beautiful in that dress.

Me: Thank you.

He pulled me closer and made me face forward standing in front of his tall figure. He placed his hand on my belly and rested his chin on my shoulder.

Him: How's my little champ doing?

I chuckled.

Me: She's good.

Him: She?

Me: Yes. It's a she.

He chuckled

Him: Is that your wish? For a little princess?

Me: Yes. It would be nice and easy to have a baby girl. What's your wish?

Him: It doesn't really matter to me. A healthy baby as beautiful as its mother is all I'm hoping for.

Ke kissed my neck.

"I can't wait to make love you as my wife."

We saw Lwazi and Banzi approaching.

Me: behave yourself Langa. You're brothers are coming.

Him: No. You're my wife now. There's nothing to hide anymore.

Me: Baby.

He groaned and let go.

Lwazi: Makoti.

I grinned.

They got to us and we greeted each other sharing hugs.

Banzi looked at his brother.

Banzi: This is where you're hiding?

Ozi: I wasn't allowed in there. Where else was I supposed to go?

Banzi: Remind me not to take part in this shenanigans ever again. Those old folks are such a bore.

Lwazi: They can't stop talking man. What a bunch of ass boring old niggas.

Ozi laugh at them.

Banzi: We left without saying a word soon as we finished eating.

Lwazi: I ate as fast as I could.

He looked at Ozi.

" You missed out on some good meal man bro."

Ozi: Says who?

He smirked.

Banzi: You ate already?

Ozi: My wife fixed me a plate way before you guys. I beat you to it.

Lwazi: Wow wifey. And you just forgot about us?

Banzi: I thought you were married to all of us.

Ozi: Leave my wife alone please.

We all laugh.

Lwazi: That was a very delicious meal Sne. Did you prepare it?

Me: I wish I'd take the credit but I had nothing to do with it unfortunately.

Lwazi: Okay. It was still good nonetheless.

Me: Thank you.

Banzi: Who's the girl who came in the room with you?

Me: They were two. Which one are you talking about?

Banzi: The youngest.

Me: Oh, Zama.

Banzi: Is she dating anyone?

Ozi: Banzi!

Banzi: Come on Bhuti. I've been celibate for too long now.

Ozi looked at him with warning eyes.

Me: Well I don't know hey. We'll find that out.

I looked at Ozi and he just looked back at me blankly.

Ozi: Are you guys seriously not acknowledging my presence?

Me: Come on baby.

Lwazi: So the other one is your protigal sister?

I looked at him and gasped.

Me: Haibo Lwazi.

Lwazi: Oh my bad. You're actually the prodigal daughter.

Ozi: find youself a woman and stop bothering my wife Lwazi.

Lwazi: That's my plan.

He redirected his focus back on me and waited for an answer.

Me: Yes, she's my sister.

Lwazi: She's a hoty. I'm not married you know?

He wiggled his eyes.

We laugh and stayed there just talking while they waited on the folkes to come out.

Two cars came speeding and pulled over right infront of us.

Ozi pulled me and shielded me behind him.

A total of 6 men came out poiting guns at us and I felt my insides turn.

Me: What's going on?

Ozi: It's okay baby. Go back indoors.

I was about to run for my life when one man shouted Ozi's name.

Man: OZI LANGA!

he came out from one car and charged towards us.

I heard Ozi curse under his breath.

Ozi: Fuck!

That came out as a whisper.

"Who the hell do you think you are Langa?"

Ozi: Dlomo. What the hell are you doing here?

He still shielded me behind him.

Dlomo: Did you think you'll marry my daughter and I wouldn't find out about it?

What! His daughter? Is this my father?

Ozi: She's not your fucken daughter.

Ozi's voice was calm yet stern. He had so much power behind his words and calm voice and this man was clearly sensing it all.

Dlomo screamed out loud in frustration like a mad man.

Dlomo: She's my daughter. She's MY BLOODY DAUGHTER AND YOU WILL NOT MARRY HER!

Ozi looked at him and chuckled.

Ozi: You came all the way from Pretoria just to scream your lungs out? And you call yourself a man?

Dlomo just stood there and looked at him with veins popping out from his head. I just stood there dumbstruck.

Dlomo: you will not marry my daughter Langa. I will not allow it!

His voice was trembling. I don't know if it was due to him being scared or fury mouted. But he did not look okay.

Ozi: Is that so? Well I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news but you're too late. She's my wife.

Dlomo lost it again and screamed.

Dlomo: Nooooooo.

BAM! BAM! BAM!

gun shots went off and I lost my hearing.

Ozi pulled me to the other side of the car and we squated down for a moment. He quickly opened the

car and came out with a 5 mm pistol.

Me: Ozi NO! They'll shoot you.

Ozi: If I don't act now, my brothers are dead.

He ran back and more gun shots went off.

BAM! BAM! BAM!

Ozi: Fuck!

I remained squated and said a little prayer.

The was silence shortly and I heard Lwazi's voice.

Lwazi: Are you okay?

The silence continued for a while.

"OZI ARE YOU FUCKING OKAY MAN? "

Ozi: yeah I'm fine. I got shot on my bicep.

What! They shot him. No!

Banzi came to my side of the car and found me curled up.

Banzi: Hey. It's okay. It's over.

I unburried my face from my knees and looked up.

He had blood stains on his coat. I frowned and looked at him.

"It's not mine. I'm okay."

Me: Where's Ozi? Where's everyone?

He looked at me blankly.

"Banzi!"

Banzi: Ozi got shot but he's okay.

Me: And the rest?

He let out a sigh. I looked at him and came out from the hiding.

My stomach turned by the sight of all these men lying on the ground covered in blood.

I looked over to Ozi, he was holding his bleeding shoulder. He turned to see me and motioned towards my direction.

Ozi: Are you okay?

Me: I'm fine. Are you hurt?

Ozi: It's just a flash wound. I'll be fine.

He smiled weakly.

I looked around and my whole family, the Langas along with neighbours were out to see what just happened.

Amanda came out and fell on her knees when she recognised her father laying on the floor unconscious.

She wimpered when Amo's mother confornted her.

Everbody was just shocked and the whole enviroment was gloomy.

The police and the EMS emergency services along with pathologist arrived shortly after they were called.

The corpse were taken to the pathology van and Dlomo, along with Ozi were treated in the ambulance.

Dlomo was taken away by an ambulance and Ozi was left with just a stitch that was covered up.

He held me by the hand and looked gazed through my soul.

Ozi: Listen baby...I'm not leaving you behind. We're

going home. Okay? Go pack your stuff. We'll leave with Amanda.

I shook my head repeatedly and went to Amanda. I took her by her hand and we walked inside, leaving Ozi and the guys giving statements to the cops.

Insert 26

(Unedited)

Ozithobile Langa

I honestly don't know how I can make my wife unsee all that happened yesterday. She did not say a word to me the entire trip. She doesn't want to talk about it and that scares me. I wish she could just let me in so I'd know what's on her mind.

I decided to call our general practitioner to do home rounds so he'd check up on her since she doesn't want to talk about her feelings. I'm worried about my child and I can't help but wonder if its okay.

My hand isn't going easy on me either. I did not sleep for one second lastnight due to pain. The doctor might aswell check it because I can't take this pain anymore. I had to drink myself to sleep and end up dozing of on the couch.

I was about to go check up on Sne when she came

down to the kicken.

I got up from the couch and went to her. I attempted to give her a hug but she pushed me.

Me: Morning maKhumalo. Did you sleep well?

Her: Why do you act like you care?!

That came out as a rhetorical question and it stung my heart. I frowned and looked at her.

Her eyes and nose were puffed up. She looked like she's been crying all night.

Me: But I do care baby. And you know it.

She ignored me and continued to do whatever she was busy with.

I went to her and took her hand. She pulled it back.

Her: I want to go back to my place, if that's okay with you.

Me: If that's okay with me?

I looked at her and she didn't look at me one bit.

"Is it okay with you to leave?"

I asked hoping she'll regret saying it.

Her: What's the point of me being here if you just let me sleep alone while you sleep on the couch?

I cursed under my breath.

She is right. I shouldn't have done that. I paid lobola for her just yesterday and everything went south there after. I should have been there.

Me: I dozed off on the couch my love.

Her: That's a lame excuse.

She still did not look at me.

Me: I drank myself to sleep last night. I was in so much pain, I wanted something to numb it up so I resorted to drinking.

I stopped and took a long breath

"What I did was an honest mistake. And I'm not justifying it. Is just-

Her: Okay.

She turned and attempted to walk away but I pulled her to me and hurt myself.

Me: Uh! Fuck!

Her: Does it hurt?

Me: Just a little.

Her: Let me check it?

I nodded.

I sat on the kicken stool and she came with a first aid kid and a bowl of warm salty water and a cloth. She unwrapped it and started to wash it gently.

I looked at her and she still avoided making eye contact with me.

Me: You can't even look at me?

I enquired still looking at her.

She looked at me briefly and redirected her focus back on my hand.

"I'm sorry baby. But I don't really know why you're mad exactly."

She continued to clean my wound.

I held her hand to stop and made her face me.

"Say something please. Let me in."

I pleaded.

Her: What do you want me to say Ozi?

Me: I don't know. Lash out on me. Slap me...anything. but please don't give me the silent treatment. I cannot handle it.

She sighed and looked at me. I looked back in her eyeballs.

Her: Okay then. Do you promise to answer every question with honesty?

Me: Yes.

That was a lie.

Her: Do you promise?

She observed at my response.

Me: Yes baby.

Her: Okay. Why was my fa-...I mean Dlomo was so furious with you like that yesterday?

Me: Because I fired him and now he wants revenge.

Her: He did not look like a guy who's out for vengeance though.

Me: What did he look like?

Her: Like a father who wanted to protect his daughter from something.

I looked at her with disbelief.

Me: Are you insinuating that I'm capable of hurting you? And that Dlomo was trying to sent an alert that you're making a mistake by marrying me?

Her: Yes. No! Well, I don't know Ozi but why did he have the guards to show up there like that?

Me: He's a bitch, that's why. He thinks with his pussy and not his head.

She gasped in shock.

"Where was he all those years ago? You just started with university. Did he atleast try to reach out and find out if you needed funding or anything?

Me: No but-

Me: Listen Sne, I know he's your biological father and

you have a soft spot for him. But I don't. I'll do whatever it takes to protect you from that pig. You and Amanda don't deserve him as a father. I might not have power to protect her from him but I have the power to protect you and that's exactly what I'm gonna do.

I got up from my seat.

Her: We're his children Ozi. I don't think he'll hurt us. He doesn't have a reason to.

Me: The only thing that's making you his daughter is that blood that's running in your veins and nothing else. Also...did he look stable to you? Is that somebody you really want in your circle?

She just stood there dumbstruck like she was still processing all that I just told her.

Her: He deserves a chance though. I deserve to know him better.

She really doesn't know what she's asking for.

Me: I'm not sober enough to talk to you about this.

I left her standing there and headed to the staircase.

" I called a doctor for a house call. He should be here shortly. I'm going to take a shower."

Her: But I haven't wrapped your wound.

Me: That's what the doctor is coming here for. To also check you.

I headed upstairs.

Her: I'm fine. I don't need to be checked.

Me: Let him check on my baby and make sure its fine then.

I disappeared upstairs and got undressed. I got under the shower and let the water hit my naked body.

I finished after a while,dried myself up and she came in.

I remained stationery with my naked self. I looked at her and let out a sigh.

She looked at me then at my cock. I know that look on her face. She wants me as bad as I want her.

I looked down on my cock and it was obviously

excited to see her. I raised my eyes to look at her, she licked her lips.

She motioned towards me and I met her halfway through. I took her lips in mine and kissed her with so much hunger. I was frustrated and I'm known to give out steamy sex sessions when I'm like that.

I needed to release.

I pulled her and made her face the mirrored wall.

I pulled her silky night dress up and ripped her lace panties off and they fall on the ground.

I pined her against the wall and inserted myself without warning. She moaned. I held on her waist and tilted my head to the side for a better view and thrusted her deep. She was looking at me through the mirror as I did my thing intensely. I looked at myself in the mirror, my eyes were bloodshot from hangover. I had an extreme tense look on my face. I slid deep inside her and pounded her hard from behind. Her ass was bouncing on my thighs. What a beautiful view.

She was creaming my name out loud.

I increased my pace and thrusted her deeper and faster. Her walls clinged on me and I let out an intense low groan and released.

I remained in that position with my heart pacing. I was trying to catch up with my breath.

I brushed her back then pulled out with my juices flowing down shortly.

I pulled her back up and pulled her nightdress up and took it off.

I ran the bath tap water and we soaked ourselves in.

She got in infront of me and rested her head on my chest while I rested mine back on the wall.

We remained silent.

Her: You're so quiet.

Me: I'm sorry. We should get out now. The doctor will be here soon.

Her: Okay.

We got out and dried ourselves up and got dressed.

"I'll go make breakfast."

Me: Thank you. I'll be in my office.

Her: Okay.

She walked out and I went to my office and made a phone call to Lwazi.

It rang for a while then he picked up.

Lwazi: Sure.

Me: Where do you put your phone?

Him: Geez relax man. It's too early.

Me: Where are you?

Him: My house.

Me: Any updates about Dlomo?

Him: Yeah. He got transferred to Steve Biko hospital last night.

Me: I'll be there shortly.

I hung up and made my way downstairs.

I found Sne with the Doctor sitting around the table.

"Oh, I wasn't aware that you had arrived already."

Doc: I just got here.

He rose up from the chair and we shook hands.

"What happened to your arm?"

Me: Ask no questions, hear no lies.

Doc: Fair enough. Do you want me check on it?

Me: Please.

I sat down and he checked it. He wrapped it and shortly was done.

Doc: There you go. You should clean it atleast twice a day and it should heal fast. No straighing it. That includes picking your wife up.

Me: I'll pick my wife up whenever I want to. Not even a wounded arm will stand in my way of doing that.
Thank you for the the check up.

Doc: It's a pleasure.

I looked at Sne.

Me: Please check on my wife and see if the baby is fine either.

She raised her face up and contested.

Sne: Oh no. I'm fine. I'm sure the doctor has a busy schedule.

Me: He's doing his job. And we're paying him for his services.

Doc: That's correct.

Me: I have to go run some errands. Will you be okay by yourself?

She looked at me and rolled her eyes.

Her: Yes I'll be fine.

You see, I'm not one to be jealous but my wife is a very beautiful woman and I'm sure a whole lot of men out there would love to have her in their arms. So I have to make sure this doctor right here understands that she's off limit.

Me: Okay.

I went over to her and pecked her lips.

"I love you."

I gave the doctor one more look which said; 'If you

dare make your move on my wife,you're dead' then I walked out.

I arrived at Lwazi's house and drove in.

I let myself in and found him with some girl.

Lwazi: Geez man. Don't you ever knock?

I gave him a warning eye and he signaled to the girl to make herself scares.

Soon as she disappeared, I charged towards him and threw a much anticipated punch on his stomach.

He held on to it and groaned.

Him: What the fuck man?

I raised him up and threw another one.

He stumbled back and rose up still holding on his stomach and looking back at me deadly.

Me: I'm warning you Lwazi!

That was very stern.

"Must you always be this stupid? Huh? Must you

always act so impulsive?

Him: Out with it already!

He was angry and I could see he was very tempted to punch me back but he knew best not to.

Me: Why did you pull the trigger first? Do you know what you've done?

Him: They were going to shoot first if I did not act fast.

Me: So you saw it fit to shoot first? With my wife there?

Him: She's safe. She didn't get hurt now, did she?

Me: That's not the fucken point! What kind of imagine do you want to potray to her about us?

He mumbled something that I didn't make much of.

"Excuess me?"

Him: She's already seen you with a gun. It's not something new. Soon she'll learn who you really are and she'll have to live with it.

I chuckled.

Me: Are you fucken stupid or something?

Him: Or something.

I stood there and contained myself. I wanted to punch his stupid face but I chose not to.

Me: Dlomo is still Sne's father. He might be a pig and all that but he's still her father. She's been through enough for us to kill him. Do you understand that?

Him: So we're just going to let him keep disrespecting us like that?

Me: I'm trying hard not to contact my people and get them to finish him off on that hospital bed. But I'm doing this for Sne.

Him: You've turned soft.

Me: I've got a baby on it's way. I'm trying to be a better person here. We can't go around killing people Lwazi. It's wrong. Don't you have conscious?

Him: I don't know.

I looked at him blankly. He had a blank expression on his face. He really doesn't care.

Me: You really don't give a sack of flying cats, do you?

Him: I don't.

I nodded lightly.

Me: Who is she?

He grinned like an idiot.

Him: Some girl.

Me: Where did you meet her?

Him: At a club last night.

Me: You went to the club lastnight? After every day that happened.

Him: That's exactly why I went there.

Me: And you pretend like you aren't human.

He chuckled.

"Do you like her?"

Him: It's too early to tell.

Me: Do a background check on her before you can consider anything.

Him: Sure.

Me: Tell Banzi to pay me a visit. I need to speak to him.

I turned on my heels and walked out.

"Use a condom."

I shouted and heard him curse.

I drove out and retuned home.

Insert 27

(Unedited)

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

I never really thought I'd care so much about a man I hardly new my entire life. Even after I was told about his character, I still want to get to know him and be the judge of that.

I mean everybody deserves a second chance right?

I went to Ozi's mini office and found him focused on the laptop screen.

I cleared my throat and he turned to look at me .

Me: I need to go to the hospital. Will you take me?

He took off his glasses and raised his eyebrows.

Him: Excuse me?

Me: I want to go see Dlomo.

Him: Why?

Me: I need to know if he's okay.

Him: He's still alive.

I looked at him and he looked at me back blankly and we remained silent for a while.

Me: I can go there all by myself if you don't want to take me you know? I'm just being polite by asking you to take me.

Him: Is this necessary? Do you really have to see him?

Me: I need to see him Ozi.

He sighed and got up from the chair.

Him: Okay. I'll take you.

Me: Thank you. Can we go?

Him: As in now?

Me: Yes. I want to go now so I don't bump into Amanda and her mother.

Him: Okay then.

Me: Thank you.

We got out and drove straight to Steve Biko hospital.

I got there and asked for his ward number at the reception and they directed us.

We arrived and stood outside his door.

"Are you sure you want to do this? We could always go back home you know."

He looked down at me and pleaded with his eyes.

Me: Yes I'm sure. It's for my own sanity.

Him: Okay.

Me: Are you going in with me?

He shook his head no.

Him: It's probably best that I don't. You go ahead, I'll wait for you here.

I nodded and pushed the door lightly and walked in.

My heart sank to the pit of my stomach.

I motioned towards his bed and he was breathing with an oxygen mask.

He was still unconscious and didn't look too well.

His skin was pale.

I touched his hand that was icy cold and squeezed it.

Me: I don't know why I came here but I did. I never got a chance to know you and I hope you pull through so we'd have another chance because I-

I heard sounds of voices nearing through the door and I turned to look.

The door swang open and in came Amanda and a middle aged looking woman. They stopped when they saw me then the woman charged towards me.

Woman: What the hell are you doing here? Get the hell away from my husband.

Her husband? This is Mrs Dlomo?

I was about to move away when she shouted repeating herself.

"I SAID GET THE HELL AWAY DAMN IT!"

I startled and moved away looking over to Amanda.

She looked hurt and drained. She hardly ever said anything to me when we drove back from the

bundus that day, apart from question about her father's sudden appearance to that place.

I did not know how to answer her so I brushed it under the carpet yet again.

Mrs Dlomo came closer and looked me deadly in the eyes.

"You should go back to whichever hell hole that you came from. You are not his daughter and you're certainly not welcomed here. Do you hear me?"

she pointed very close at me and I stepped back alarmed.

Why is she so furious with me?

Me: I just wanted to make sure he was okay.

Her: You just wanted to make sure he was still alive so you'd finish him off after your thug of a husband couldn't kill him?

Me: That's not true mama. Ozi is a good person and he didn't mean to hurt him.

She chuckled and looked at me.

"You'd better stay the hell away from my family if you know what's good for you."

Me: I cannot do that.

She stared at me and I stared back at her just as much.

I don't know where I suddenly got the courage but I was getting tired of everybody bashing me and telling me the way to get off.

"I deserve to be here just as much as you do. He is my father and I have a right to be here."

I stood my ground unshaken.

She laugh weakly and shook her head in disbelief.

Her: You've got a nerve to call him your father, do you know that? After your slutty mother couldn't keep her skinny thighs closed for married men?

I blinked my eyes repeatedly and felt weak on my knees instant.

"You are nothing but a result of your mother's hoe ways. U-l-i-v-e-z-a-n-d-le-b-e!

She emphasised that last part.

Amanda: Mama please stop.

Mrs Dlomo: Stay out of this Amanda. And stay the hell away from this too good for nothing piece of trash. Ufana nonyoko!

I felt like my soul has been cut with a sword.

I couldn't hold back the tears that were rolling down my cheeks.

Me: I've got no one.

I stopped and wiped my tears off.

"I will not let you take away my second chance of having a family again."

Mrs Dlomo: Uthini?

Me: You'll have to kill me but I'm not going anywhere. They are my family.

She released a very sharp slap across my face.

Amanda: Mama No!

Mrs Dlomo: How dare you!

That came out very low but stern. More like a warning. I wasn't bothered. I've been through worse.

"Do you know what your mother cost me? Sleepless nights of pain and self doubt. I slept night in and night out weeping because of my husband's infidelity. I had to give up everything and leave it all behind just to start anew and forget about it. Now you show up in our lives and open my wounds again? You're a reminder of what ruined my marriage. And you're standing there insulting me? How dare you!"

I felt a lump building up on my throat and I swallowed very hard. This was very bitter and unpalatable for my taste.

My mother was a mistress? MY own extraordinary beautiful mother who always taught me right from wrong? Who believed in putting others first? She was dating a married men and as a result, I was conceived? So I wasn't made out love? Is this why I'm forever experiencing unfortunate series of events? Because I'm a curse? Did she know he was married? Did he even tell her? Why am I even being punished for their deeds though? It's not my fault. I did not

choose to be conceived under those circumstances. Must I hang myself out of shame now because I'm an illegitimate child?

I looked at her and was suddenly filled with so much anger. I knew I needed to stand up for myself and I had to do it now.

Me: I am not my mother. And you will not deny me of my birth rights because of something I did not do.
This man...

I pointed at my father who was laying unconscious on his hospital bed.

"...Is my father and Amanda is my sister. If you think I'll back off then you have another thing coming."

She threw her hand bag at me and beat me with it. I blocked with my hands but she pushed me so hard I fell on the ground. She started kicking me while screaming.

I shielded my belly with my knees while curled up and she just continued.

I heard the door open briefly and heard Ozi's voice.

Ozi: What the hell!

He came running and pulled her away from me.

"Are you fucken crazy?"

She attempted to get off his grib but Ozi held her tight. She was panting with so much rage.

Mrs Dlomo: Leave my alone.

Ozi: Calm the fuck down. What on earth is going on here?

Her: I want to squash this little cockroach once and for all. Let me.

Ozi: Like hell you will.

He let her loose and stepped aside to make way for her.

"Go ahead. I dare you."

He looked at her and she looked at him briefly then picked her hand bag on the floor.

I was still curled up in a small ball on the ground.

He came and squated next to me.

"Are you okay?"

I just nodded while sobbing.

"Can you move?"

I continued to just nod my head.

He rose up and helped me get up.

Me: Take me home.

Him: Are you sure? Don't you want a doctor to-

Me: Take me home Ozi!

Him: Okay.

He turned to look at Mrs Dlomo.

"You'd better pray by baby wasn't negatively affected.
Or so help me lord."

I walked in front while he followed me behind.

I looked at Amanda who was also crying.

Me: I'm sorry. I should have been honest with you.

I attempted to hold her but she stepped back.

I walked out together with Ozi and got to the car.

I sat at the backseat and cried myself to sleep.

I was woken up by a soft brush on my face.

I opened my eyes and met with his.

He looked down at and gave me a weak smile.

I was sleeping on his labs.

Him: Hey.

Me: Hey.

My head remaind rested on him.

"Are we home yet?"

Him: Yes.

Me: Why are we seating in the car?

Him: I didn't want to wake you up.

Me: How long was I sleeping for?

He chuckled.

Him: We arrived here about and hour ago.

Me: Oh.

He brushed my cheek with his thumb and still looked

down at me.

Him: Are you okay?

I heaved.

Me: I have found out things about myself that I didn't know. It's a lot to process but I'll be fine.

Him: Do you want to talk about it?

Me: Yes but not today. I just want to forget about everything for a while.

Him: I understand. I'm here if you want to vent.

I looked up at him and smiled.

Me: I know baby. And thank you.

Him: What for?

Me: I know you're only trying to protect me from getting hurt and I appreciate that. I want you to know that your efforts don't go unnoticed.

Him: But?

I sighed.

Me: But I would really appreciate it if you let me get

to know him better. Let me make that mistake for myself so that when things don't work between him and I, I have myself to blame and not you.

Him: Okay.

Me: Okay?

Him: Yes. You're making so much sense. I mean it's not fair that I deny you the chance to know him. I'm not fine with it but I'll allow it.

Me: I knew there was a softie somewhere down there slumbering.

He laugh.

Him: Don't bribe me.

Me: Is it working?

Him: One hundred percent but don't take advange of it.

Me: I promise.

Him: Good.

We remained silent while he brushed my hair for a while.

He cleared his throat without looking at me and broke the silence.

"Baby."

Me: Hmm.

Him: I've been thinking you know. With everything that happened lately and all the pain you've been through, I think it would be best for you to go away for a while. You know, Unwind abit. It would be healthy for the baby aswell.

Me: what do you mean go away? Where would I go though?

He looked at me.

Him: How would you like a weekend getaway to the Maldives. Just you and I?

Me: like a baecation?

Him: Whatever you want to call it.

Me: This coming long weekend?

Him: This coming long weekend baby.

I screamed a little then contained myself. He

chuckled.

Me: I'd love that baby. I would appreciate it so much.

He smiled and brushed my bottom lip lightly with his thumb.

Him: Anything to see that smile.

He came down and kissed me passionately. I kissed him back with just as much passion.

Did I mention that he's a best kisser? Well I don't have anything or anybody to compare him with but he's the best.

I broke the kiss and he licked his lips still looking at me in the eyes.

Me: I love you.

He flashed a smile.

Him: I love you morethan you love me. That I can promise you.

I giggled and pulled his head down and kissed him again.

I cannot wait to go away and unwind a bit.

Insert 28

(Unedited)

Narrated.

Today was Thursday of a long weekend ahead and the sun didn't wear its best clothes as Langa constrictions made it to the front cover of the biggest magazine in the country. For bad publicity though.

Ozi had just woken up and going through his tabloid when he came across an article that linked them with Dlomo's human trafficking scandals. The article specified that Dlomo along with the Langa brothers were using the Langa empire as a front for their shady businesses.

Ozi read it till the end and let out a sigh.

"Will this ever end though?!" He thought to himself rubbing his face in distress and frustrations.

He is trying all that he can to stay away from trouble.

And he was willing to change his ways for the sake of his wife and unborn child. But it seems like trouble always creeps its way into his life whether he likes it or not.

He is planning on taking his wife on a weekend getaway where he's hoping it will soften her heart up when he reveals to her all his past because he was tired of building his marriage with his wife based on a foundation of lies.

They are supposed to fly away this evening but he needed to do a damage control by calling a press conference first.

He called his brother who picked up almost immediately.

Lwazi: Baba ka still coming.

Given any time or day, under normal circumstances, this would have tickled him to the core. But today it brought him fear instead. It made him wonder and question if he'd be a good father to his child and if the dust would ever settle before it could actually be born.

He blew out air slowing with his pouted lips before replaying to his brother on the other side of the line.

Ozi: Eita Bafo. How's it?

Lwazi: You sound down. Yini? Was your ass denied access from the cookie jar last night?

Ozi: I wish that was the case. It would have been a lot easier to handle than the real actual issue we're facing. Did you see the article online, about us?

Lwazi: No. What article? Bathini manje?

Ozi: I'm calling a press conference precisely at 10:00 a.m. I need you there. Take a sneak peek so long.

Lwazi: Sure case. I'll see you then.

The line died and Ozithobile made another phone call and informed their father of what was happening.

Soon after the phone call, he headed to his room and found his wife sleeping.

He went over and sat on the edge of the bed and admired her beauty.

He laid his gaze on her and was reminded of how

much he needed to subdue things. Just a split look at her... he knew he needed to do right by them.

He kissed her forehead and went to take a shower.

Shortly he was done. Dressed in a 3 piece black suit and a white shirt. Looking powerful and affluent as they come.

He walked out from the ensuite and found his precious wife still fast asleep.

He jotted down a note and left it on the bedside table and pecked her lips before heading out.

He arrived at the office and found the team almost ready.

He had a brief meeting with his brother discussing the Dlomo issue.

This situation was a lot more complex for him now that Dlomo is his father-in-law and it wasn't helping that his wife has a soft spot for him.

Shortly they were done.

Time was precisely 10:00 a.m.

The press people along with journalists were making commotion waiting for the mighty Ozi Langa to grace them with his presence.

He walked in and the whole room went dead. Too quiet you'd hear a niddle drop.

That's how powerful his aura was. It was felt by everybody and it demanded attention. He looked extremely intimidating and handsome as the ladies would agree on this.

They were suddenly getting distracted from their work by his presence.

He put on his glasses and pushed them at the bridge of his nose as the carema lights were flashing from every corner of the room in silence.

"Goodmorning. My name is Ozithobile Langa. CEO of the Langa Construction. I'm just going to be brief to save everybody's precious time. Our Company made it to front cover of a popular magazine for all the wrong reasons. We're aware of Mr Dlomo's scandals which also linked us to it. He is nolonger a part of

our team and was released from his duties with immediate effect after it was brought to our attention. Our company supports and is fully behind the human trafficking campaign that takes place globally but most importantly in our country. We take priority in ensuring that our own people, boys to be precise, are safe. We do not support such activities and our company isn't a front for all the allegations. We"

His address was interrupted, disrespectively so by a Mr Sakhile, CEO of an opposition construction company.

Ozi buried his hands deep inside his pockets and looked at him with so much confidence unshaken.

Guy: How come you worked with a man for that long without knowing about this? Doesn't your HR department do proper background check on your employees?

Ozi took off his glasses and placed them ontop of the pulpit.

The guy continued stroking his hidden agenda and

orchestrated his mission to tarnish the image of the Langa Empire.

"Mr Dlomo cannot work alone in this shenanigans. We all know he's not that smart. Even a lower grader can tell, this has you written all over."

Ozi: Are you done?

Sakhile: Do answer my question please.

Ozi: I do not have time to answer to repeatedly false annoying and ignorant accusations about my company. Especially those orchestrated by someone from an opposition company.

Mr Sakhile tried to interrupt him once again but Ozi's voice held so much power and demanded so much attention. So he refrained.

"I find it very disrespectful that you set foot in my premises and play the 'holier than thou' card on me Sakhile. There is nothing robust or intellectual about vomiting false accusations about things you do not know. Don't get me started about your employee whom you protected after he sexually assaulted morethan one of your stuff and you protected his

ass because he was good at his job. Please keep your ignorance at bay. And if you're going to smoke your socks atleast wash them because the air you're blowing stinks."

He still had his gaze on Sakhile who looked like he just swallowed a barbed wire. He didn't have anything back to say suddenly and saw it fit to turn on his heels and walk his embarrassed self out.

Mr Ozi Langa focused his gaze back on and thanked the press.

"I've got no time for more stupid questions."

With that said, he walked out of the boardroom and headed to his office.

He loosened up his tie and poured a glass of winkey and downed it all at one go.

He grapped his stuff then Lwazi barged in just when he was about to walk out.

Lwazi: You nailed it.

They fist bumped.

"I saw Sakhile dragging his potbelly out with a walk

of shame."

They both bust into laughter.

Ozi: He's just a fish trying to swim with the sharks.

Lwazi: I feel sorry for his wife. What a stupid husband.

They chuckled.

"Rushing somewhere?

Ozi: I'm flying my wife down to the Maldives. I'm cracking off the shell once and for all.

Lwazi: If it's meant to be, it will be.

Ozi: Yeah. If she decides to dump me,atleast let it be at Maldives.

Lwazi: She wont. I can bet on it.

Ozi: Wish me luck man.

Lwazi: Work your charm.

They bid each other goodbye and Ozi drove back home.

Ozithobile Langa

I made a quick stop at Spar and bought a fresh bunch of flowers then drove straight home.

I made my way in and was met by mummered voices and a pleasant aroma.

Me: Sanibonani.

They turned to look at me.

Mam Rose greated back with a shy smile.

Is it me or do I get the feeling that they get along just fine?

I went over to Sne and kissed her cheek.

"These are yours."

She flashed a smile.

Her: Thank you baby. You're the best.

Me: You're welcome. What are you guys cooking? I'm starving.

Her: Go change into something more comfortable while I dish up for you. We have a busy day ahead.

Me: What's happening?

Her: I need to do shopping on some few things before we leave.

I wanted to run for my life. Women take forever when they do shopping and I hate malls. I hate shopping. I know my style and what suits me. When I get in a store, I get what I like, pay for it and leave. But looks like today I'm in for it.

Me: Can I call a chauffeur for you? I'm not feeling well.

I said with a pouted mouth but that wasn't so convincing because there she was, just laughing at me.

Her: I want you to take me.

Shoot me now.

Me: Okay.

I headed downstairs and got out of the formal and dressed in a smart casual. I transferred 5K into her

account then went back downstairs.

I found a mountainous plate of food waiting for me and Mam Rose was out of sight.

It was just me and my wife.

I digged in while listening to her telling me about everything she's going to buy at the mall.

Me: sounds like we're going to buy the whole mall.

She giggled. I love it when she's happy. She makes me want to be a better man.

I finished and we drove to the mall.

We went to five different stores already and I was loosing my temper. These people's stares weren't helping either. This is why I hate mall.

She said she wanted to go to one last store, Cotton On but I protested.

I sat my ass outside the store on one of the couches on the corridor.

I saw Sakhile approaching but I just minded my own business. I was too tired and didn't have the energy

for for his lame ass.

He stood before me. I raised my gaze with my eyebrow raised and looked at him.

Me: Your potbelly leaves nothing to be desired. You're obscuring my view if you don't mind.

He just stood there and looked down on me.

He finally gathered words and broke the silence.

Sakhile: I heared you're getting married.

Me: And your point is?

Him: Who is she?

He's touching on a very sensitive subject that I was no where close in finding interest talking about it.

Me: That's none of your business.

Sne came shortly. Thank you were finally going home.

I rose up from my seat and stood on my feet waited for my wife.

He still looked at me with a narrowed gaze like he

was trying to read me.

Him: I'm watching you Langa.

Me: How would you like your popcons while you're being an audience of my precious life?

Him: Don't patronize me Langa.

I got closer to him and looked him in the eyes.

Me: You're no match to me Sakhile. I'll give you to my brothers.

With that said, Sne arrived and I helped her with her shopping bags and we walked out.

We went to a restaurant and grabbed a meal then headed straight home to prepare for the trip.

I wanted to enjoy my long weekend away from everything with just my wife by my side making her happy. And that's exactly what this trip is about. To bond with and assure her of our future together.

We finally flew to Maldives and I was looking forward to it.

Insert 29

(Unedited)

Narrated.

As the sun peeked through the skys of the maldives and the ray of its sunshine stinging across the faces of the fast asleep couple who were cuddled...Sne stirred her eyes a few times and the edge to respond to mother nature got the better of her. She gently removed Ozi's hold carefully not to wake him up and tiptoed to the bathroom to relief herself from the edge.

She retured to notice just how beautiful the sun looked through it's transparency from the windows without curtians.

She went over to wrap her gown around and stood next to the window to get a better view of the beautiful sunrise of this place and the sea.

She stood there for a while untill a strong arm

curved it's way around her waist from behind.

A smile creped from ear to ear by the warmed of his body agaisnt hers.

Ozi: Why did you sneak out of bed?

He lowerd his head to her neck and she tilted to the side to give him enough room to kiss it.

Sne: you looked so peaceful. I didn't want to wake you up.

Ozi: Hmm.

He peeked his head up from her neck and rested his chin on her shoulder.

"It looks so beautiful, doesn't it?"

Sne: It's reviving. What a perfect choice.

Ozi: Do you want to go for a morning walk?

Sne: I'd love that.

Ozi: Let's brush our teeth then we'll go after.

They went to an en suite and refreshed themselves.

Shortly they were done, dressed in a maxy floral

dress and sandals, Sne looked beautiful...fresh like the air of the Maldives'.

While Ozi was dressed in a white golf t-shirt that hugged his biceps and abbs so well with shorts. His beautiful hairy legs were out to play.

They went out hand to hand and took a walk.

Sne: Wow. This place is literally a breath of fresh air.

She lifted her chin up and inhaled.

Ozi: It does wonders to one's soul.

Sne: Have you been here before?

Ozi: Yes...Alone.

They continued taking their refreshing walk in silence.

Sne decided to brake it and curiosity got the better of her.

Sne: Why did you feel the need to emphasize the last part?

Ozi looked at her from the corner of his eyes then focused his gaze back on his surroundings.

Ozi: I don't want you to think I've also brought other women here before.

Ke kicked stones that were on their path just for fun.

Sne: Well, that's your past. It shouldn't bother me because I wasn't a part of it. Right?

Ozi turned his head and looked at her with a narrowed gaze.

Ozi: That's matured.

They arrived at the restaurant where they were going to have their breakfast and they were ushered in.

The place looked absolutely stunning. It's vanished wooden chairs and tables and its sea wallpaper was just a dream. It was compelling.

They found a table at a far back and settled down.

A waiter came to take their orders and disappeared.

Ozi rubbed his thumb on his cheekbone and threw his hand at the back of his head and leaned back on his chair.

He looked carefully at his wife who was seated

across the table direct to him.

Sne: Is there something wrong?

Ozi: Why?

He smiled.

Sne: Your stare is getting uncomfortable.

He chuckled.

Ozi: You're not used to it already?

He narrowed his gaze and looked at her amused.

Sne: No. And...I don't think I will.

Ozi: Why?

Sne: It doesn't help that you're intimidating as it is.

She lowered her eyes away from his, avoiding eye contact.

Ozi rubbed the edge of his chin lightly still looking at her. He wondered to himself if he'll ever get used to her beauty.

Ozi: Do you also find me intimidating when I make love to you?

She lifted her gaze up and made eye contact with him again.

Sne: I actually find it irresistible. It does things to me.

All of a sudden, Sne was getting out of her cocoon and became more relaxed and comfortable around her husband.

There was an electrifying wave across the table and Ozi felt his groin clench. He suddenly felt the hunger for his wife.

He pressed on his lips and narrowed his intense gaze on her.

Ozi: Nhlanhla-

Talk about bad timing...a waiter interrupted him by making his way to their table with a tray of food.

Ozi cleared his throat and thanked him before he nodded and walked away again.

"This looks delicious."

He said picking up a chip and shoving it in his mouth.

Sne: Are you seriously changing the topic?

He's dark brows came together as he frowned. And a smile creped from one coner of his mouth.

Ozi: Did you want to talk about sex?

He pressed his lips together and raised his eyebrows taunting her.

Sne: Well...

She lifted her one shoulder dismissively and swallowed the knot of disappointment in her throat.

"You initiated it. I was just following your lead."

He looked at her from the coners of his coffee mug before putting it down.

He leaned forward before balancing on his elbows and looked at her.

Ozi: How are your studies going?

He was seriously changing the topic. For a man like him, dating a fine woman like Sne who also didn't help but look absolutely gorgeous across the table...the only logical thing to do right now was to avoid such talks.

Sne sensed it and she was morethan willing to go with the flow.

Sne: Pretty well actually. I don't regret my choice of career.

There she was again...being a blubber mouth. Once she starts talking about her studies, she does not stop.

Ozi was just enjoying two things right now... his food and seing her happy.

They paid the bill and walked out shortly after eating.

They wandered around exploring on the place and it's beauty untill it was mid day.

Ozi: I think we should head back now. I'm tired.

Sne: Me too.

Ozi: Come on...hop over.

He carried her all the way to their place.

A thought creped into his head and his insides began to turn at the fear of having to come clean with her.

He didn't know what to expect but hoped things don't go south.

They arrived at their place and went to take a long needed shower.

The plan was to go have lunch at a most extravagant reasturant.

They were ready to go when suddenly Ozi felt a very heavy load on his shoulders. He couldn't take it anymore. Each second that passed by, made him feel like it was prolonging making things right. He wanted to set himself free with the truth...once and for all.

Enough was enough!

He blew out air slowly with his mouth pouted and took Sne's hand into his.

Ozi: Can we talk for a second?

Sne: Like, now?

He brushed the back of his head nervously.

Ozi: Yes please.

He signaled with his hand for her to take a sit.

Sne: It sounds serious.

She had a frantic look on her face.

He joined her shortly and sat next to her.

He rubbed his face briefly and turned to face her.

Ozi: I don't know where to start.

Sne felt a dry lump on her throat and she swallowed it.

Sne: Start at the beginning.

Her voice was trembling with fear.

Ozi: I'm not the perfect guy that you think I am.

He said enquiring her face carefully with his eyes.

She nodded lightly for him to continue.

He pushed himself to the edge of the couch and balanced his elbows on his knees holding the back of his head with one hand.

"I've done some stuff in the past...things that I'm not

proud of." He said drawing as much energy from deep within as possible. "I had to do what I had to do to protect my family. My mother died when we were very little. Banzi was only two months. I had to help my father raise them. As young as I was, I had to grow up fast or things would go really bad for us. I watched my father build our company from scratch to be what it is today. And when they threatened to take it away, I had to intervene. I did what I was supposed to do to protect our family's legacy. For my brothers and our children. So things got out of control and I did stuff that I wish I could undo even today"

She was fiddleling with her finger tips. She had to remain calm for the sake of the baby but it was getting too much for her. Still looking at him, she asked carefully...

Sne: What did you do?

Ozi turned his gaze slowly to look at her.

Ozi: I...uhm...

Sne: Did you kill people?

He looked at her with so much pain in his eyes. It was quiet evident that he regrets his dark past. But not morethan he regrets coming clean with the love of his life right now. He began to wonder if it was a smart move. By how she was looking at him, he felt knots in his stomach. But there was no turning back now. He had to finish what he started.

He burried his head in his hands and rubbed the back of it briefly before raising it back up again.

Ozi: Yes.

Her jaws dropped to the floor.

She rose up from the seat and Ozi did too.

Sne: What else?

Ozi frowned.

Ozi: What do you mean?

Sne: I mean what else are you hiding from me Ozi?

Her voice was quivering. Her eyes breamed with tears... glassy.

Ozi: Well...

He cleared his throat.

"Mrs Gumedede...

Her eyes widened by the mention of that surname.

"Her husband and us have history. He was business partners with my father before things turned sourer between them."

Sne: You know Mrs Gumedede?

Ozi: Yes.

Sne: And all this time when I talked about her, you pretended to not know her?

Ozi: Yes.

Sne: How do you do that Ozi? How do you look at somebody you claim to love and lie in their face like that?

Ozi: Baby I -

Sne: I'm pregnant with your child for crying out loud. Did you not think I would want to know the kind of man I'm getting myself involved with?

Ozi: I didn't want to scare you off Nhlanhla.

Sne: So you deceived me?

Ozi: I have a past okay. One that I'm not proud of. Yes I killed a few people but I'm not that person anymore. Atleast I'm trying to change. For you....and the baby. You make me want to be a better man. Can't you understand that? This is why I brought you here. Because I -

Sne: Because you thought you'd soften me up by bribing me? What kind of a person are you?

Ozi: Baby listen...

She ran to their bedroom and locked herself in.

Ozi went after her shortly.

He stood outside the door reluctant to push in. He didn't want to cross boundaries so he knocked lightly calling her name.

"Baby please. Let me explain."

He begged on the door but Sne didn't budge. She remained silent.

"Nhlanhla."

She still did not answer. He brought himself to putting his hand on the door knob after battling with that thought for a while and tried to push it but it was locked.

He squeezed his eyes shut and leaned his head on the door cursing under his breath.

"Fuck!"

It was midnight when the fullmoon was shining compellingly through the windows. It's light was direct and filled the room.

She walked out of their bedroom and slowly motioned towards the couch where he was sleeping.

His clothes were carelessly thrown on the floor and he was left with Luios Vuitton underwear only.

He had his hands splayed on either side of the cushion, head turned to the couch, his tanned, well build legs sprawled apart, his knee slightly bent and he was fast asleep.

The side of his well build bere naked body aroused

her.

She felt guilty for locking him out to sleep on the couch.

She needed him. She wanted him. Who was she fooling? In all that he revealed about himself, she still wanted to be a part of his life...his future. I mean, Everybody has a past. Who was she to judge?

She sat carefully on the edge on the couch and ran her finger tips on his bare back.

She bit on her lower lip by the extreme need of him.

She longed for his hands on her. His body against hers and his warm breath on her neck.

She traveled down to his waist and he turned his face and opened his sleepy eyes slowly.

He turned with his whole body so sleep on his back and pillowied his hands underneath his head.

She got up to undress until she was completely naked.

She bent down and cuped his manhood and stroked it a few times still inside the underwear.

He looked down at her lazily with his sleepy gaze and groaned softly.

She slit down his undies and it sprang out to life. Hard as a rod.

She took it in down to her throat and gagged.

He chuckled in his deep husky voice.

She slid it in and out a few times and began working on it.

He was cursing and speaking in tongues.

He pushed her off gently and got up. He drew her with him to the floor and flipped her underneath him.

Ozi: I want to be inside.

He pushed in intensely and started to kiss her slowly while thrusting in and out.

The volt of electricity that was travelling between them was so intense it had Sne shutting her eyes and crying.

Was it due to hurt or pleasure?

Ozi felt her warm tears and stopped.

Ozi: What is it Baby?

Sne: Do you love me?

She said, still had her eyes closed.

That stung his heart.

Ozi: Open your eyes for me baby.

She did. Tears escaped on either side of eye coner.

He wiped them off with his thumb and gazed deep inside her eyes.

"I've never loved anyone the way that I love you. I know it's a lot to process but...im asking you to take me with my past and love me with my flaws.

They still looked at each other in the eyes and Ozi was brushing her cheek bone with his thumb.

"Give me time and a chance to proof myself. Judge me by my kept promises and not my shortcomings. Please. Because...I love you Nhlanhla."

He rested his head on hers and shut his eyes still sinked deep inside her.

Sne: I'm scared.

Ozi: Don't. I need you here with me...now.

He felt her walls clench on him and he winced.

She pulled the back of his head and met with his lips.

He tangled his tongue with hers and deepened the kiss then started to thrust.

"Fuck! You're so delicate."

His husky deep voice vibrated through her stomach.

She wrapped her legs around his waist and he thrusted her as though he was thrusting her soul. That's how good he made him feel down there.

The view by the moonlight was igniting the mood to its full capacity.

He put her legs on his chest and digged her.

Her loud moans were fueling him.

He increased his pace and thrusted like a maniac then groaned.

"Uuuugh Fuuuuck"

He collapsed beside her and slept on his back

curving her in, to sleep on his chest.

"Please don't leave me."

Insert 30

(Unedited)

Two months later.

Narrated.

Sne and Ozi's relationship was blossoming like flowers in spring.

If there ever was people who belonged together, it was them.

She was learning to forgive Ozi and love him with his short comings like he begged her to.

A lot has happened over the past two months.

Sne managed to get a drivers license.

Her studies were fine and the bump was starting to show.

Ozi suggested that they move in together and Sne

had no reason to contest to that. She was carrying his precious first born. He needed her to be close so he'd protect them if needs be.

It was just in the afternoon and Mam Rose had knocked off already.

Sne decided to go lie down in their bedroom and peruse through a pregnancy magazine.

She was getting more beautiful and happy with the pregnancy glow. thoughts of excitement filled her head daily and she was at a right space.

Ozi pulled over outside on the drive way.

He grabbed his laptop bag, blazer and hopped out.

He made his way inside and called his wife.

Ozi: Honey I'm home.

He threw everything on the counter and loosened his tie.

His eyes wandered around the house for his wife but she was out of sight.

"Baby!"

He shouted.

Sne: Bedroom!

She shouted back.

He jogged his way on the staircase heading upstairs.

He walked in and his smile lit up the room.

He leaned against the door frame and watched her focusing on the magazine not noticing him.

She moved her gaze away and met him looking at her.

Sne: How long have you been standing there?

He pressed his lips together and narrowed his gaze then pushed himself forward walking towards her.

Ozi: Long enough to know you've drifted away to mother land already.

He pecked her lips.

"Hello."

Sne: Hi baby. You're early.

Ozi: Yeah I know. It was one of those days. Let me in.

He parted her legs and rested on his stomach in between.

"What do you have here?"

He took a sneak peek at the magazine.

Sne: Baby stuff. Wanna see?

Ozi: No.

She giggled.

"I'd rather bond with my son."

He slit his cold hand inside Sne's maternity blouse and she winced.

Sne: You're so cold.

Ozi: I'm sorry sweetheart.

He leaned his head on the beautifully small oval bump and brushed it.

"Hello there champ. I apologise for touching you with cold hands. Mommy is also complaining. Please ask for forgiveness on my behalf or I won't get to bond with you ever again."

He raised his gaze up and smiled at her giggling wife.

Ozi: how is it going?

He was gently brushing it still.

Sne: I just get nauseas constantly but it's not that bad.

He looked down on it again.

Ozi: Take it easy on mommy okay. Be a good boy.

Sne: You keep saying it's a boy like you're sure of it.

He pulled her blouse down and rested his head on her thighs.

Ozi: That's because I am.

Sne: How do you know that?

Ozi: Because I'd like to believe that Langa men got very strong sperms and the way you are I make love, a girl would never survive it.

They bust into laughter.

Sne: You're so silly.

She brushed his head that was rested on her closed

thighs.

Ozi: How was your day?

Sne: exhausting.

The was silence then she heaved a very long sigh.

"Amanda is still not talking to me and it's also putting a strain on my friendship with Sizwe."

He got up and sat on his butt.

Ozi: Give her time to process everthing.

Sne: It's been two months baby.

Ozi: There's no time frame for healing sweetheart.
We're different as human beings. We don't deal with things the same way. Give it time okay.

Sne: I miss her.

Ozi: I know. When last did you try and reconnected with her?

Sne: It's been a month. I left her countless messages...I got tired.

Ozi: Why don't you try again? Maybe she'd pick up

this time. I mean-

He got interrupted by Sne's phone ringing.

She reached over to it and looked at Ozi before answering.

Sne: Lwazi.

Ozi brought his brows together and frowned.

"Yes he's here...okay just hold on one sec."

She handed Ozi the phone who shot her a questioning look but she just shrugged her shoulders.

He took it and put it on his ear.

Ozi: You'll pay a fortune for calli-

He sprang on his feed and stood tall still holding the phone to his ear.

"Slow down Lwazi. I cannot comprehend a word you just said man."

Lwazi was obviously being vague on the other side of the line. His voice was trembling and he did not make much sense to his brother.

Ozi thought it might be due to bad reception and paced up and down until he actually caught what he said.

He stopped moving and was glued on the floor.

His hands trembling and dropping the phone landing on its screen to the ground.

He zoned out for a moment by what Lwazi just told him until he was snapped out of it by Sne brushing his arm light.

He turned his gaze slowly to look at her blankly and tried to talk but his mouth was dry.

A lump was building up on his throat but he swallowed dryly.

"I have to go."

That came out very dry and inaudible.

Sne wore a frantic look on her face.

Sne: Where to? What's going on?

Ozi: My father...he... he was involved in a car crash on his way here.

He rubbed his face frantically and turned to look at her.

"Are you gonna be fine here alone?"

Sne: No baby. I'm coming with you.

He shook his head.

He knew it wasn't a good idea to take her pregnant wife to the accident scene with.

She was too fragile to be exposed to such.

Ozi: You can't come along Nhlanhla. Can't you call the Gumede brothers to come stay with you until I come back.

Sne: When are you gonna get back?

She was worried.

Ozi: I don't know. Probably by midnight..or earlier. I just...I don't know.

With that said, he brushed her side arm briefly looking at her then stormed out. His C63 Wheels screeched on the ground as he reversed out and sped off.

Sne remained dumbstruck trying to register what just happened.

She headed downstairs to drink water and sat ontop of the kicken stool.

She took out her phone and called Lwazi but her calls kept getting rejected.

Fear creped in and she felt her stomach turn into knots.

She called Khethelo who answered.

Khethelo: Princess.

Sne: I need you here with me please.

Her voice was shaking.

Khethelo: What's wrong? Are you okay?

Sne: Yes but I don't know for how long will I be.

Khethelo: Won't Ozi mind my presence at his house?

Sne: It was his idea that I call you actally.

Khethelo: Oh. Okay, sent me a location. I'll be there shortly.

Sne: Thank you Khethelo. Please don't tell Bandile.

Khethelo: hmm.

The line died and Sne tried to remain calm.

The road was almost blocked by emergency cars.

The sky was foggy with smoke.

Robotic lights from emergency cars were flashing around as the sunset...it was almost dusk and darkness was creeping in.

People got out of their stationary vehicles and observed from a distance.

Ozi pulled over and hopped out almost while the car was still in motion.

He paged through the crowd trying to make his way to the front.

As he approached, he saw his father's corpse in a body bag being taken to a forensic vehicle.

He clenched his jaws at the view and felt his knees fail him.

He motioned slowly towards the officials and saw a very disturbed Lwazi.

Lwazi saw him and walked towards, meeting him half way and stopped as they reached to each other.

Lwazi looked at him blankly and Ozi lifted his hand to his head and rubbed it.

Lwazi: He's gone Ozi.

His voice quivered.

He couldn't hold back the edge to let it all out anymore and so broke down in his brother's embrace and roared.

Ozi wrapped his hand around his brother's shoulder and squeezed while trying to pull himself together in the process.

Lwazi whimpered like a small boy who lost his favourite toy.

Ozi: I'm sorry.

His voice was thick from the lump on his throat. He knew best not to break down upfront of all these people. More especially his little brother. He had to

be strong for his sake. It comes with being the elder sibling. And in this case...a deputy parent.

Lwazi pulled free from the embrace and wiped his tears off.

An officer greeted them and they turned to face him.

Officer: Mr Langa. We're so sorry for your father's passing.

Ozi nodded.

Ozi: What happened?

Officer: He hit a tree. That's all we know for now.

Ozi: And the flame?

Lwazi: It exploded soon after...with him inside. The firefighters were just near by when it happened. They managed to arrive on time and extinguished the car before he could-

Ozi: No need to say it.

The officer nodded.

There was an unsettling silence while they still tried to register the sudden tragic of their father's passing.

"What are we dealing with here officer? Murder? "

Officer: Like I said Mr Langa, we don't know anything as yet.

Lwazi: In your line of duty and experience, What's your take? Give us something man. Surely there's something that you can pick up.

Officer: I'm sorry sir but we cannot speculate.

Lwazi: You're useless then. Get out of our side.

Officer: We'll let you know if we find something.

Lwazi: No need. We'll do it ourselves.

Ozi: Lwazi!

Officer: You wouldn't want to get in the way of doing our job Mr Langa. I suggest you stay out of it and let us do what we're assigned to.

He looked at Ozi who was looking at him intensely and nodded before walking away.

Lwazi: Useless!

Ozi: I understand that you're hurting but get a grib before I punch your stubborn ass right now.

Lwazi: What do you make of this?

He looked at Ozi who twitched his lips to the side and rubbing his cheek bone trying to figure that out.

Ozi: Murder.

He shot straight.

Lwazi: But why? And by who?

Ozi: Vengence. Who? I don't know. We'll have to find that out.

They remained silent.

"I want to get closer to the car."

They followed each other.

Officer: Mr Langa. You're over stepping boundaries.

Ozi: It's my father who fucken died on this spot. And that's his fucken car over there. Don't tell me im over stepping boundaries.

Lwazi: Please give me permission to punch this dumbass right now.

The officer raised his hands to the air in surrender

and the Langa brothers bend over and went closer to their fathers car that burned out.

Ozi was taking a good closer look at it not hoping to get or make much of the accident since it's not his line of experties but saw something that looked like a ring.

He bend over and picked it up.

He rubbed the ashes off it and it was his father's matrimonial ring.

He felt like his soul was cut into many pieces.

Tears came rolling down his cheeks as he kneeled down and sat on his butt leaning on his fathers car and wiped.

The pain was wrenching. It cut deep.

It awaken that of his mothers passing.

The picture of the lowering down of his mother's coffin to the grave came vivid in his head and his father's face that looked like a lonely soul looking at his wife's coffin was framed in his mind.

It all came back fresh and vivid.

He held the ring close to his chest and cried.

Lwazi squated down next to him and burried his head on his brother's shoulder.

They got home and found both the Gumede brothers seated in the lounge watching soccer on a super sport channel.

They walked in and Bandile along with Khethelo turned to face them.

The Gumede brothers rose up from their seats and stood on their feet.

Khethelo: Mr Langa.

Banzi stood next to him.

Ozi nodded his head lightly.

He looked drained.

His eyes were blood shot. He had his shirt folded up the sleeves and his vains were popping out.

He looked puffed up like he was crying.

Ozi: Gents. Thanks for being here. I appreciate it.

Banzi: Anytime grootman. We helped ourselves with your beverages. I hope you don't mind.

Ozi raised his hand to dismiss the statemnent.

Ozi: Don't worry about it. It's just booze.

Lwazi was quiet the entire time.

He went over the table and downed a glass that was full of castle lite and sat down.

"You're morethan welcome to sleep over. Thanks again for coming."

Lwazi: They aren't leaving. We're gonna play fifa.
Right gents?

He said looking down at the glass that was in his hand and they grinned while nodding their heads in unison.

He was detemined to do anything possible to get his mind off things and to numb the pain.

Ozi: I'm sorry but I won't join you. I need to rest.

Lwazi: Go be with our wife. You need her morethan

you need us right now.

Banzi: Sure grootman.

He headed upstairs and found Sne inside covers reading a novel.

She brought her head up and frowned.

Sne: Hey.

He gave her a weak smile and went over to sit on the couch and burried his face in the palm of his hands.

She peeled the covers off and went to sit next to him.

"Baby."

She said softly.

He tried to speak...still burried his head but the lump on his throat was just too much.

She curved her hand around his shoulder and pulled him for a hug.

He turned with his body and gave in.

He squeezed her for dear life.

Ozi: He's gone Sne.

Sne: Oh baby!

She brushed his back still hugging him.

Ozi: Just like that. Literally in flames.

Sne felt her heart sink to the pit of her stomach and started crying too. She remembered sitting outside her home in the dark waiting for her parents to return.

When she saw car lights pulling over at their gate, she ran to it with joy hoping they had finally returned. Only to be met by two officers who asked to speak to elders.

Her wicked aunt, Nosipho, who just broke the news to her like it was nothing after the officers left, also slapped her hard across the face for crying. She said her cries were annoying.

Her heart cringed and Ozi pulled her back and looked her in the eyes.

Ozi: You cannot afford to go down that road again Nhlanhla. Please.

Sne: I'm so sorry for your loss baby. Is just...I know exactly how you feel right now. And-

Ozi: Hey. It's okay. You need to calm down now. For the sake of our baby. Please honey.

He pulled her in and hugged her by side.

Sne: Why do things have to always go south?

She was sobbing and sniffing. She already had a hiccup. That's how soft hearted she is.

Ozi: I can talk until I turned blue in the face trying to explain how life operates my dear. But it's just that. Life. And It happens. We just have to find a way to figure it out as we live.

Silence filled the room.

If I was to say this couple was in so much pain right now, that would be an understatement . They were going through the most. Their hearts communicated and shared the pain in silence.

Ozi: I'm just glad that you're here... as my wife. You're my source of strength and I don't know what I'd do if you weren't by my side.

He squeezed her and tightened his hold. "You're all I need to get through this. Okay?

She nodded in between her hiccups.

"Let's rest now. I'll need strength for tommorow."

They undressed and got between the sheets.

He spooned her and they cuddled.

Sne: Are you okay?

He let out a sigh.

Ozi: I will be.

There was silence for a while.

"But I need you to know that, I can do anything. As long as I have you. We're stronger together than apart."

Sne: I'm not going anywhere.

Ozi: That's enough for me.

He kissed her head and they remained silent again.

Sne: Baby...

He didn't respond.

She turned to look at him, he had zoned out.

He looked vulnerable in his sleep. So fragile.

"I love you."

She kissed his forehead and turned the bedside lamp off and sanked inside the covers facing his direction.

Soon she also drifted off.

Insert 31

(Unedited)

Narrated.

Loosing a parent is the most challenging experience. It doesn't matter how old or how young. It just tears one apart.

It doesn't help if they died in the manner that Mr Langa did...in flames. Literally so!

That awakened Ozi Langa's sleeping beast.

He found himslef a spot to digest the information that was brought forward to him by his P.I.

He found his jaws clenched hard revealing the cheek bone while he battled with all the thoughts in his head.

'I am obviously getting soft. Every Tom Dick and Harry finds a play ground on my head. I made a promise to myself and wife that I was going to change my old ways. But I'm going to have to bend

the rules a bit. I lost my father because of people who still want to settle scores with me. I cannot take this laying down.

I've got a child on the way and if I don't deal with all these loose ends, they'll go after it to hurt me. I cannot have that.

My wife doesn't have to know about it. The sooner I put an end to it, the sooner we can all live in harmony. A stitch in time, right?

He was standing next to a kraal observing the cows and drifted away in deep thoughts.

Memories of his childhood in this place came floating down. And he remembred just how it used to feel like when he still had both his parents around. Although his father turned the place and made it much nicer and very extravagant than what it used to be before they swinmed in money, and dispite the fact that it was located in the villages of the Kwazulu Natal province...he said he wanted it to feel like home and every grandchild must have a room for whenever they came to visit. That's how big this

house is. More or less a mansion. His father did not live here fulltime because he later fell inlove with Cape Town. But gave them strict intrusions that they should burry him here when he dies and that they should never forget that it's their place of domicile. Their pride and legacy.

His words sounded fresh in Ozi's head when somebody nudged him lightly bringing him back to life.

He moved his weak gaze and looked at the person.

Mandla: Bafo. You look drained.

He said enquiring in his eyes but Ozi moved them away.

If there's anybody who hates being vulnerable and displaying signs of weakness, it's Ozi langa.

He let out a sigh still looking away.

Ozi: This is a really difficult time Bafo. uBaba was all we're left with.

Mandla: Hao. Kodwa sikhona nje. Nobaba bakhona.

Ozi: I know. And I'm greatful. Is just that, now I'll have

to officially be a parent to my little brothers.
Especially to Banzi. He isn't taking this well at all.

Mandla put his hand on Ozi's shoulder and squeezed.

Mandla: Things will work out just fine. Banzi is quiet harder than you think of him. Do you remember ngoMembeso wami when he was just 12years old and he wrestled with the rebelling bull?

Ozi laugh so hard and Mandla joined him.

Ozi: Even when he was hurting and crying, he still swang on it's horns.

Mandla: I've never heard anybody fart so hard before.

They were both in stitches.

They've always been close. Since they were still young. They are off the same age and grew up together.

He relied on him for comfort and courage when he needed to draw some strength.

They attended the same school and were each other's bestfrieds before Ozi could move to the Cape with his father and brothers later.

Ozi: Thank you for always being there Bafo. I appreciate it.

Mandla: Always. I'm sorry I couldn't come represent you kuma lobola negotiations. I was out of the country.

Ozi: Water under the bridge. She's mine now.

Mandla looked at him and Ozi turned to face him with a smirk on his face.

Mandla: You really love her, don't you?

Ozi grined and nodded his head repeatedly.

Ozi: She's everything.

Mandla: You're smiling like a retard.

They laugh and then there was silence.

Mandla: They are waiting for us actaully. I've come to fetch you. The cow must be slaughtered.

Ozi: Already?

He said, glancing on his wrist watch.

It was in the afternoon. Friday of the umlindelo for

the Langa junior's burial tommorow. People came in large numbers from their respective places to pay their last respect and moral support to the Langa family.

Everybody was going up and down in the big yard of the Langa premises doing their chores.

Snenhlanhla flew down with her husband and was amongs the women who were cooking and taking care of guests.

She was reluctant about coming. Not only because she was pregnant, but also because she wasn't officially married to Ozi.

Ozi however, was very adamant that she comes down to KZN with her because he needed her support.

It was in the afternoon and the sun was bringing down shadows as it went down to the mountains of the village.

The yard was packed to capacity and everybody was

going on with their business preparing for the burial.

Lwazi dragged his muddy self in the big kitchen where the Langa wives were cooking a storm.

Lwazi: But what kind of wives are you that don't even check if your favourite husband ate or not?

Smangele: Everybody else has already eaten Lwazi. Where have you been?

Lwazi: I was at the grave side. And if you ask me one more question, I might not be alive to answer it.

He said swivelling himself on a chair that was at some corner.

Sma laugh along with the other wives.

Sm: I'll dish up for you.

Lwazi: Oh thank you sweet Jesus.

He looked around and didn't see Sne.

"Where's the younger wife?"

Sma: Oh. I relieved her to go take a nap. Poor child has been on her feet since morning. It can't be good

for the baby.

Woman: She must wake up and come help us. Langa wives don't sleep during the day.

Sma looked at her and rolled her eyes.

Sma is Mandla's wife while the rude woman is Ozi's last uncle's wife.

Sma: She's pregnant mamcane.

Mamcane: Manje? Who said she must get married that young if she cannot handle it.

Lwazi: This is why I wont bring my wife here after I'm married. You're a bitter mongster in-law.

Mamcane: Go wake her up. There's guests who need to be caterd for.

With that said she went out.

Sma dished up for Lwazi and went to wake Sne up.

They returned to the kichen to find Lwasi's plate clean and he was out of sight.

Sne: Do you need help with the dishes?

Sma smiled at her.

Sma: No babe. The girls will do them. I just wanted you to wake up because oversleeping can drain you.

She had to say anything to protect her from getting hurt by the actual reason why she had to wake her up.

Sne just smiled back.

Sne: It's actually Okay. I insist. It would be rude to just sit around while there's so much to do.

Sma: Okay. You'll wash and I'll rinse then.

They stood side by side and washed the dishes while conversing.

Sma kept stealing glances at her every now and again.

"You're really beautiful you know."

Sne turned her gaze and flashed a blushing smile.

Sne: Thank you.

Sma: It's really refreshing having a young bride like yourself around. It can get boring around these old

ones if you know what I mean.

She winked and Sne giggled.

Sne: I can imagine. And thank you for the warm welcome. I wasn't sure if it was a great idea that I come judging by...

She looked down on her belly then faced Sma.

"Also for the fact that we're not officially married yet."

Sma: He paid lobola for you. A complete one at that. You're not just girlfriend and boyfriend. And besides, you wouldn't let him come all the way here to burry his father without you holding his hand now, would you?

They continued to wash the dishes.

"Langa men may occure to be tough on the outside but they are real softies and sometimes they need us to keep them going, you know."

Sne: So you don't think I've over stepped?

Sma: No. And even if you did. Who cares. It's your man that brought you here. He's the only person you

should be concerned about.

Sne: Thank you Sma.

They smiled at each other and finished with the dishes shortly.

Traditionally, when somebody dies of unfortunate incidents like the way Mr Langa died, they don't bring his corpse home until the morning of the burial.

It's tarboo and it has been going on for ages.

Ozi thought it was ridiculous and wanted to contest against it, but he was told how much of a snob he's become and that he should leave these things to the elders. So he backed off.

Him and his other brother cousins were chilling or hiding in a Volkswagen 12 seater kombi resting from being sent away to do chores. But Banzi wasn't amongs them. He was isolating himself away from everybody.

Ozi: Where is Banzi?

Lwazi: Probably at his favourite spot.

Ozi: He still goes there?

Lwazi: That's his place of sanity. He always goes there whenever he wanted to connect with mom. I'm sure he'll kill two birds with one stone now that his old man joined.

Ozi: I thought he let go of that nonesense. It's madness.

He hopped off the car

Lwazi: Where are you going?

Ozi: To check on my wife then at Banzi.

Lwazi chuckled.

Lwazi: You might want to do that because mamcane isn't going easy on her.

Ozi: She likes being Chuck Norris that one.

He shook his head and walked inside the house and found the wives in the kicken peeling off vegetables.

Ozi: Wives.

They greeted back in unison.

"May I steal her just for a moment, please"

Mamcane: And who's going to peel her vegetables?

Sma: I'll do it. A little break from this won't smash a strain.

She said looking at Ozi and rolling her eyes.

Ozi chuckled and took his wife's hand to his outside room.

They got there and sat ontop of the bed.

Ozi: How are you holding up?

Sne sighed.

Sne: I'm good.

She was trying hard to hide the fact that she's too exhausted from being on her feet all day but didn't want to give her husband the impression that she wasn't fit to be a Langa wife.

Ozi tilted his head to read her face.

Ozi: Baby...you do know that I know you too well right?

Sne: Meaning?

Ozi: Meaning that you're lying to be right now.

Sne: Okay. I'm just a little exhausted.

Ozi: A little?

She chuckled and shook her head no.

Sne: Okay I'm dead tired. My feet are killing me.

Ozi: That's it. You're nolonger going back in there.
You need to rest.

He said pulling her feet, taking off her shoes and
putting them on his labs and gave her a foot
massage.

Sne: Thank you but, I have to go back baby. Why are
you setting me up for a failure?

Ozi frowned.

Ozi: What failure?

Sne: We don't want your family thinking I'm lazy now.

Ozi: Who cares? You're carrying a baby in there and
you cannot afford to be on your feet all day. It's

ridiculous.

Sne: I'm not heavily pregnant Ozi.

Ozi: Still. I said no. Futhi there's so many of them out there. Umsebenzi ngeke ume ngoba naku kubambe wena. They were doing just fine before you came along.

Sne: But I'm part of them now. And I have to do my duties.

Ozi: Your duty is to take care of me. And right now, I need some love.

He bend over to kiss her but she retreated and giggled.

Sne: You're crazy if you think I'm gonna make love to you under your father's roof. Futhi this is just not a good time.

He smirked.

Ozi: Why?

Sne: You have to burry your father first my love.

He groaned.

Ozi: I hate these stupid cultural superstitions. And...

He looked at her intensely.

"I'm never bringing you here if you're gonna deny me of my husband privileges."

She just giggled and Ozi chuckled.

"Come. Let's get you to sleep. I have to go back and look for Banzi."

Sne: Baby no. I have to go back too.

Ozi: Snenhlanhla!

She giggled and got under the covers.

Ozi took off his shoes and got in either and cuddled her.

She pretended to have zoned out after a while by snoring.

Ozi moved slowly to check and saw her fast asleep.

He put on his shoes and walked out.

Ontop of a huge stone under a tree sat Banzi.

He was watching the fullmoon that was comforting

his broken heart.

His brother sat down next to, without looking at him.

Ozi: Nice view.

Banzi just nodded.

Ozi turned to look at him and chuckled.

Ozi: How much did you have?

Banzi: This is the 5th one.

Ozi: Are you on a suicide mission or something?

Banzi chuckled and shook his head.

Banzi: It helps me think.

He puffed and passed it on to his brother who raised his hand to the air.

Ozi: Not my kind, thank you.

Banzi: You don't know what you're missing on.

Ozi: It's better that way.

He looked at his face that was visibly clear under the fullmoon.

Banzi had his eyes slightly open from the joint he's been smoking. He was high and smelled like a weed factory.

"Why do you keep coming here?"

He enquired but Banzi just kept quiet. Ozi didn't want to push it so they remained in silence for what seemed like ages.

Banzi: Aren't you going to lecture me about smoking weed?

He was clearly out of it.

Ozi: No.

Banzi chuckled.

Banzi: You're the weirdest brother I've ever known. But you're also cool and I like that about you.

Ozi felt his heart wrench and shink. He's always been aware that Banzi smokes himself to sleep when he's hurting. And at this moment, he knew just what was going on. His little brother was hurting so bad and he did not know how to ease his pain.

He cleared his throat.

Ozi: Banzi look-

Banzi raised his hand to dismiss him.

Banzi: It's okay. You can't always take away our pain. It's enough now big bro. You're also human and you need to vent aswell. It's time you start focusing on yourself without having to worry about us all the time.

Ozi: But it's my job to worry about you. And make sure you're well.

Banzi: Are you well?

Ozi swallowed hard and suddenly he was tongue tight. He realised how much he's always put his brothers first while he bottled it all in. He's never been much of a talker. Especially about his feelings. But being with Sne was bringing that up and he was learning to vent.

Ozi: I will be.

Banzi: I'm here if you need to talk.

Ozi chuckled.

"You should head back and make sure your wife is

okay. Mamcane will grill her to death you know."

They laugh.

Ozi: Thanks but she's sleeping.

Banzi: Hmm.

Ozi: Will you be okay?

Banzi: I'm a grown ass now bro. The sooner you realise that, the better.

He was back at closing his eyes again.

Ozi: I'm giving you 30 more minutes. If you don't come back by then, I'm coming to drag your ass.

Banzi chuckled.

Lwazi: Deal.

Ozi jumped off the rock and patted his shouder then walked away.

He got inside his room and Sne was not there.

"She's as stubborn as they come."

He thought out loud and shook his head.

He threw himself ontop of the bed and before he

knows it, he was out.

Lwazi came in and shook him roughly. He opened his eyes and cursed.

Ozi: What the fuck dude. I'm trying to sleep.

Lwazi: With your shoes on?

He looked at his feet and indeed, he was sleeping on top on the sheets with his shoes on.

"Your wife is going to skin you alive."

Ozi: She has herself to blame. Ufunani?

Lwazi: Bathi we have to go guard the grave.

Ozi looked at his wrist watch.

Ozi: It's few minutes to midnight. Who goes to the graveside around this time?

Lwazi chuckled.

Lwazi: Your old men believe in witchcraft. Apparently we have to go make sure nobody goes there for their own shenanigans.

Ozi: That's crazy. I'm not going anywhere. Tell them

to come dragg me out.

Lwazi: I will.

He walked out.

Ozi: What kind of nonesense is this? What am I, a ghost?!

He took off his clothes and locked the door then got under the sheets and drifted off.

Sne will have to make a plan on where she was going to sleep. Angithi she doesn't want to sleep with me.

Time is something you cannot stop.

Nomatter how much you'd like to put it on hold, you just couldn't.

The morning of the day the Langa's wished it never occured, is here.

Everybody was dressed in their dark shades of clothes and they were laying Langa to rest.

The Langa family was seated under the family

gazibo while surrounded by a crowd of family, friends and business associates from all coners of the country.

The pastor had just read a verse and the choir was humming a hymn when the coffin was slowly going down.

Banzi had Lwazi in his arms and they were weeping.

While Ozi was standing at the far back watching from a distance.

He was still dressed in his jumpsuit overalls and timberland boots with a beanie on his head.

He had his hands burried inside his pockets and his jaws were clenched.

This was it...the final goodbye to the Mr Langa junior.

It's funny how life operates.

One moment, one is healthy and happy as they come. And the next, they are gone. Just like that!

Life is too short to waste it on things that don't matter.

You live everyday but die once. Make the most of it.

Insert 32

(Unedited)

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

It's been two weeks since we laid Ozi's father to rest. I can't say he's doing good but he's coping. One day a time.

With him gone, I don't really think I want a wedding. Western, tradional...nothing at all. I'd really just like to move on with my life if you ask me.

I'm not one with spotlight. I don't think I'll handle having so many people coming from all coners of the world just to come see me. It's too much attention. One I don't really need.

I had just finished with my classes walking towards the gate when I saw Amanda.

I had ran out of patients trying to get her to talk to me. It's been 3 months. I've reached rock button.

And I'm not about to mop with myself on the floor for her to notice that I'm sorry. But wait! What am I sorry for? What is it that I did to her again? If anything, I tried to reconcile for something I had nothing to do with. She can go to hell for all I care.

I'm done.

I'm done begging people to acknowledge and accept me.

I passed by where she was standing and didn't greet.

Amanda: You nolonger greet now?

Is she fucken kidding me? I don't have time or energy for this dram honestly.

I continued to walk.

"I'm talking to you Sne"

I turned to face her.

Me: Now that it suits you? What do you want from me Amanda? Huh? I get that you don't appreciate the fact that I'm the result of your mother's pain and your father's legitimate child. But what is it that you actally want from me?

She had her lips parted with shock.

Why was she shocked? was I the last person to expect to say such? Well tough.

I turned to walk away but she ran in front of and stood before me.

Amanda: Listen... I needed time okay. To digest everything that was thrown at me. It all came as a shock and I didn't know how to handle it. I'm sure there's a part of you somewhere deep down that understands what I was going through. Having to learn that indeed your father cheated on your mother while you were praising him isn't a pleasant realisation.

Me: So what now? I'm still the legitimate half sister. And that's not going to change. I'll forever be a constant reminder of-

Amanda: I don't care about that Snej. I want to have a relationship with you.

She looked at me and blinked a few times.

I don't know what I want anymore. Maybe it's for the

best that I just live my life as it is. With just my husband.

Me: I don't know Amanda.

Her: Please Sne. I'm the only child. Just like you. Can you imagine how it could be for us if we were close?

I sighed.

She's right. We could be each other's bestfriends. But her mother warned me to stay away. And honestly I can't risk putting my life and that of my child's on jeopardy. I need to think hard about this.

Me: Okay but well take it one day a time.

A smile creped from the coner of her mouth.

Amanda: I don't mind baby steps. I missed you. So much and you look beautiful. Pregancy glow.

I smiled.

Me: Thank you.

Amanda: Are you enjoying it?

Me: Yes. It's still fine for now.

Amanda: How far are you?

Me: 3months.

She looked at me like she wanted to say something but held back.

"What's wrong?"

Her: Uhm...Dad was asking about you.

Me: Oh.

Her: He really wants to get to know you Sne. Give him a chance.

Me: How is he? After... you know?

I fiddled with my fingers.

Her: He's fully recovered and back on his feet. It's been three months hey.

Me: Yeah. It's been long.

There was an awkward silence.

I would be lying if I said it didn't tickle me to know that he really wants to get to know me. I'd also love that. Besides, Ozi had already given me permission.

Me: It would make me happy to know him too.

She nodded.

Her: Baby steps. Sis.

She said looking at me and I smiled.

"I'll see you around then."

Me: Do you have time for drinks?

Her: No actually I have to rush home. We're having a family dinner tonight and Sizwe is invited.

She narrowed her eyes on me like she was thinking.

Me: No problem. Some other time then.

She had zoned out.

I nudged her.

"Mandy."

Her: I'm sorry but I have to go. Take care.

She smiled and walked away before I could even say something. Oh well.

I walked out and waited for my uber.

I think I'm ready to accept that car offer.

I've got my drivers licence anyway and I can't say no when my rich hubby wants to spoil me.

The uber arrived at I hopped in.

I arrived home and he wasn't here yet.

I headed to the bedroom and changed into some leggins and an oversized t-shirt.

I pushed my sleepers in and headed back in the kicken to get something to drink.

My phone rang and I picked it up from the kicken counter.

It's an unknown number.

I pressed and put it on my ear.

Me: Hello.

Voice: Hello mntanam.

I froze.

Me: Uhm...hi. yes...hello.

Dlomo: How are you my princess?

We're there already? Okay!

Me: I'm good bab'Dlomo. How are you doing yourself?

I heard him chuckle.

Dlomo: I'd be better if you called me daddy.

Whoa! Hold up old man. You're moving fast.

Me: All in good time sir. I mean...baba.

I whispered the last part.

The was silence for a while.

Him: I don't know if it's too soon but... I'd like to invite you to dinner at my house tonight. Amanda is also bringing her boyfriend.

Me: At Mamelodi?

Him: Yes.

Me: With Ozi?

Him: Yes.

Me: Uhm...I don't think that's a good idea Mr Dlomo.

Him: I know but you're my daughter and as much as I'm trying to work things out with you, I'd also like to

work things out with him. I mean he's my son in-law now.

Me: Yes. Well, I'm not promising anything. I'll text you later with feedback. What time should we be there if we come?

Him: 7-ish.

Me: Okay. Thank you for your generous invite. We'll talk later.

Him: Thank you for your time.

Me: No problem. Bye.

Him: Bye.

I nearly fainted when I turned to see Ozi leaning on the door frame looking at me.

I faked a smile.

Me: Hi.

I don't know if that was audible.

"Would you like anything to drink?"

I said giving him my back and avoiding his piercing

gaze.

Him: Was that Dlomo?

Trust him to shoot straight.

I swallowed hard.

Me: Uhm...yes.

I placed the two glasses ontop of the kichen counter and poured juice.

He came and sat ontop of the high stool.

Him: What did he want?

I turned and handed him the glass and sat down direct to him.

"Thank you."

He put it down and moved it aside and balanced on the table with his elbows leaning foward and gazed at me.

Me: He was inviting us to dinner at his house tonight.

Him: Over my dead body.

Me: Baby...

He widened his eyes.

I looked away.

"He really wants to work things out."

Him: You don't know what you're talking about.

Me: How would you know if you're not giving him a chance? I gave you a second chance. Why won't you give him?

He raised his eyebrows.

I regretted saying that. That was a low blow.

"I'm sorry but.. You're not being fair."

Him: I don't owe that pig anything. We're not going.

Me: You don't have to go if you don't want but I'm going. Alone.

I said raising my right elbow to boost my confidence.

He chuckled and took the glass of juice and downed it.

He got down from his stool, took his laptop bag and headed upstairs.

I was left dumbstruck. And pissed off. Arrogant ass!

I sat there battling with sending Dlomo a text to tell him we won't make it.

Ozi appeared from upstairs and looked down at me.

Him: If we're gonna leave, we must do it now. I don't want to give out bad impression of tardiness to my father in-law now.

He smirked and I smiled.

I ran upstairs and found him getting undressed.

Me: We're taking a shower?

Him: Do you want to go to your father's house smelling like an old spice?

I sniffed at myself.

Me: I do not smell like old spice baby.

He laugh and disappread to the en suit.

I undressed and joined him.

Soon we finished and dried up.

Me: How do you think we're supposed to dress?

Him: It's just dinner. Smart casual with do for me.

He took out jeans and round neck nervy blue long sleeved t-shirt and matched them with military green Timberland boots.

I settled for a simple black maxy dress with a denim jacket and gladiators.

I was sitting in front of a mirror applying my blood red lipstick when he came and stood behind me curving me in his arms and kissing my neck.

I giggled.

"You look cute. And I love it when you make those giggles"

Me: You look like a snack yourself. I'm not sure if Dlomo will find it appropriate.

He chuckled.

Him: He won't resist this.

We finished up and he took a 13 year old wine with and we left.

We made a quick stop at Spar and bought a fresh

bunch flowers.

Him: Unfortunately for you, these aren't yours tonight.

Me: I don't worry. I know I've got something better waiting for me than flowers.

He looked at me briefly then focused back on the road.

Him: Oh yeah? Like what?

Me: A car.

I looked at him and he looked at me back.

I wiggled my brows, he widened his eyes.

Him: Is that a yes?

Me: Yes baby. I'm ready to take you on your offer.

He smiled and took my hand in his and kissed it.

Him: Finally baby. Wow.

Me: Thank you. It's about time.

Him: It's been long overdue if you ask me.

He squeezed my hand we drove in silence.

Ozi langa

We arrived at this township. It makes me cringe.

I hate townships. I'm not a fan of their lifestyle. And Mamelodi was topping it up. It was getto and dangerous as fuck.

We parked outside Dlomo's beautiful house.

I was no stranger here.

I've been here morethan once so I was familiar with it.

Sne: Are you parking outside?

Me: I can't just drive in another man's yard without permission. He'll have to grand us access.

Like I give a sack of flying cats about that. I could run my car over and knock his bloody gate down if I wanted to.

He should be glad I'm doing this for my wife.

We got out and I locked the doors.

Sne turned to pulled me back.

"What's wrong?"

Her: You're not supposed to go in there without a jacket on.

Are you kidding me right now!

Me: But it's damn hot babe.

Her: I know but it's protocol.

Me: For a man like Dlomo? Please!

Her: Baby please. Do this for me. and I need you to be on your best behaviour when we get in there okay.

I rolled my eyes.

Me: Yes ma'am.

I cursed under my breath and fetched the damn jacket.

How is she okay with this?

We stepped on the verander and heared voices.

She knocked and after a while the door opened.

Amanda breamed a smile and they hugged.

She got to me and we shared a hug either.

Amanda: Hey Ozi. Thanks for coming.

Me: No sweat.

She looked at the bunch of flowers in my hand and the wine.

Amanda: Are those for me?

She winked.

Me: Unfortunately note. They are for your mother. And the wine, for my father in-law.

She smirked.

Amanda: Come on in guys.

She lead the way and we walked in following her.

They got up when they saw us and we greeted.

Mrs Dlomo pulled She in for a hug then came on to me.

Wasn't this the same woman who wanted to kill my wife the other day? Women!

Mrs Dlomo: Langa...welcome.

She faked a smile.

Me: Thank you. These are yours.

I handed her the flowers.

Mrs Dlomo: Oh thank you. You shouldn't have.

Me: Oh no. It's a pleasure. I hope you're not allegic.

Dlomo approuched me and we gave each other a deadly look. He extended his hand to mine and we shook.

Dlomo: Langa. I didn't think you'd come.

Me: I'm here to make sure you don't pimp my wife.

I gave him a brief smile then killed it instantly.

"I thought I should bring wine."

I gave it to him then moved along to where Sizwe was seating. Poor dude looked glued on his seat.

He rose up and we fist bumped.

Me: Sizwe right?

Sizwe: Sure grotm- I mean bra Ozi.

I chuckled.

Me: Good to see you again.

Sizwe: Like wise.

Mrs Dlomo: Let's all settle down please.

We all took out seats next to our partners.

"Thank you coming. We appreciate it. May we please say grace and thank God for this beautiful big family.
"

She should go for auditions. She's good. Acting is her calling.

We extended our hands to hold one another and we closed our eyes.

She was saying grace when I opened my eyes and saw Dlomo intensely looking at Sne.

I cleared my throat and he startled when he found me looking at him.

I'm gonna kill this motherfucker right under his roof like nobody's business.

He moved his gaze away and closed his eyes.

He's got balls to close his eyes with me across the table even?!

His wife finally finished and we started dishing up for ourselves.

Mrs Dlomo: So She. Hows pregnancy treating you?

She stole an evil glance at my innocent wife who was just sitting here utterly sweeped off.

Sne: It's good actally. I'm enjoying every bit of it.

She was brushing her small rounded bump.

I was just leaning back on my seat, bored like hell.

Mrs Dlomo: That's good. Congratulations. It's a beautiful phase. Embrace it while it last.

Sne: Thank you.

Amanda was lost somewhere in Sizwe's eyes. They were obviously at their own little romantic world and drifted away from the table.

We started eating.

They wouldn't be stupid to try and poison us would they? Everybody was eating from the same dishes. I

guess we're safe.

Shortly we finished and Dlomo looked at me.

Dlomo: Let's get glasses for our wine here Langa.

May we?

He rose up from his chair.

I clenched my jaws together and pushed my chair back and followed him.

We got into his wine cellar space and he turned to face me.

What a predictable pig!

Dlomo: You might like to stay away from my daughter if you know what's good for you.

I chuckled.

Me: Or what Dlomo? Hmm? What are you gonna do?

He came closer to me and we looked each other deadly in the eyes.

Dlomo: Don't underestimate me Langa. You don't know what you're dealing with.

Me: Oooh I'm shaking in my boots.

I tapped him on his chest with both my hands and he stumbled back lightly.

"I'm actually being very polite with you Dlomo. I'm learning to tolerate because my wife has a soft spot for you. Otherwise I'd put a bullet right in your skull for killing my father"

He blinked a few times.

"What? You didn't think I'd find out?"

Dlomo: I...

Words clearly failed him.

Me: What's wrong? You can't speak now?

He swallowed hard and his throat made an audible sound.

Dlomo: I had nothing to do with your old man's sudden passing. We both know, he had many enemies.

Me: And you just happen to not be one of those?

Dlomo: He's met with his match.

He smirked.

"You'd better look over your shouldereres Langa. I'm coming for you. And when I'm done. You're precious wife will sell for a very goo-"

I pinned him against the wall and looked very closely at him.

Me: You're touching a nerve now Dlomo. Don't you dare. I'm warning you. Nothing is stopping me from blowing your brains right now.

He chuckled.

Dlomi: Oh but you're wife does. You wouldn't risk loosing her now, would you.

Me: You're like a dark cloud that's hovering over me.

I let go of him.

He pulled his shirt and fixed it.

"I'll see you around"

Dlomo: We're not done here Langa. You destroyed me and robbed me of so much. You'd better sleep with one eye open mate.

Me: For you, I'll drink sleeping pills. Thanks for dinner.

I walked out to the dinning room and Sne wasn't there.

Mrs Dlomo was indulging on the food.

Me: You might want to go for acting auditions.
You're very good by the way.

She looked at me shocked.

"SNENHLANHLA! "

I shouted.

She came shortly.

Her: Baby.

Me: It's time to leave.

Her: But I was-

Me: Now Nhlanhla.

Her: Fine.

She took her stuff and we said our goodbyes to Amanda and Sizwe then we left.

The drive home was intense.

She was looking outside the window clearly mad.

Me: Why are you mad?

It was as though I gave her platform to vent. She turned immediately and looked at me.

Her: How could you be so selfish?

Me: I don't know what you're talking about.

Het: You don't know what I'm talking about?

She laugh lightly.

"Don't patronize me Langa."

Me: I'm not doing such and you might want to rephrain from using that tone with me.

Her: I'm MAD! Don't tell me how I'm supposed to act because I'm mad.

I looked at her briefly. She was really steaming.

Me: Well why are you mad then?

Her: Why would you ruin such a beautiful dinner?

I chuckled and shook my head in disbelief.

Me: I did no such. It was time to leave and the dinner

was over anyway. We ate, didn't we?

She kept quiet.

"Look Sne. You asked me to go with you to the stupid dinner and I did. What more would you want me to do?

Her: I didn't ask you to. I was going to go by myself.

Me: Then you clearly don't know me well If you think I'd let you go there all by yourself. Dlomo is dangerous. I'm drumming into your thick skull just so you'd finaly get it through but you don't. You're too sturbon. He doesn't have your best interest at heart.

Her: He's my father. You could have atleast tried to get along with him. I saw how you kept exchanging deadly looks across the table. How do you expect him to work things out with you if you're not willing to try?

Me: I give zero fucks about Dlomo. He can go jump to the nearest hell for all I care.

Her: Oh my God Ozithobile. Just shut up okay!

I turned to look at her and felt my body heating up.

I pulled over to the side and got out of the car.

We've never had such a heated argument before.

I needed air. She was driving me insane.

I rubbed my face in frustration and just stood there.

How do I tell her that her father killed mine?

Would she even believe me?

She's crazy if she thinks I'll let her delusions about having a perfect family with the Dlomo happen.

That son of a bitch has another thing coming.

I finally placated and got back inside the car and drove off in silence.

It was probably best.

We arrived at home and she went straight to bed and pulled the covers over her head.

She was crying.

Me: Baby. Can we talk please.

Her: Leave me alone.

I let out a sigh. Fuck!

Me: I don't want you to sleep with a heavy heart.

Her: Why do you care.

Me: Damn it Snenhlanhla! You're being childish.

She removed the covers off her head and turned to look at me.

Her: I am a child after all. Have you forgotten that?

Me: You know what? Whatever.

I stormed out and.

If it's space she needs, it's space she'll get. I'm sleeping in a different room.

Insert 33

(Unedited)

Narrated.

Sne stirred her eyes a few times and woke up to Ozi's side of the bed empty.

He was out of sight.

She sat upstraight and rubbed her eyes for a clearer view. He wasn't there indeed.

He did not sleep in their bedroom lastnight.

That cannot be good. She thought to herself. If there's anything she learned about her late parent's love life is that, when they slept in separate rooms it only meant one thing. Shit hit the fan and there was trouble in paradise.

The same was happening to her now and she knew it wasn't a good sign. She had to fix it before it got

out of hand.

She peeled the covers and kicked them off then rolled out of bed.

She wrapped her gown around and pushed her sleepers in and headed downstairs hoping to find Ozi but he wasn't there.

Mam Rose emerged from another room.

Mam Rose: Morning Mntanam.

Sne: Morning Mam Rose. Have you seen my husband?

Mam Rose: Ewe. He's already left for work.

She looked at the wall clock. It had just passed 7.

Why else would he go to work this early? Unless he's avoiding me. That thought crossed her mind.

She let out a sigh.

Sne: Okay. I'm going to shower. Please don't prepare breakfast for me.

With that said, she headed upstairs and showered.

She came down shortly and requested an uber.

She tried calling Ozi while waiting for her ride but he did not pick up.

Hhm!

She stopped calling after a couple of times with no luck and put the phone down.

She tapped her fingers on the table and twitched her bottom lip to the side.

Worry was filling her body.

The uber arrived and they drove to the Langa Construction offices.

She's never been there before.

The stuff only know her from images but they've never met her in person. She talked to Inathi a few times when she couldn't get hold on her husband but they never met.

She made her way into the front entrance and swayed her hips from side to side. Clicking her 10 inch stilettos on the ground.

As if her beauty and fashion sense did not demand attention enough, her expensive sweet smelling perfume filled the room and turned heads.

She got to the front desk and greeted Inathi who looked mesmerized by her beauty. Mthobisi, The intern's jaw was literally on the floor.

Sne: Goodmorning.

Inathi: Goodmorning. May I help you?

Mthobisi: I can help you actually. Gladly so.

He said stepping closer to her. Way too close he was crossing boundaries.

Sne stepped back and cleared her throat before focusing on Inathi again.

Sne: I'm looking for Mr Ozi Langa.

Inathi: Oh. Unfortunately He's not here at the moment. He went to the construction site.

Sne: It's fine. I'll wait in his office. Do you mind showing me?

Inathi: Do you have an appointment?

She said opening and perusing through her journal that was on the counter.

Sne: No. I don't.

Inathi: Then I'm sorry but no one's allowed in Mr Langa's office without him there. I'd say wait for him in the boardroom but you don't have an appointment either.

Mthobisi: Or I can just keep you busy while you wait.

He stepped closer again and looked down on Sne's cleavage that was out to play, and licked his lips.

Sne: Does your boss know this is how you harrass female visitors in this company? Especially if that visitor happens to be his wife?

Mthobisi flew back like he was blown away.

He scratched his head and looked away cursing under his breath.

Inathi: Oh my fucken God.

She quickly held her mouth to shut it.

"I'm sorry. You're Snenhlanhla? Thee Snenhlanhla?

How did I not catch your voice?

Sne: It's hard to in person babe.

Inathi: I'm so sorry for keeping you here. Come, I'll take you to Mr Langa's office.

Sne: Thank you.

Sne looked at Mthobisi briefly then clicked her heels again following Inathi to the elevator.

They got in Ozi's office shortly.

Inathi: Would you like anything to drink while you wait?

Sne: No thank you. I'm here to have breakfast with my husband actually.

She said taking off her coat and hanging it on the coat rack just behind the door then headed to the desk and put the Wimpy take away bag ontop.

Inathi: Okay. I'll just go back to my work station. I'll be there if you need anything.

Sne: Thank you Inathi but that would be all.

Inathi walked out closing the door behind.

Sne walked around with her eyes wandering around the office. Her eyes met with a picture of her sleeping face on a big sketchy portrait that was hanging on the wall direct to Ozi's desk and chair.

She motioned slowly towards it and ran her fingers on, smoothly admiring it.

It looked beautiful. If perfection existed!

Where did he get the pic? When did he take it?
Sneaky husband. She smiled.

The door swang open and she turned to face it.

Ozi walked, in overalls and a mining helmet on his head.

He puzzled for a moment when he saw her then stepped in and closed the door.

He obviously wasn't expecting to find his wife in his office.

Ozi: Hey.

He greeted heading to the couch to undress.

He did not look pleased at all.

Was it due his wife's sudden unannounced visit or because of what transpired last night?

Sne: Hey.

She moved away from the portrait and made her way to sit next to him.

"How are you?"

Ozi: I'm fine. How are you?

He finished undressing and getting dressed into his formal.

He stood up and walked to his desk. He swivelled down on his chair, put his glasses on and opened the laptop screen.

Sne: I'm fine.

There was an unsettling silence.

"Are you okay?"

She asked carefully.

Ozi: Yup.

He said not looking at her one bit.

Her heart broke and suddenly tears were threatening her eyes. He was clearly giving her a cold shoulder.

She swallowed the lump that was building up and cleared her throat.

Sne: Uhm. I thought I should bring you breakfast seeing that you left the house early.

Ozi: Thank you.

He was fidgeting on the laptop's keyboard like he was venting on it.

Sne sat down on the couch and started crying.

Ozi brought his gaze up and looked at her from above his glasses' frame.

Ozi: Why are you crying?

Sne sniffed and wiped the tears off.

She lifted her one shoulder to dismiss his question.

Ozi still had his gaze on her.

Ozi: You don't know why you're crying?

Sne: Why did you sleep in a different room?

Ozi: Because I thought it's what you needed. Is that why you're crying?

Sne: Why would you think I needed that?

He took off his glasses and placed them carefully on the desk.

Ozi: Because you were fuming. It wasn't good for neither of us.

Sne: So you thought sleeping in a different room will make things right?

He closed the laptop screen and leaned back on his seat.

Ozi: I don't know but it looked like the right thing to do at that time.

They remained silent.

"Is that all you care about? "

Sne: What?

Ozi: That I slept in a different room. Is that all you're concerned about right now?

She looked at her in confusion.

Sne: I'm not sure if I follow.

Ozi: Don't insult my intelligence Nhlanhla. We had a very heated argument last night and you're gonna sit there and patronize me?

Sne: I'm not patronising you. I'm asking so you'd elaborate further on what you mean. I don't want to assume.

He chuckled humorlessly then narrowed his intense gaze on her.

Ozi: Do me a favour, will you?

Sne: Okay...

Ozi: While you're busy trying to play happy family with your father, don't put my child's life at risk. Do not dare do anything that would threaten its life or you and I will have a problem. Do you understand a word I just said to you?

She blinked a few times then looked down and nodded.

"One more thing."

Sne looked at him.

"Please don't ever address me with that tone again.
It's very disrespectful."

She lowered her eyes and looked down and fiddled with her fingers.

He wasn't being polite at all.

Sne: I'm sorry. I was angry.

Ozi: With what precisely? For the fact that I'm trying to protect you from a man who's trying to use you to settle scores with me?

Sne: He's not that bad Ozi.

Ozi: Damn it Nhlanhla!

He banged his table and got up from his chair to stand next to the window and looked outside.

"He fucken killed my father."

His voice trembled down into a soft tone on that last part.

Sne had her mouth parted and was completely speechless.

"I can drum into your head and speak until I turn

blue in the face. You'd still not get it, will you?"

He turned to face her.

"What more do you want me to say to you Sne? Why don't you trust me? After everything I've done to prove to you that I'd do anything to protect you, you still choose not to trust me? Do I not deserve it? Is that it?"

Sne: No baby. You do.

Ozi: Then what is it? Did I give you a reason not to trust me even now?

She got up from the couch and walked to him.

She put her arms around his waist and looked up at him.

He had his hands buried in his pockets and looking down at her.

Sne: I'm confused. It's hard to draw a line from something that you don't even know. I trust you. Completely and I get that you're trying to protect me. But let me prove it myself that he's the person you're saying he is.

Ozi: Are you listening to yourself? You're playing with fire Snehlanhla. And you'll get burned. Dlomo is dangerous.

Sne: He's still my father.

Ozi unburried his hands and rubbed his head in frustration. How stubborn can one really be honestly? This woman is a hard nut to crack.

Ozi: You're so stubborn and It annoys the fuck out of me. I've never met anybody who presses on my nerves like you do. No one.

He moved away from her and sat down on the couch.

Sne: All I need you to do is be there for me.

Ozi rubbed his face. And didn't say anything back.

"I have to go to campus now. I'll see you later."

She grapped her stuff and attempted to walk out when he called her.

Ozi: Sne.

She turned.

"Make sure nothing happens to my child. I mean it."

She gave him a weak smile then walked out.

He formed a fist with his one hand and punched his palm with it.

Son of a bitch!

Sne had just finished with her classes and was walking on the pavement to a near store when a car was following her. She noticed it and stopped to look at it.

It would stop when she stops the drive when she walked.

Her heart started to race and she increased her pace but it was still on her tale. Her phone rang inside her back and she tried to take it out but she was too shaking to hold anything.

Her bag dropped to the floor.

She bend down and picked it up as fast as she could while still trying to reach for her phone.

She finally put her hands on it and took it out.

Ozi was calling.

She pressed and put it on her ear still walking fast.

Sne: Hello.

She was panting.

Ozi: Hey. Have you been running or something?

Sne: No. Uhm...there's a car that's following me.

Ozi: What? Where? Where are you?

Sne: I'm at...uhm...

Ozi: Snenhlanhla!

Sne: Just got out of campus.

Ozi: Can you see its registration?

She turned to look at the car. It was still following her.

Sne: Yes.

She called out the registration number to him.

Ozi: Go back to campus now.

Sne: I can't. I'm way too-

Ozi: Just do as I say for heaven sake. I'll be there just now. Do you hear me?

She: Okay.

The car screeched its wheels on the tar then sped off.

She held on her chest and took long deep breaths.

She continued to walk to the shop to buy a bottle of still water and bought time inside. She was afraid to go out.

Her phone rang after what seemed to be ages and she picked up.

Sne: Hey.

Ozi: Where are you?

Sne: By the store just before campus.

Ozi: What? What are you -

He paused and hung up.

He drove to the store and parked.

He walked inside and found her at the far back,

standing.

She saw him and walked towards.

Ozi: Do you ever listen? I said go back to the campus.
Do you think you're safe in here?

Sne: Not now please.

She walked passed him and he just stood there
watching her.

If I was to say he's pissed off right now I'd be
underestimating it.

He finaly regrouped and followed her out.

He unlocked and they both hopped in.

He looked at her and she just looked away.

Ozi: Just what is it that you're trying to prove here
Snenhlanhla? That you're tough?

She looked at him.

Sne: I'm fine now. Thanks for asking!

He tighten his teeth and squeezed his eyes shut.

How do we panish women again?

He ignited the car engine and drove off.

Sne: I'd like some hot wings please.

Ozi: From which restaurant?

Sne: Chicken Licken.

Ozi: Okay.

They drove to Silverlakes mall and they parked.

"There's no drive through. I'll just go in quickly. You coming?"

Sne: No. I'll stay. Please bring ice cream.

He looked at her and smiled.

Ozi: That's all?

Sne: Yes.

Ozi: You're sure?

Sne: Yes baby.

She giggled.

Ozi: Okay. Stay put. I'll be back just now.

He leaned forward and kissed her lips then got off.

He made his way to Chicken Licken when he recognised the registration number of the car Sne gave him. It was parked.

He made his way to it but the owners were not there.

He walked to Chicken Licken and placed his order then stood next to the door and watched closely at the car.

Two men with a woman stood next to it and looked like they were discussing something before going to their separate ways.

He tighed his grip on the keys and shook his head.

How stupid can one really be?

They called his order, he took it and headed back.

He found Sne dozzed off.

He shook her then she woke up.

Ozi: Feed your cravings.

Sne: Oh thank you baby. That was quick.

He laugh.

Ozi: You dozed off. How would you know?

She shrugged and licked her ice cream.

He put the car on gear and drove past where the suspicious car was parked.

He looked inside it and the owner wore a scrunched-up face when he saw them.

Sne was too focused on her ice cream, she didn't even see it.

They drove home and Sne threw herself on a couch and indulged on her wings while Ozi went to his office to make a phone call.

She picked up almost immediately.

Meagan: Hey lover boy.

Ozi: Just what the hell are you playing at Meagan?

She chuckled.

Meagan: I like it when you're frustrated. Listen...im at a hotel. I can help you release. I know how much you want to.

He hung up on leaned agaisnt the wall and shut his

eyes.

Insert 34

(Unedited)

Ozithobile Langa.

I arrived at the office and called Lwazi to come over.

After what seemed like a while, he walked in oozing with confidence.

Lwazi: Eta. I came as soon as I could.

He sat on the opposite chair direct to mine.

Me: What did you do to Meagan?

He blinked a few times and rubbed his chin.

Him: What do you mean? Did something happen?

He was looking nervous and I could tell by his body language. He was uneasy.

Me: That's exactly what I'm asking Lwazi. One minute Meagan disappears and we never hear from her again. Then the next she just reappears from the

surface of the earth. Did you not kill her?

Lwazi: Did you want me to?

I cleared my throat and shifted uncomfortably in my seat.

Me: You know what I mean. I thought you said I must back off and that you'll take care of it. What did you mean by that?

Lwazi: Well, I kinda made her go away for a while to get over you.

Me: And you thought that would make her stay away?

Him: She's never bothered you or our wife now, did she?

I got up from my seat and went to pour a drink.

Me: She's back in town. From...wherever you made her go.

I gave him a glass of scotch and sat on the desk.

Him: She's what? I made her promise not to come back and she did.

Me: Did you think she'd listen to you? What did you

promise her?

Him: Nothing. I told her I didn't want to have to deal with her harshly for her to get stay away.

Me: Why did you not just kill her?

He scratched his head and downed his drink.

Him: She's a woman.

I chuckled and shook my head.

Me: That's nonsense. Mercy was a woman too but that didn't stop you from killing her now, did it? Just what am I missing here Lwazi?

Him: Nothing man. I just have a soft spot for her. I'd hate to kill somebody who once become so close to us like she didn't mean nothing. I mean, should Sne betray you, would you want her killed?

Me: Sne is my wife and she's carrying my child.

Meagan does not come close to what Sne means to me. And this isn't about her. Meagan is dangerous. More dangerous now that Sne is pregnant.

He looked at me with remorse.

"What do you think will happen when she finds out that we're expecting? That's if she hasn't yet and that's the reason she's back in town. Damn it!"

I walked to stand next to the window.

I did not even touch my drink.

Him: Do you think she might do something stupid?

I let out a sigh.

Me: She called me last night...

I paused.

"I actually called her after a car she's been riding in was on Sne's tail yesterday."

I turned to face him.

"Live it to me this time okay. I'll take care of it myself."

Him: What are you going to do with her?

Me: I don't know.

I was right.

I hold no idea what I'm going to do with Meagan. I

promised to never play that game again. I've got one last bullet for Dlomo's head and that's it. No more killings. Now I'm cornered and I don't know what to do.

Him: Call me if you don't have the guards.

I looked at him in disbelief and he walked out.

I made a phone call and she picked up.

Meagan: Lover boy.

Me: Hi Meagan. Are you at your place?

Her: No. I'm at campus.

I felt my insides turn. She's back to work already?

Me: Uhm...can we meet at your place when you're free?

Her: I can skip my lectures for you.

Me: Now?

Her: I'm walking out already. I'll see you there.

Me: Sure.

I hung up and took my drink and downed it at one go

then walked out.

I parked outside her complex and got out of the car.

She arrived shortly and hooted.

I hopped back in and drove shortly after her.

We walked in and as soon as I closed the door behind, she attacked me with a kiss.

I gave in and we kissed.

Her: I missed you.

She said smilling against my lips.

She unbuttoned my shirt and I pulled away braking the kiss.

Me: That shouldn't have happened.

Her: Come on. I know you miss me just as much as I missed you.

She motioned slowly towards me biting her bottom lip

She wrapped her arms around my neck and wrapped her leg on my waist and kissed me again.

I resisted and untangled her hands.

She let out a frustrated sigh.

I walked passed her to sit down on a chair.

"What do you want?"

Me: I need you to stay away from me and my wife.

Her eyes widened in shock.

She didn't know?

Her: Your what?

She chuckled nervously.

"You're not married to her."

Me: I paid full dowry. We're literally married.

Her: That means nothing. It can still be changed.

Me: I don't want it changed. I love her Meagan. The sooner you accept that, the better. Please.

Her: No. We still have a chance. She's just a rebound and I know you used her just to get back at me baby but we can still fix this.

She was touching me again.

Me: No Meagan. She was never a rebound and I had gotten over you already. My intentions about her were pure from the get go.

Her: No Ozi. You love me. Not her, but me.

Me: Don't you have some pride left in you Meagan? Walk away while you still can. I do not love you anymore.

She blinked repeatedly looking at me.

I gave zero fucks about how she feels right now.

Her: Did you ever love me?

I chuckled.

Me: That's ridiculous. You're the one who fucked up. Not me. So don't you dare.

Her: And I'm trying to make things right by you baby. Please.

Me: Meagan stop. My future lays with Sne. We're starting a family and I don't need you standing in the way of that. You had your chance.

Her: She's pregnant?

I looked at her blankly.

I did not know how to answer to that.

Me: Yes. So ple-

She pulled off the wig on her head and threw it on the floor.

We looked at each other man to man.

"Have you lost it?"

Her: Do you know how many times I tried to conceive for you?

I raised my eyebrows.

"Do you know how I felt when the Gynecologist told me I'm barren and I that I could never bear kids?"

She started to whimper.

Me: I did not know because you never told me. And I'm sorry that you went through that.

Her: Do you know how much I spend on treatment just to prove her wrong and carry your child? Going from one Gyna to another hoping there's hope but nothing.

Me: Why did you not tell me all this? I could have been there for you.

She chuckled and looked at her with glassy eyes.

Her: Because I didn't want you to think I wasn't woman enough for you.

I rubbed my face in frustration.

Me: When did I ever make you feel like you weren't good enough in all the time we've been together Meagan?

Her: Not even once but-

Me: But you just felt the need to keep things from me? Your partner? We were in it together for fuck sakes. But you decided to have a relationship with me based on dishonesty and you were hoping it will work?

Her: I did this for you Ozi.

Me: No. You did this for yourself. And then you went and cheated.

I looked at her.

"It was never going to last. Please leave us alone Meagan. And don't try and do anything stupid because I'll be compelled to forget that you once meant something to me."

Her: Ozi wait.

I walked out and banged the door.

I heard her scream and shortly there was sound of things braking.

I paused for a while battling with the thought of going back and make sure she's okay but it's probably best that I just leave.

I arrived at the office and my phone rang just as I was settling down.

I answered and put it on speaker.

Me: Hello champ.

Banzi: Tune in to news channel right now. That Dlomo guy just got arrested.

Me: What?

I quickly tuned the T.V. that was mounted on the wall on and Dlomo was handcuffed and being taken away by the Hawks.

'Notorious gangster and Drug dealer Menzi Dlomo just got arrested after being investigated long and hard by the officials. Dlomo's truck as you can see behind me, was found with vulnerable boys between the ages of 7 and 15. It is allegedly that the notorious Dlomo who is a former employee of the Langa Construction, is not only involved in the drug dealings with a certain Russian gang but he's also human trafficking in exchange for money and sexual pleasure. The Hawks got a tip off during the early hours of this morning about his plans to traffic these young boys to Cape Town and they've conducted a road block just outside of town. A lot will be revealed later. This is Thabiso Mamabolo reporting to you live from Cape Town.'

What the hell!

I rose up from my chair and punched the desk. Son of a bitch!

I paced up and down in my office when Inathi barged in.

Inathi: Sir did you -

Me: Not now Inathinkosi. Close the door behind.

She walked out puzzled and shutting the door.

You might have escaped death Dlomo but you're not off the hook. Nothing will stop me from sliting your throat. Not even jail cells or prison walls.

I continued pacing up and down drifted away with my thoughts when the phone rang.

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

I called him and it rang for a while until he picked up.

Ozi: Uhm...hi baby.

Me: please come fetch me.

Him: Right now?

Me: Yes man Ozi. Right now!

Him: Okay I'm coming.

I hung up and put it down.

I wiped the tears that were running down my cheeks
and couldn't even continue to eat.

It's not nice experiencing your father getting arrested.
Worse on T.V.

I had just sat down and started eating when the
canteen T.V. volume went up and I raised my eyes to
only see him in handcuffs.

Maybe after all Ozi was right about this man.

I mean the allegations against him aren't palatable at
all.

What kind of a monster is he prying on young
vulnerable boys like that.

He needs deliverance.

I need to apologise to my husband. He was right.

I got up and took my things.

Just as I turned, I bumped into someone.

I raised my head up and nearly succumbed stroke.

I felt cold chills travel down my spine and my insides turn into knots.

I looked at her as she looked at me with a none expression face and I swallowed hard.

Me: Mea....Meagan. Hi.

I wiped my tears with a thumb and she was just looking at me.

She looked absent minded and exhausted. More like a zombie.

"I didn't realise you were back in town."

She smiled.

Her: Did your husband not tell you?

She tilted her head and followed the direction of mine as I looked away.

"Oopsie! He's already keeping secrets from you."

I looked at her and held my books close to my chest.

Me: You have no idea what you're talking about.

She chuckled.

Her: Who are you trying to convince sweetheart?

Hmm? Me?

I shrugged one shoulder

"Please buy him something sweet for his lips. They tasted dry and cold this morning."

I felt heat build up on my body and I looked at her one last time before storming out.

"Take it easy on the stress sweetheart. It's not good for the baby."

She laugh and I walked fast almost stumbling down.

My books and phone fell on the ground and I kneeld down trying to pick them up.

A warm hand touched mine and I looked up, he had a warm smile plastered on his face.

He wiped my tear drop with his thumb.

Guy: Can I help you with those?

I just nodded.

We picked the books and both rose up.

Me: Thanks.

He just smiled and nodded back.

I walked away to find Ozi's car parked.

I fumed.

I opened the door and got in banging it.

I folded my arms across my chest and looked at him.

Ozi: Hi my love.

Is he gonna act like he doesn't see that I'm mad?

Me: Take me home.

Him: Don't you want wings and ice cream today?

I gave him a don't you dare stare.

He raised his hands to surrender and drove off.

He stole glances at me then shortly broke the silence.

"How was your day?"

Me: I'll tell you when we get home.

He placed his hand on my belly and brushed it then

smiled.

"When is he going to start kicking?"

Me: between the 16th and the 25th weeks.

Him: When is that?

Me: Next month.

Him: please let me know as soon as he kicks.

Me: It's a she and yes I will.

He looked at me and chuckled.

Him: Are pregnancy mood swings catching up with you Sthandwasam?

I shot at him and he just smiled amused.

"Did I tell you how beautiful you look each day?"

Me: Psm!

Him: And I'm crazy inlove with you mama ka still coming.

A smile creped out and I killed it fast.

He rested his hand on my belly and we drove in silence.

We arrived after a while and made our way in.

I walked straight to the bedroom and he followed me shortly.

Him: We need to talk.

Me: Yes we do.

He looked at me and blinked then sat down next to me.

Him: Ohkay...do you want to go first?

Me: Where were you this morning?

Him: I was at the office. Why?

I looked at him.

Me: Don't patronize me Ozi. Did you not leave the office at all this morning?

He cursed under his breath.

Him: I did.

We looked at each other.

"I went to see Meagan. But it's not what you think it is"

Me: Why did you go see her?

Him: I needed to tell her to stay away from you...from us.

Me: When did you find out she was back?

He scratched the back of his head.

Him: I called her last night.

I widened my gaze at him.

"No wait...the car that was on your tail yesterday I saw it at the mall and it was her with some other two guys. So I called to check why she was back."

Me: And you're only telling me now? When I slept with you on the same bed?

Him: Come on baby. You're forever ticked off lately. It can't be good for the baby.

Me: What happened when you got there?

Him: Am I being interrogated?

Me: What happened when you got there Ozi?

Him: We spoke.

Me: Was that before or after you kissed?

His gaze widened.

Him: Did you bump into her or something? Because whatever it is that she told you it's lies.

Me: Why are you being defensive?

Him: I'm not. But I know how twisted she is. She came on to me and not the other way round.

Me: So you did kiss?

Him: Baby come on...

Me: I'm moving out.

I got up and headed to the en suit. He followed me.

Him: What? That's ridiculous Nhlanhla.

Me: I don't need you to stop me. I'm tired and drained from everything. My father just got arrested and you're sneaking around behind my back.

Him: I'm not sneaking baby. I did not do anything wrong apart from going to see Meagan without telling you.

Me: I need space. I can't trust you. For all I know, you could be the one who got the cops on Dlomo's tail landing him to jail.

Him: Oh I wish I did. But prison isn't where I want him. I want him six feet under.

I turned to look at him, his face had changed immediately.

Me: You must be happy now that he's behind bars.

Him: Snenhlanhla.

I continued to pack my suitcase.

He walked out.

I finished packing stuff that I'll need for now and headed downstairs.

He came down shortly and placed his credit card on the table.

"I don't want to fight you. But if this is what you really want then I won't stop you."

He walked upstairs and I felt my heart wrench. I regretted pulling this stupid stunt. I'm not safe out

there by myself and with Meagan being back, only God knows what she'd do.

I wanted to follow him upstairs but my pride didn't let me.

I called an uber and waited outside hoping Ozi will come beg me to stay but he didn't.

I cried while waiting for it.

It arrived soon and I hopped in.

Driver: Where to ma'dam?

Me: Acadia.

Yup...I'm going back to my flat.

He drove off and I saw Ozi through the glass window upstairs looking at the car.

I sank deep on the car seat and wept.

Insert 35

(Unedited)

-Snenhkanhla Khumalo.

The uber dropped me by my flat and I dragged my luggage and walked in still crying. I unlocked and was welcomed by the meldwe smell of the flat from not being opened for weeks. I haven't been here since I moved in with Ozi. And when he asked me what was I gonna do with it, I said I'll keep it for rainy days. And now, here I am...facing raining days in my premature days of marriage.

I dropped the luggage down and opened windows for some fresh breeze.

I went on to open the cupboards and fridge and they were emptier than a bankers heart. Only a water bottle was there but it was also empty.

I let out a sigh and dragged the luggage upstairs to my room. The bed was still neatly done like I was

hardly out of sight.

I sat down and took my phone to call Amanda, she did not answer.

I undressed and put on an oversized t-shirt and shorts and I wrapped my afro.

I headed back downstairs and played Jacaranda on full blust.

I kinda felt a sense of relaxation. A lot was going on in my life lately and it was weighing down on me. I needed to be alone. Even if it's just for one night.

I spring cleaned the flat and after a while it smelled and looked like home again. I inhaled on the fragrance of Glade air freshener then exhaled.

Time was 8 P.M and I decided to order in since there's nothing to cook in this place.

I placed an order online for Dros' famous grilled Pork chop served with Apple mousse and onion rings. I asked for a salad and Sir juice on the side then I went to shower quick.

I came down shortly wearing my P.Js underneath

and wrapped with a gown.

There was a knock on the door and I went to attend to it. It was my food delivery.

I tipped the guy then took my food that I was already drooling over and went to dish up.

I took the trey and went to the living room and watched 'If Loving you is wrong'.

I digged in and indulged on my food untill my stomach hurt.

I took the empty trey back to the Kicken and washed the dishes quick.

The door knop turned and I jumped for the frying pan that was hanging on the hanger.

The person tried to push it open but it was locked. I stood there ready with my pan.

A key was inserted and it turned. The door pushed open and he walked in tall.

I sighed.

Me: Ozi! You nearly gave me a fright.

He raised his eyebrows and looked at the pan in my hands.

I looked at it too and cleared my throat.

"Never mind this."

I chuckled nervously then hung it back.

He chuckled and shook his head.

Him: What were you gonna do with that?

Me: I wanted to prepare some eggs but I changed my mind.

Him: Hmm.

I suddenly felt embarrassed about what happened earlier. I cleared my throat.

Me: What are you doing here?

He narrowed his eyes and looked at me with hands burried in his pockets.

Ozi: I came to make sure you're okay, judging from how you left earlier.

Me: Oh.

Ozi: listen Sne, I can't stay away from you, even if I want to. We're married and you can't just up and leave whenever things don't go ideal for you.

Me: Those things can be avoided and I didn't just up and leave. I told you I needed space.

He sighed.

Him: Who did you think was on the door?

I looked at him, he looked dead serious.

Me: I thought it was an intruder.

Ozi: Were you gonna use the pan for your protection?

Me: Yes.

Ozi: That means you're aware that you're not safe here baby. Why do you have to be so stubborn though?

I went to sit down and he followed me.

Me: I did not appreciate what you did and I still don't. My father just got arrested and you're supposed to be there for me but you weren't. You went to Meagan instead.

Him: I did not go to Meagan just for the fun of it okay.

And that was before I could learn that Dlomo got arrested. And I'm sorry but I warned you against him. If you did not yearn to get so close to him, maybe you wouldn't hurt this much right now.

Me: Wow. That's very classic.

He raised his eyebrow.

"Okay I'm sorry."

Him: you're very disrespectful.

Me: I'm sorry baby. For leaving the house either.

I said with a pouted mouth.

Ozi: I'd never cheat on you my love. I don't know how I can make you believe that but I won't do you like that.

Me: I believe you.

He smiled.

Him: you do?

Me: Yes.

He licked his lips.

Him: That's enough for me.

Me: Do you want us to go home?

Him: No. Let's sleep here tonight. We'll go tomorrow.

Me: Okay but I need Ice cream.

He grinned.

Him: I can go get you a tin roof container if you like.

I laugh.

Me: And Wings?

He looked around sniffing then narrowed his gaze on me.

Him: I smell food in here though. Did you not just eat?

I bust into laughter.

Me: I did. But now I want hot wings.

Him: Are they even healthy for the baby since they're so hot?

Me: I think they are. Otherwise she wouldn't crave for them this much.

He laugh humorlessly throwing his head back.

Him: So you're not the one craving?

Me: Nope.

Him: How is he?

I shook my head and looked at him. He's very adamant that it's a boy. So I'm just gonna let him be.

Me: He's good baby. Now let's go buy those goodies.

Him: No you're staying. I'll go quick. I also need a beer.

Me: As long as you'll come back with my goodies.

Him: let me dash then.

He jumped off and came to kiss me.

"Do not move an inch. I'll be back just now, okay."

He brushed my tummy and I giggled then he jogged out.

I honestly don't know who I'm fooling because I really love this man. With my mind body and soul. He's my happy place.

The door swang open.

Me: Do you want your credit card alre-

I turned and froze. I wanted to scream but I was too shocked to utter anything.

They charged towards me and before I could scream, they covered my nose with a cloth and it was lights out.

I peeled my eyes open and blinked a few times. The light was too bright. Or was it too close to me?

I wandered my eyes around this place, it looks like a private hospital ward.

I had flashes of the dream I had the other day and my body cringed instantly at the fear.

It wasn't just a dream after all. I had hoped and prayed that it was but here I am. Releaving it. Accept, I am not chained down this time. I lifted my hand to see if the ring was still in my finger and I sighed in relief as it glittered back at me.

I felt very numb from whatever that I enhaled. My head was pounding and my throat was dry.

I tried to get up when the door opened.

In walked a white male looking doctor.

He came over to my bed and looked down on me.

Man: Hello.

I looked at him and nodded.

"How are you feeling?"

Me: Do I kn-

My throat was too dry for my voice to be audible.

He poured me water and helped me drink it.

"Thank you."

He nodded.

"Do I know you from somewhere?"

He moved his gaze away and avoided making eye contact with me.

I looked at him carefully and it registered. He's the guy who helped me with my books earlier.

"Who are you? And where am I? "

Man: Listen...You hav-

The door swang open and in walked the devil's agent.
Or should I say the devil herself.

The guy stepped back from my bed and greeted her.

Meagan: Leave us. I'll call you shortly for your job.

He nodded and walked out.

She came and stood next to my bed.

Meagan: You know, there can only be one true queen
that reighs supreme. And right now, by the look of
things, you're just not the one who holds that power
Unfortunately.

She took my hand and slid the ring off my finger.

I tried to fight her but I was too numb.

She lifted it close to the light and it glittered.

She kissed it then slid it on to her matrimonial finger.

"What a perfect fit."

She looked down on me again with the most
disgusted and wicket look on her face.

"Did you think I'd walk away forever and let you keep what's mine?"

I've never met anybody as wicket as this woman before. Not even aunt Nosi. Her eyes are sparkling with fire. She looks very thirsty for my blood.

Me: What did I ever do to you Meagan?

I couldn't even cry. I don't know how but somehow I just hoped my man will save me before anything bad could happen.

Her: I can drum into your head all night long, you'd still not get it. I love him Snenhlanhla. Very much. I cannot live without him. I'm sure you'd understand that this isn't personal.

Me: Whatever happened to you Meagan? You're sick man and you need help.

She chuckled.

Her: I gave up trying to get help honey. The only medicine for me is Ozi.

Me: You don't love him. That's not love Meagan. You're obsessed and you should seek help.

Her: You'd do the same if you were me. Trust me.

Me: I'm nothing like you. And if you love him like you claim you do, you'd let him go. Just let him follow his heart.

Her: And that's supposed to be you?

Me: He loves me. And we're about to start a family. Doesn't that mean anything to you?

Her: SHUT UP!

She held her head frantically like she couldn't handle the sound of that.

"You bring out the worst in me little girl"

She looked at me one last time before she called out a name.

"Mike!"

The door opened and the guy peeked through.

"It's time."

He nodded and disappeared.

He came back pushing a tray full of operational

scissors and knives.

I felt my heart drop to be pit of my stomach.

I held on to my belly and squeezed my eyes shut.

Mike: I can't operate her with you here. You need to leave.

Her: Don't tell me what to do Mike. I pay you.

Mike: I know that and that's precisely why you chose me. I come highly recommended. Now please, leave. I'll call you once this is over.

Her: I'll be outside.

She looked at me.

"No mercy here. Do what you're paid to do."

With that said, she walked out.

He went over to lock the door and came back to stand next to my bed.

I looked at him and pleaded with my eyes.

There's something about how he looks at me that I couldn't comprehend.

He brushed my hair still gazing deep into my eyes.

Mike: You're so beautiful.

I looked at him and blinked. Oh dear lord. I hope he's not gonna try and have his way with me.

Me: Mike...

I said pleading.

"Is it okay if I call you that?"

He nodded.

Isn't he much of a talker or he's just nervous?

"I don't know you and you have no reason to defy her but please don't do this. I'm begging you."

He put his index finger on my lips to shut me up.

Him: Shhhh. I'm not gonna hurt you.

Me: Huh?

Him: Listen, when I bumped into you earlier, I felt very foreign. I got very drawn to you. I didn't know you were the patient I was going to operate on tonight.

Me: You knew?

Him: I just knew I had a gig tonight but I didn't know it would be you.

I didn't know what to say. I'm a total stranger to him.
Why would he want to save me unless...

I looked at him with my lips parted.

Me: Are you falling inlove with me?

Him: What's your name?

Me: Snenhlanhla. Sne will be betty since-

Him: Since I'm white. I get it.

He chuckled.

"Listen Sne. I'm gonna try and find a way to get you out of here unharmed okay?"

Me: How? You have to be careful or she'll kill me.

Him: I won't let such happen to you.

I couldn't fathom what was going on here. This white man doesn't even know me, yet he's getting himself on the firing line just for a random person like myself.

He's hired to operate on me or whatever it is that he does and yet he's here planning on helping me escape. What a twist of fate.

"I'm gonna need you to stay calm okay?"

I nodded my head repeatedly.

He opened his medicine case and came up with an injection.

He walked towards the door and stood behind it then unlocked.

He called out on Meagan and she came in.

Her eyes wandered around looking for him before he stabbed her on the shoulder with the injection and she collapsed on the floor.

He jumped her and came over to me.

"Can you move?"

I shook my head no.

He closed his case quick and pulled and scooped me up.

We walked out.

I was still too numb and dizzy to register my surroundings.

We got to his car and he put me in the backseat before jogging to the otherside and hopped in.

He brought his car engine to life.

He looked at me on the rear view mirror briefly.

Me: Please call my husband to come take me.

Him: No. It's too late. I'll take you to my place.

Me: Mike please.

Him: I won't hurt you Sne. Trust me okay?

I sank on my seat and closed my eyes.

God...why do I keep attracting trouble? What did I do to deserve such a series of events?!

He drove off and I just gave up trying to convince him otherwise.

The sun stung my eyes as I peeled them open.

I was surrounded by black walls.

I kicked the covers off and sprang on my feet.

I looked at the door and battled with the thought of going out before I gathered some strength.

I went over and turned the door knob and it allowed me.

I walked out not knowing where I was going untill I found myself in a kicken. A masculine type of kicken but beautuful.

He had his back on me cracking shells of eggs.

I cleared my throat and he turned to look at me and flashed a smile.

Wow. He's very adorable.

Him: Goodmorning.

He wiped his hands and adjusted the heat then came to me.

I just remained gloed to the ground.

He placed a soft peck on my cheek and observed my face.

"How are you feeling? Did you sleep well?"

Me: Yes. But...

At this point, I was very sceptical about asking to go home. I don't even know this man. For all I know, he could be dangerous himself.

"I...I want to go home."

He frowned.

Him: So quick? You haven't even had breakfast yet.

I looked at him. He looked genuine. Or am I too trusting?!

"Come, it will be ready soon. The baby has to eat you know."

Me: Why are you doing this Mike?

Him: What? Preparing you breakfast? It's an important meal of a day. And as a doctor, I can't let you skip it. Not when you're pregnant.

He's avoiding my question and I'm intrigued.

He turned to finish with breakfast and I was just standing there looking at him.

He even whistled. Like I was not in his space. This

man!

He dished up and set the table nicely then came over to me.

"Come now. Take a seat."

He took my hand and I followed his lead.

We sat down and began to eat.

Suddenly I got so emotional and started to cry.

He came over to my seat and comforted me.

"It's okay."

Me: I want to go home.

Him: You will. All in good time.

I turned to look at him and wiped my tears off.

Me: No. I want to go now Mike. I appreciate that you saved my life and that of my child but let me go now please.

Him: Why are you portraying me as this bad person now?

Me: Why did you not just take me home when I

asked you to last night?

He gazed at me with his blue eyes and attempted to kiss me.

I pushed him back and got off from the chair.

"What the hell do you think you're doing?"

He stuck his tongue out and moistened his lips and brushed the back of his head.

Him: I'm sorry about that. Let's sit down and eat our breakfast, please.

I looked at him and he pleaded.

We both sat down and we ate in silence.

He stole glances here and there.

Him: I'm sorry okay?

I just eyed him and continue to indulge. The food was nice and I was starving so...

Insert 36

(Unedited)

Narrated.

She looked at her wrist and realised her bracelet is gone.

This explains why Ozi hasn't found her yet.

Have you ever been at a mercy of a total stranger?

Sne found herself in a dilemma having to beg this man for freedom without coming across as ungrateful because at this point, she has to beg for her way out. It wasn't going to be easy for Ozi to find her now that he couldn't track her whereabouts. But she wanted to get out of here...before this odd man does something she can't begin to bring herself to think about.

She was also sick worried about what Ozi might be

going through with her missing.

Sne: Mike.

He turned to look at her and smiled.

Him: Do you need anything?

He wiped his hands that were dripping of water and leaned against the sink.

Sne: How about taking me home now?

Him: I thought you enjoyed my company.

He smirked.

Sne: What games are you playing here Mike? I wanna go home. My husband must be worried sick about me.

He motioned towards her and squated down next to her chair.

Him: What about me?

She looked at him puzzled.

Sne: What about you?

Him: I love you Sne. What am I supposed to do with

myself now that I've experienced what it felt like having you here.

She looked at him with disbelief.

Sne is a very attractive woman. Young, active and appetizing. Mike couldn't help but fall deep inlove with her. All this was also foreign and overwhelming for him to fall head over heels inlove with a starnger but here he was, love sick like a puppy.

Sne: I'm married and pregnant Mike. How can you possibly think we could date?

Mike: I wouldn't mind raising that child. And whatever money he paid for your wedding, I can return every cent to him.

She chuckled lightly and rested her head on the table burring it with her hands.

Sne: I do not love you Mike. I don't even know you.

Mike: I'll make you fall inlove with me. Give me a chance beautiful.

Sne: No! I LOVE HIM. ONLY HIM. NOW TAKE ME HOME YOU PSYCHO!

He grinded his teeth and surpassed the anger that was building up.

Mike: Fine!

He took out his phone from his pocket and threw it on the table.

"There! Call your husband to come fetch you then."

She looked at him reluctant not knowing if he was pulling a stunt or not.

"Take it before I change my mind Sne."

She quickly grabbed it looking at him before dialing Ozi's numbers.

It rang literally just once and he answerd.

Ozi: Ozi Langa.

Sne: Baby. Please come fetch me.

She said looking at Mike who was looking outside the window.

Ozi: Oh my goodness Sthandwa sam. Ukuphi (where are you)? Are you okay? Is the baby fine? We've been searching for you all night. Where are you?

Sne: I...uhm...wait.

She looked at Mike again.

"Where is this place mike?"

Mike without even looking at her, gave her the address.

She put the phone back on her ear and gave Ozi the address just as she was told.

Ozi: I'll be there as soon as I can okay, baby? Stay strong sthandwa sam. Are you still okay?

She nodded but remembered he doesn't see him.

Sne: Yes. I'm fine.

She didn't want to hang up and wished she could stay on the phone with him until he arrived but Mike eyed her and she had to say her goodbyes.

"Please hurry."

Ozi: No wait-

She hung up and placed the phone back on the table.

Sne: Thank you.

Mike: You're welcome.

He looked at her.

"Don't you wanna bath or shower before you leave?"

She shook her head no.

Sne: I'll be fine.

He walked to her and came very close, they were breathing the same air.

Mike: I'll wait for you. I'm a very patient man.

Sne: There's nothing to wait on Mike. Stop this obsession about me already. Please.

He smirked and brushed her cheek with a thumb and leaned forward to kiss her but the phone rang.

He bit his lower lip and reached out for it.

He pressed and put it on his ear.

Mike: Yes?...Let him in.

He put it back on the counter and stepped back.

"Your man is here. He doesn't waste time now, does

he?"

She looked at him.

"Loosen up now. We don't want him to think I wasn't good to you now, do we?"

She gave him a weak smile and the door bell rang.

He looked at her.

"Remember what I said. I'll wait for you."

Then he went to attend to it.

He opened the door and his gaze widened in shock.

"Ozi Langa. This is a surprise."

Ozi: Michael White. What are you doing here man?

Ozi was just as surprised to see Mike on the door after such a long time they haven't seen each other since Harvard. He was happy to see him. But that happiness died down when he remembered the actual reason why he was here.

Mike: I work here now my friend.

Mike remembered he did not invite him in and

quickly came back to his senses.

"Oh. Where are my manners. Please come in."

He stepped aside making way for Ozi to come in.

He saw his wife and ran to hold her like he didn't want her out of sight anymore. She held on him too for dear life.

Mike swallowed hard and immediately felt uneasy.

The couple let go of each other and Ozi observed her wife.

Ozi: Are you okay baby?

Sne: Yes. All thanks to Mike.

He turned to look at him then redirected his focus back at her again.

Ozi: What happened?

Mike: Uhm...actually, It's a long story. We'll need beers for that.

Ozi suddenly felt heat building up on his body and he still looked at his wife intensely.

Ozi: What happened baby?

He dismissed Mike and did not acknowledge him one bit right now.

Sne started to cry and he took her back in his embrace and comforted her.

He gave Mike an intense questioning look. And Mike looked away.

He realised just how much he messed up. And if he knew sooner who Sne belonged to, he'd turn back the clock and take her home right away. He knows Ozi too well and he's not someone you want to fuck with.

Mike: I'll give you guys space.

Ozi: There's no need for that. We're leaving.

Mike: I thought we'll catch up or something.

Ozi: Now's not a good time mate. I have to take my wife home.

Mike nodded.

Ozi lifted his wife's chin with his index finger and

wiped her tears gazing deep into her eyes.

Ozi: I'm trully sorry. I shouldn't have left you there alone.

Sne: You didn't know baby. It's not your fault.

He kissed her forehead and curved his arm to hug her from side.

She rested her head on his chest and he turned to face Mike.

Ozi: I'll see you later mate. Thanks for keeping her safe.

He looked at him and Mike was already shaking in his boots. He gave him a weak smile and nodded his head.

Mike: Sure. Later.

Ozi nodded.

Sne stole a glance at Mike who wouldn't risk looking at her.

He regretted everything that happened but he was still madly inlove with her. The one thing apart from

Ozi, that he was worried sick about was how was he going to continue living life like he did not meet such a phenomenal woman whom he can't even have because she's married to his friend.

Sne: Bye Mike. And thank you so much.

Mike: By-bye Sne.

They walked out and he cursed under his breath.

The couple arrived home and Ozi was heating up. For everything at this moment. He was mad that his wife defyed and put her life and that of their unborn child in danger by moving out of the house. Don't even mension her ending up at Mike's place who didn't even know he was in town. But he loves her. Deeply and wholy. At this point, his love for her had to take priority and make him placate, fast.

He tried by all means to suppress his anger.

Ozi: I'll run you a warm nice bath, okay?

She raised her ashamed eyes from the ground and looked at him. He had his lips pressed together from

anger.

She knew him too well to know that he was fury mouted. She went over to stand next to him and faced down.

Sne: I'm really sorry for being stubborn and risking with my life.

Him: You put our unborn child's life in danger. Even when I asked you politely not to. Don't even get me started with yours because I'm honestly angry right now baby.

His voice was calm, deep yet stern.

She lifted her gaze from her fiddling fingertips to look at him. He had such an intense look on his face that his eyes were blood shot and his vains were popping out.

Sne: I apologies for my behavior. I promise to take more control of my emotions.

Ozi: I searched all night for you. Do you know how scared I was when I couldn't track you down? Not even having a clue of where I'd find you? My brothers

and are turned the whole city upside down looking but there was nothing. I had lost hope that I'd find you alive.

Sne: I don't know what happened to my bracelet. They must have slid it off when they took me.

Ozi: How did you end up at Mike's place.

Sne: Meagan hired him to operate me so they'd kill the baby.

Ozi's mood hit the roof. He spun around in frustrations.

"I had bumped into Mike earlier at the canteen and when he realised I was the patient he was supposed to operate on, he couldn't do it. So he helped me escape.

Ozi: When was that?

Sne: last night.

Ozi: Then why did he not bring you home? Or call me atleast?

She faced down again.

"NHLANHLA!"

she startled and looked at him. His face had turned red. He looked nothing like what she's seen before. His cheek bones were popped out grinding.

Sne: He said he was inlove with me and that's why he didn't bring me here.

He chuckled.

Lwazi and Banzi came down. They must have heard the noise.

Lwazi: Calm down Ozi. I could hear you all the way from upstairs.

Ozi looked at Sne and went upstairs.

Banzi went over to her and comforted her as she soabed.

Banzi: Hey. It's okay. Atleast you're safe now hey. We looked all over for you.

Lwazi: Don't mind him. He's just mad because he thought he lost you. We were all worried.

Sne: I shouldn't have moved out. This is all my fault. I

don't know if he'll ever forgive me after this.

Lwazi: Calm down wifey. He's yours and he'll come around. He's just still mad.

Banzi: He loves you guys both so much. I've never seen him loose his mind like that before.

They comforted her and eventually she placated.

"You should wear his favourite lingerie and make it up to him."

She chuckled through her tears.

Lwazi: And cook us a full course meal. We deserve it too you know. You're married to all of us. Don't forget that.

They laugh in unison.

Banzi: He must be really exhausted now. Let him rest because he didn't sleep an inch last night.

Sne: Okay. I also need to bath and rest.

Lwazi: Are you okay though?

She smiled weakly.

Sne: I'm fine you guys. And thank you so much for carrying. You're husband goals.

They both grinned like idiots.

"I love you guys so much. I wouldn't ask for better brother's in-law.

Banzi: Husbands.

She laugh.

Sne: Yes husbands.

Lwazi: Go and rest now. We need that full course meal when you recharged.

She smiled and headed upstairs to their room.

She found him sleeping ontop on the sheets on his stomach with shoes off.

His legs were parted with one knee slightly bent and his arms on either side of the pillow.

He looked drained in his sleep.

She took a fleece and covered him with then kissed his parted lips.

She went to shower quick and came back to join him in his sleep and zoned out.

Ozi woke up to his wife's face very close to his. They were too close you'd swear there was some resuscitation going on.

He watched her sleeping and admired her beauty.

He felt his groin clench and chills travelling down his spine at the sight of his sleeping beauty and he wanted to make a delicate love to her but he didn't want to wake her up. So he let her sleep.

He placed his lips gently on hers and kissed them then went to shower.

He went downstairs shortly and found his brothers chilling in the living room playing Fifa.

They turned to look at him and greeted.

Lwazi: You're awake. Good. Come lets whipe your ass.

Banzi: Plus it's been long since we played together. I missed this.

He looked at them and laugh.

Ozi: Save the best for last boys. I have to run somewhere but when I come back, please don't accuse me of child abuse.

They laugh in unison.

Lwazi got up and walked to him.

Lwazi: Where are you going?

Ozi: There's something personal I need to sort out real quick.

Lwazi: It's probably best that I don't ask but how long will it take?

Ozi: I won't be long. Tell Sne I'll be back soon when she wakes up.

Lwazi: Sure.

They fist bumped and he walked out.

He arrived shortly at Mike's place and buzzed the intercom.

He answered.

Mike: Yes?

Ozi: Open up.

Mike: Sure.

The gates opened and he drove in and parked.

He walked in and knocked.

Mike opened the door to be met with a gun pointed on his forehead.

He raised his hands in the air and they walked back in slowly.

Ozi: Why did you not bring my wife home, White?

Mike, still raising his hands he looked at him.

Mike: I didn't know she was yours man. I would never disrespect you like that. You know me.

Ozi bridged the gun and poited it at him again.

Ozi: What business do you have with Meagan?

Mike: Meagan?

Ozi: The chick who hired you to operate on my wife.

Mike: Oh. She payed me to get rid of an obstacle. I

didn't know Sne was the one. Hence I didn't proceed with it.

Ozi: I thought you left that shady business in the U.S Mike. Did you not learn your lesson?

Mike: A man's got to have an extra hustle on the side man. Now put the gun down please.

Ozi looked at him then lowered the gun and unloaded it before putting it at the back of his jeans.

Ozi: I missed you mate.

Mike: It's good to see you my friend.

The hugged briefly and Mike made his way to the fridge and took out two dumpies, opened them and gave one to Ozi.

They followed each other to the living room and settled down.

They sat at direction opposites.

Ozi: So what brings you in town?

Mike gulped his drink and looked at Ozi.

Mike: I got tired of the States and got home sick.

Ozi: I thought you said you were done with South Africa.

Mike: I know but it's home. I was bound to come back sooner or later.

Ozi: So what now? Are you going to practice this side?

Mike: Yeah. That's the plan.

Ozi: Michael listen-

Mike raised his hand to dismiss him.

Mike: I know man. I won't put you in a situation where you have to bail me out from my troubles again.

Ozi: Just stick to being legit and forget about being shady. A lot is at stake here and I won't be there to bail you out this time. I'm trying to leave that life behind.

Mike: What's your business with this Meagan chick?

Ozi: She's a scorned ex who won't take no for an answer.

Ozi flexed his shoulders and neck repeatedly then

drank his beer.

He was very tense. His muscles were in knots and aching.

Mike: That bad huh?

Ozi: It's the second time she kidnapped my wife.

Mike: What the hell?

Ozi shrugged his shoulder and continued to drink his beer.

It frustrates him not knowing how to deal with Meagan without having to kill her. He's flat determined to leave the killing life behind but it looks he was getting his arm twisted.

"So what's the plan now?"

Mike asked looking very concerned.

He's a very good friend of Ozi and they come a long way and have experienced the highs and lows of life together. He's one person who knows Ozi Langa like the back of his hand. He hated seeing him backed against the wall like this.

Ozi: That's what's frustrating me my friend. I don't know how to deal with this.

Mike: You mean you don't want to kill her?

Ozi looked at him.

"I can sort that out for you. Let me take you out of your missery my friend. She sounds like a nuisance."

Ozi: You'd do that?

Mike: I owe you so much. It's the least I could do.

They raised their beers cheered to the deal and drank them down while catching up.

Ozi looked at his wrist watch and it was just after 7 P.M.

Mike: Got to dash?

Ozi: Yeah. She's probably awake now.

Mike looked at him and cleared his throat.

Ozi looked at him back and raised his eyebrow.

Mike: She's a beauty man.

Ozi: Michael!

Mike: I know. I'm just saying. You've scored yourself a dime there. Please take good care of her. She's very rare.

Ozi: Fuck off man.

They bust into laughter and Ozi said his goodbyes then left.

He arrived home shortly and found his wife gazing on a pregnancy megazine and the guys were eating.

Sne got up from her seat and welcomed him.

She looked revived and a breath of mint.

She was wearing beggy track pans with a loose t-shirt and sneakers.

A smile creped from Ozi's mouth as he took her in his arms and embraced her.

He pulled her face up touching her velvet cheeks with both his hands and kissed her like it was just the two of them in the room.

The boys cleared their throats trying to distract them but Ozi pulled her closer with one hand landing on her ass and delicately kissed her. The kiss was slow

and sloopy. Their tongues were tangling and their breathing was escalating.

He scooped her up and they headed upstairs.

Bonus insert.

18SNL

(Unedited and crop top)

Narrated.

He placed her on the bed and switched on the music. Teyana Taylor ft Kehlani's morning song played softly from the speakers.

He switched on disco blue lights that dimmed the room leaving it looking beautiful and romantic.

The view was just perfect.

He took off his top and his chest oozed out and his sexy abbs left Snej's clit throbbing.

She bit her bottom lip looking at him taking his time undressing.

He was left with his Calvin Klein undies and his

manhood print made her swallow down saliva.

His sexy well build body was completely exposed as he motioned slowly to his beautiful wife and pulled her by the legs to the edge of the bed.

He pulled her track pants off and threw them on the floor.

He pulled her up and they were now standing.

He slid his hands underneath her top pulling it up and it landed on the floor.

She was left with her matching bra and lace penties only.

He pulled her closer and deepened a kiss while running his hands on her bare back untangling the bra...It dropped to the floor.

He broke the kiss and turned her around. He stood behind her and pulled her face by her chin with his index finger and kissed her from behind while one hand was cupping and stroaking her breasts.

He ran his fingers down and slid his hand in her underwear and came in contact with her dripping wet

cage.

He gently rubbed on the clit and a soft moan escaped from her mouth.

He smiled against her lips and kissed her delicately.

He turned her over and made her sit on the corner of the bed and slid the panties down.

He kneeled down and brought both her legs on either side of his shoulders wide open.

He kissed the inner parts of the thighs going up to the cage.

She was shaking and breathing heavy.

He arrived at it and licked it a few times.

He wrapped his arms around her wide open legs and started to eat it like he's been starving for days.

She put her one hand on his head and pushed it deep in between her thighs while balancing on the bed with the other.

She was moaning softly and Ozi was playing tricks with his tongue down there.

She started shaking so bad and her body was tensing up but he pulled back and she sulked.

Sne: I was about to come baby.

Ozi looked at her with his half open gaze and smiled lazily.

Ozi: Not yet hun.

He pulled her to the couch and put her in a straddling position.

"Make it up to me."

He bit his bottom lip.

Sne: With pleasure.

The song in the background was fueling the mood and it was on repeat.

She pushed him back to the couch and sanked him deep in her warm and tight cage taking him in and out slowly.

He had his eyes closed and hanged his head back.

She squatted in between him and found her ass on the air bouncing on it bad.

He was groaning and cursing.

The expression on his face said she was giving him the best time of his life.

She grinded on him for a while, while he had his hands burried underneath his head.

He pulled her closer and stoop up with her legs wrapped around his waist.

He laid her on the bed underneath him and gazed deep in her eyes.

Ozi: I love you so much Nhlanhla.

Sne: I love you too Langa.

He placed his lips on hers and kissed delicately while spooning her slowly.

Their lips were making sounds and the song in the background was doing justice either.

He broke the kiss and burried his head on her neck and thrusted in and out with a different pace.

She was moaning with pleasure with her nails dugged on his strong bere back.

They made love like they were dancing to the song.

He took his time to feel every corner of her walls there possibly was.

He brought his head back and kissed her again.

He looked at her she had her eyes closed.

Ozi: Open your eyes baby.

She opened them and smiled.

He got his already hard cock turned on again and he smiled back lazily and kissed her forehead.

He started to thrust her again, increasing his pace this time.

He was poking deep, hard and fast.

She started to shake and her body tensed up.

Sne: I'm cuming baby.

She held on him tight just as he pulled her closer and thrusting faster.

Ozi: Wait for me baby. Come on.

He was groaning and she was moaning.

She screamed out loud and he collapsed onto her.

"Aah fuck!"

He drew in air and they remained in that position for a while trying to catch their breath.

He unburried his head and looked at her.

She giggled and he chuckled.

"That was amazing."

Sne: You were amazing.

He kissed her again then pulled out.

She clenched her walls on him as he was pulling out.

Ozi: Aaah baby...Fuuuck!

She giggled.

He disappeared to the closet and came back with a towel and they cleaned themselves.

He slept on his back and pulled her closer to sleep on his chest.

She drew circles on his abbs and they

communicated soul to soul while they remained silent.

Insert 37

(Unedited)

Ozi Langa.

I peeled my eyes off and met with her beautiful face.
I rubbed them a few times and smiled.

Me: Goodmorning chubby chicks.

She giggled.

Her: Good morning baby.

I pulled her ontop of me.

Me: how did you sleep?

Her: I haven't slept that nice in a long time. Thanks to last night's session.

I laugh lazily and felt my groin clench.

She raised her eyebrows and looked inside the covers. Jack got excited by the mension of last night's deeds and poked her. We had slept naked. So

he just rose up.

She looked at me back and I pressed my lips together.

"Baby"

I nodded my head rapidly and she giggled again.

"Why is he up?"

Me: I want you.

Her: But we-

I flipped her and in seconds she was underneath me.

I kissed her with my eyes closed and I felt a smile creep out against my lips. I positioned myself at her entrance and inserted without warning. I started to thrust her when a knock came through the door. I ignored it and focused on my woman. It persisted again and she pushed me.

Her: They won't leave you know.

Me: Fuck!

I stopped.

"WHAT?"

I shouted.

Lwazi: Sorry for the disturbance but I need to have a word with you just two minutes.

Me: Can't it wait till I'm up Lwazi?

Lwazi: No. It's kinda agent.

Me: Damn it!

I looked at her and she was amused. I thrusted a few times and stoped.

"Don't move an inch. I'll be back just now."

She giggled and I got off to wrap my gown and walked out. I found him standing by the door.

Lwazi: I'm sorry to disturb your morning glory.

Me: What is it that couldn't wait man?

I leaned against the wall and burried my hands in the gown pockets. He better be quick because I wanna go back to what I was busy with before he interrupted me.

Lwazi: So, Banzi and I been thinking about organising a smallanyana brai here today. You know, just to celebrate life, our wife being safe and the little champ who'll soon crowd our space.

I found myself grinning. I can't wait to meet my kid. And the thought of it excites me entirely.

Me: That's not such a bad idea. But will it be just the four of us?

Lwazi: I'm thinking of inviting few of my pals. You and Sne can do the same.

Me: Okay but don't bring weirdos in my house please.

Lwazi: Deal.

Me: Do you need help with anything?

Lwazi: Go back to your wife. We'll figure everything else once everyone is up.

Me: Sure.

I walked back in and found the bed already made and the shower was running. I took off my gown and walked in. She was facing the glass wall. I got in and held her from behind. She tilted her head to the side

to give me enough room. I kissed her neck and she voluntarily bend back and held on to the glass. I smirked and bit my bottom lip. I love how she's learning to give in and explore on our sex life. Each time feels like the first. I cannot get enough of her.

I insert myself in and out a few times looking at her ass and a smile crept out from my mouth.

I started to spoon her from behind and felt chills travel down my spine. I closed my eyes and hanged my head back picturing the second day I met her at the restaurant and how much I longed for her to be mine so I'd do things to her. I love this woman. Even after everything we both went through, she still drives me insane. She could be in a room full of beautiful women, I'd still choose her.

I pulled her back and turned her around so I'd see her face. Water was running down her flawless skin. I rubbed my hand on her wet cheeks and arrived at her parted lips. She looked like she was running out of breath. I gazed through her lazy beautiful eyes for some time while holding her very close, our bodies were against each other. Her breasts were smashed

agaisnt my abbs.

Me: Ng'yakthanda Snenhlanhla. Yezwa?

She blinked her aroused ayes and her thick long eyelashes were shielding the water from blinding her.

Her: Make love to me baby.

I lifted her up agaisnt the wall and balanced with my hand.

I snuggled my head on her neck and pounded her deep and hard agaisnt the glass as though I wanted my body to be one with hers.

She reached her climax first and I followed her shortly after. We took the shower and cleaned yourselves.

She turned to face me and I faced the wall so she'd wash my back.

Her: Who was that on the door?

Me: Oh. It was Lwazi. He was telling me that they're thinking of organising a braai.

Her: Oh, that would be nice. I hope you didn't say no.

I turned to face her.

Me: No. And I'm sorry for not running it past you before I could agree. This is your house too now.

She smiled and washed her face. I narrowed my gaze when I noticed that her ring was off.

"Baby."

Her: Hmm.

Me: Where's your ring?

She looked at me then at her finger and back at me again.

Her: She took it.

Me: Who?

Her: Meagan.

She did not look bothered.

Me: Why don't you look bothered by this?

She looked at me and smiled.

Her: I'm safe and unharmed. Im here with you now. Worse could have happened but it didn't. I can't sulk

over a piece of material that can be replaced within a blink of an eye. So I'd rather just focus on what I have.

I was looking at her frowned.

"I'm sorry about eveyrthing that I've done. Defying you and being pigheaded like that. I shouldn't have moved out of the house."

She hugged her arms around my waist and I looked down at her.

"I love you. So much and I want to make you happy just as you make me. I've realised that love takes two and that we can't always see eye to eye. But that doesn't mean I should up and leave everything we don't agree on something.

Me: You can just use the next room if you can't handle me you know?

Her: I figured. But baby I want to create a happy home for us and our baby. There's no any other place I'd rather be than here with you. And I couldn't have asked for a better father to my child than you. I love you Langa. And I know I can be a handful at

times but thank you for showing me demonstrations of love even at times when I don't deserve it the most.

She was emotional.

I cupped and squeezed her into my warm embrace.

Me: It's okay. You're my pigheaded woman and I've made peace with it.

She punched my chest lightly.

Her: That's not funny Ozi.

Me: If I got a penny each time you punch me, I'd be a millionaire just by that now.

She chuckled.

"But I'm grateful for what you've just said. It fulfills me to know that you acknowledged your bullshit and are willing to own up to it. I'll be here to guide you. I need you to know that no matter what happens, I'm not going anywhere. "

She lifted her head to look at me.

"I meant it when I said I love you Nhlanhla. And I still

want to spend the rest of my life making you happy."

She tiptoed on her feet to kiss me.

Me: We'll go check for another ring then.

This time you'll get to choose your favourite.

Her: No. I don't want it.

I frowned.

Her: You'll buy me another one for our wedding.

I looked at her with my narrowed gaze trying to figure out what she was trying to say.

Me: I thought you said you didn't want any wedding.

Her: That was then. I had a change of heart.

Me: You want us to get married?

Her: Yes.

I turned off the shower and we walked out to dry ourselves. We finished soon and walked out and in to the closet to get dressed.

Me: What changed your mind?

Her: Everything.

Me: Well I'm glad that I could also get to wear a ring on my matrimonial finger too.

She looked at me puzzled.

Her: Do you want one?

Me: Afcause I want one. I've always wanted one. Slid in by the woman I love dearly.

Her: So me declining us having a wedding would have robbed you of that chance?

Me: Yes and I'm glad you changed your mind.

I smiled and we finished dressing up in track pants, vests and sneakers.

"Let's go have breakfast then see how we could contribute to this brai. Shall we?

She nodded her head with a smile.

I kissed her head and took her by hand then we walked downstairs.

We found the guys chilled at the balcony outside.

Sne: Good morning hubbies.

They turned to face us and smiled.

Banzi: Goodmorning wifey.

We went to stand next to them and watched the beautiful view outside. It was a beautiful Saturday morning and the weather was very favourable.

"Did you guys sleep well?"

I eyed him. I know what he's trying to do.

Me: Very well thank you. I won't ask how you slept because you sleep alone.

He bust out into laughter.

Banzi: You'd be surprised big brother.

Me: I hope that doesn't insinuate that you sneak chicks in my house under my nose because I won't like it.

He just smiled.

Sne: Loosen up baby. He's old enough to date now.

Me: No. Not under my watch.

Lwazi and Banzi laugh.

Lwazi: So...can we organise the brai already?

Me: Tell us what's needed and my wife and I will go buy them.

Banzi: You're not taking our pregnant wife on some brai shopping. She needs to relax. We'll do everything.

Her: Aren't I just lucky.

Me: I'm also pregnant so it means I'll stay in and keep her company.

Lwazi: Whatever that suits you. Just give us your credit card.

I took it out and gave it to them.

Me: Don't milk me dry. I work hard for my money.

Lwazi: Maka still coming...could you please help us with a grocery list.

Her: Yeah sure. Let's go check the cupboards first.

They both walked inside the house and I was left with Banzi.

Me: So...are you seeing someone?

He looked at me with a widened gaze.

Banzi: Come on bhuti. I'm not having this conversation with you.

Me: Why not?

I took a seat next to him and he was busy fidgeting on his phone.

Him: Because it's awkward.

Me: Would it be easy with Lwazi then?

Him: No. It's still new. I'm not even sure if it's going anywhere.

Me: Why is that?

Him: Come on Ozi.

I chuckled and raised my hands to the air.

Me: Alright then. Whenever you're ready.

He stole a glance at me and I knew he wanted to say something.

"Out with it."

He cleared his throat.

Him: Can I invite her over?

Me: Who?

Him: My girlfriend.

Me: In my house? Never.

Him: But bhuti-

Lwazi and Sne came back and he kept quiet. I chuckled.

Lwazi: Let's go pal.

Banzi: Okay sure.

He got up from the chair and headed inside.

Me: Hey buddy...

He turned to look at me.

Me: You can bring her.

He grinned and came back to fist bump me then disappeared into the house.

Sne looked at me amused.

Her: What was that all about?

Me: He wants to invite his girlfriend.

She smiled.

Her: Great news. We'll finally meet her.

Me: I don't know if that's a great idea.

Her: Take it as a chance to get to know who your little brother is dating.

Me: Not such a bad idea. Don't you wanna invite your friends aswell?

Her: Amo is far. It's the eleventh hour and I doubt she'll make it.

Me: Why don't you invite the Gumede brothers then?

Her: You don't mind?

Me: They are cool guys. Afcause I don't mind. Lwazi likes them anyway.

I got up from my chair and took her hand.

"Let's go make breakfast now. My son must be starving."

We walked in the kicken and I let her sit on the stool.

I started with breakfast.

I finished soon and we ate while conversing.

Her: How do you know Mike?

I raised my eyes and looked at her. She was focused on her food.

Me: We meet in Harvard. He was studying Medicine at the time and we were also team mates. So we clicked and I found out he's also from S.A. so we became friends since.

Her: Okay.

I looked at her and continued to eat.

Me: Was he anyhow inappropriate with you?

She looked up.

Her: No. Never. He's been good to me.

Me: Good.

We ate.

Sne

It was a beautiful afternoon and I was inside preparing the salad when Bandile, Khethelo, Lwazi and Banzi were busy with the meat outside.

The intercom buzzed and just as I was about to answer, Lwazi came in running.

Lwazi: Don't worry. I'll attend to it.

I continued and minutes later, two beautiful women, one looked pretty young and the other older. They walked in following each other. They stood in the middle of the kitchen and Lwazi signaled to them to come on right in.

He went to the younger looking one and pecked her lips. Then hand shook with the other lady.

They all came to stand next to me and Ozi came jogging down the staircase.

Lwazi: Ladies, this right here is my brother Ozi with his beautiful wife.

He turned to look at us.

"Langas, this is my girlfriend Itu. And..."

He paused and looked at the other lady.

"I'm sorry ma'am. What's your name?"

She flashed a genuine smile.

Lady: Lizzy.

She's very warm. I could tell.

We exchanged greetings with the ladies and the intercom buzzed again. Ozi went to attend to it.

Lwazi: Ladies, please make yourselves at home, we'll be done outside not long.

With that said, he walked outside.

Lizzy: Can I help you with anything?

She smiled putting her bag on the table and taking off her shoes.

Me: I was just preparing the salad. Everything else is ready.

I looked at Itu and I couldn't tell if she's bored or what. She was wandering her eyes around the house.

Itu: Can I have something to drink?

Me: Oh...my bad. What would you like to have?

Itu: Dry gin and tonic please.

Me: Coming right up.

I disappeared to the living room and came back shortly to find Ozi with Mike standing.

I cleared my throat and they looked at me.

"Hi Mike. Nice to see you again."

I said handing Itu the drinks.

Mike: Like wise Sne. How have you been been?

Me: I couldn't be better, thank you and Welcome.

Mike: Thank you.

They walked out following each other.

I looked at Itu and she was day dreaming looking at them. I don't know whether she was looking at my man or Mike but she was drooling.

I went over to find Lizzy already done with the salad. She's such a sweetheart.

We took it to the fridge and she poured us juice then

we also walked out to chill on the balcony.

The guys were still busy with the meat and we sat there and unwinded.

Lizzy: This is a beautiful house. What a way to unwind on a Saturday afternoon.

I was about to ask who invited her but Bandile came and kissed her forehead.

She giggled. She's such a happy soul.

They got up to stand on the side.

Itu: What's your name again?

I looked at her.

Me: Snenhlanhla.

Itu: So Sne, you're married to Ozi?

Me: Yes.

She chuckled and played with her glass.

Itu: Where's your ring?

I don't know where she was getting at but I do not like her attitude. She's been self-centered from the

moment she got here. I don't know what her problem is but I don't owe her shit.

Me: Long story.

Lizzy came back and lowered herself on the chair.

Itu: When did you guys meet?

Me: last week.

I said sarcastically.

She widened her eyes. She's either playing along or she's just plain stupid to get the sarcasm.

Itu: And you're already pregnant? You don't waste time girl. Maybe I should also take some tips on how to secure the bag.

Lizzy looked at me then at her.

Lizzy: What are you talking about Itu?

She laugh lightly and poited at me.

Itu: Miss goody too shoes here, she just met Ozi like five minutes ago and already she's pregnant.

Lizzy: And what business do you have with that?

Itu: I'm just wondering. What's so special about her?

Lizzy: More special in a way most girls he's dated before weren't. Isn't that obvious?

Itu chuckled and drank her glass.

Itu: I'm just saying. How's the baby growing by the way?

Me: Pretty good thanks for asking.

Lizzy: By the way, you look more beautiful in person Sne. I thought Bandile was exaggerating.

I smiled.

Me: Thank you girl. You look good youself.

The guys came with a bowl full of meat and put it on the table we prepared outside.

Lwazi: The meat is ready ladies.

Lizzy and I went inside to bring the rest of the food.

Ozi went inside to connect the sound and played a very chilled deep house music. The mood was just viby. We dished up for everybody while Itu just sat there drinking her bitter flat ass away.

We sat down in a big long table outside and ate.

Mike stole glances of me here and there and I was getting uncomfortable.

Ozi: So... Itu right?

He looked at Itu who was seated next to Lwazi.

Itu: Yes.

Ozi: Where are you from?

Itu rolled her eyes.

Itu: I didn't know you care.

Ozi: What's that supposed to mean?

Itu: You didn't want to know about me the day you found me at your brother's house.

Ozi: I had no business asking about you then. But you're in my house now and it's my duty to know everybody who's inside my premises.

Itu: I date your brother. That should be enough to ease you up.

She looked at me and asked for another drink. In the

middle of our dinner. How special does she think she is!

Itu: May I have another drink troffy wife.

Ozi: There's enough drinks to take home. I'm sure you can wait untill she's done eating.

Itu: But I'm thirsty and wanna drink now. Not after eating.

Banzi: I'll go get it for you.

Itu: I want her to get it for me.

Lwazi hardened his face and looked at her.

Lwazi: What's your problem? Can't you see she's still eating?

She rolled her eyes.

Itu: Sorry.

Lwazi pushed his chair back and stood on his feet.

Lwazi: May I have a word with you?

He looked at Itu and she stood up and followed him.

Ozi: So Banzi, couldn't your guest make it anymore?

We chuckled.

Banzi: I told her not to come.

Ozi smirked.

Ozi: Why?

Banzi: I just thou-

"Why is she so special that you even address her as wifey."

We all turned to look at the drunk and loud Itu.

Ozi wiped his mouth and threw the saivet on the table. He pushed his chair back rose up walking towards them.

Bandile: What the hell is her problem?

Me: I have no idea.

Banzi: She must have had one too many to drink.

Lizzy: She's just bitter.

I noticed Mike stealing glances but would look away when I look at him.

He's a very laid back guy. No wonder he's friends

with Ozi. He's very chilled. And just sat there minding his own.

Ozi came back and sat down.

Lwazi and Itu walked out.

Banzi: What the hell was that all about?

Ozi: I don't know but Lwazi must just call her into order because I'm already fedup with her attitude.

Everybody focused back on their food and they were all conversing over the same subject.

I sat there quiet and drifted off.

Ozi brushed my hand and I looked at him.

Ozi: Can we go inside?

Me: Okay.

Ozi: Excuess us guys.

They were chatting and laughing to even notice us.

He took my hand and we walked inside.

Lwazi released a very hot slap across Itu's face.

Lwazi: How dare you disrespect me infront of my

family and friends like that?

Itu: I'm sorry baby.

He was about to release another one when Ozi called his name.

He formed his hand into a fist and lowered it down.

Ozi: That's enough Lwazi. What are you, nuts?

Lwazi looked at Ozi deadly.

Lwazi: Stay out of it.

Ozi went over to then.

Ozi: slap her again in my presence if you have a dead wish. Women aren't toys lad. Take her home.

Lwazi: Just leave Itumeleng.

Itu, who was sobbing tried to hold him but he pushed her.

"Don't fucken touch me. I said leave."

Ozi: She's too drunk to drive like that man. Take her home.

He hardened his face and grappled her roughly and

pulled her outside.

We walked upstairs and as soon as he closed the door. He pulled me gently to face him.

"Are you okay?"

Me: Yes. I'm just tired.

Ozi: Do you know this Itu chick?

I shook my head no.

Me: No.

Ozi: Then why is she acting bitchy?

I shrugged my shoulders.

"Do you want to rest?"

Me: I don't wanna seem rude.

Ozi: It's okay. I'll just let everyone know that you're tired. I'm sure they'll understand. I'll be back alright?

Me: Okay. Please tell Lizzy I'm sorry.

Him: Okay.

He walked out and I sat down on the couch and switched on the TV.

He came back shortly with a trey of meat, a bowl of peanuts and 6 pack of castle lite.

I laughed.

Me: What's all this?

He smiled.

Him: If you can't go to the brai, let the brai come to you.

Me: What did you tell them?

Him: That they can stay and turn up till they drop. I'm having a brai with my wife undoors.

I laughed.

Me: You're so crazy.

Him: I know. What's playing.

Me: What do you wanna watch?

Him: You chose.

I resorted to Netflix and there was an interesting series that was playing.

The windows were still open. And the curtains were

dancing from the summer breeze outside.

We snuggled on the couch and he indulged on the meat drinking his beers.

Me: Baby...

Him: Hmm.

Me: I love you.

He curved his hand around me and I rested my head on him.

We watched the series in silence with him laughing here and there.

Insert 38

(Unedited)

Narrated.

Car lights flashed as a car parked outside our gate. I sprang on my feet and ran to it. They have been gone for too long, finally they are home. My excitement died down when I noticed it wasn't their car that was parked outside. I motioned towards it slowly. Two police officers got off and came in. They greeted me and asked to speak to elders. My parents aren't home yet. They are the elders but they aren't here. I could tell, these officers meant business. Even if I was to persuade them to level with me, they would not. I decided to take them to my aunt in my grandmothers house. I lead the way and as they walked in, I remained outside. I'd rather freeze to death than set my foot in this house. So I sat on the stoop just outside the door and soon they

walked out with my aunt. They looked at me with a certain expression on their faces that I could not make much of. They are police officers after all. They always look unfriendly. I remained seated and waited for aunt Nosi to come back.

She lit her cigarette and stood at the open to smoke. She didn't look at me one bit. My suspense were killing me. Fear creped in that instant and my stomach turned into knots. I suspected what was going on but I needed conformation. I fear the hell out of this woman. I can't even begin to look at her. And I've always tried my best to avoid her at all cost. But at this moment, I have to face her. I fiddled with my fingertips trying to gather some strength to face her and I did. I walked towards where she was standing and stood a few steps away from her. I wouldn't dare face her direction, so I faced away.

"Aunti." I said on the down low.

"Ufunani?" She shot straight.

She's never beaten me before but I know she's capable. So I'm putting myself in risk for anything here but I have to do it.

"What did the cops want?" I asked again, still facing away.

I could tell by the heavy smoke coming my direction that she was looking at me. Probably even blowing it my way intentionally.

"Uyihlo nonyoko bafile. Car crashing."

I turned to look at her and see if she was genuine. Her face was hard. She wouldn't joke about something this tragic. I mean I know she's heartless and everything but she wouldn't, would she? I looked

at her and tried to say something but my voice was locked down on my throat. There was a lump that was buliding up and as I swallowed it, she droped the piece of a smoked cigarette on the ground and squashed it. She walked back inside and I remained gloed to the ground. I felt tears warm up my cheeks and I did not realise I was already crying. This cannot be true. One normal human being cannot be this cold hearted towards another human being. I mean even if it was true, which I doubt it is she wouldn't just tell me about my parent's passing like that. Shouldn't she show some compasion? I don't know who I was trying to convience but I finaly gathered some strength and headed to the house. I needed her to tell me that she's joking...or something. This isn't no matter to joke about. I approuched the house and they were laughing at the top of their lungs. I felt some sense of relief and let out a sigh. They wouldn't laugh out this loud if somebody died right? I still needed her to tell me otherwise. So I pushed the door. She was sitting with Khosi. I walked it, closed the door behind me and leaned against the wall. They looked at me like I was invading their privacy. I

looked at them thinking they'll say something but they didn't. I cleared my throat and focused my gaze on aunt Nosi.

"What did you mean my parents died, aunty?" I enquired with my voice trembling.

"Ngithe bafile maan. Badabule amafu" she said humorlessly.

"Go pack amasaka wakho. You're nolonger stay in my brother's house."

I blinked a few times as tears were rolling down my cheeks as though somebody turned on a tub.

"It can't be. They can't be gone" I lowered myself with my back against the wall. I felt my knees failing me so I squated down and sobbed.

"Yey...Ungazorasa lana. Maw'funa ukukhala phumela ngaphandle." She said In the most roudy voice. I heard Khosi laughing.

I felt like my soul's been cut with a sword and as for my heart...I felt like it would stop beating. I couldn't hold back anymore. The face of my mother smiling revealing her beauful set of teeth came vivid in my mind and I shook my head rapidly. She couldn't be gone. Not like that. She said they were coming back and I believed them. I started to whimper when I saw aunt Nosi charging towards me through my glassy eyes. I sprang on my feet and a piercing slap landed on my cheek. I turned to run away but the door was closed. I must have landed with my face agaisnt it because I felt drops of blood dripping from my nose. I cupped it trying not to mess the floor, a kick landed on my butt.

"Phuma uyobanga umsindo ngaphandle vezandlebe!"

I opened the door and she pushed me out closing it behind me. I walked out and squated outside to drain the blood. I heard the door open and before I know it, a sjambok was making contact with my body. She beated me into a pulp. I cried my lungs out while shielding my body with my hands, curled down on the floor.

"Snenhlanhla! Baby! Snenhlanhla!" Ozi shook her roughly trying to wake her up from the dream.

She jumped out of bed and went to stand by the coner. Ozi rolled out either and motioned slowly towards her.

"What's going on?" He enquired carefully.

"Stop! Don't come near me." She said frantically, looking terrified.

He stopped and raised his hands in the air.

"I'm not gonna hurt you baby. Just tell me what's going on."

She looked down on her bump and touched it. She brought her gaze up and Ozi was motioning towards her. She pinned herself against the corner and lowered down. She buried her head in her knees and shielded it.

"Please don't hurt me." She said with her head buried and her voice quivering.

Ozi squatted down next to her with a frown plastered on his face. Why would she think he would ever hurt her? This brought worry and concern to him. He's never seen anybody this terrified. Let alone his wife. He carefully untangled her arms around her knees and brought her head back up. She looked very

tormented.

"I would never hurt you Snenhlanhla" he said squated down and holding her hands. She couldn't look at him one bit.

"Look at me baby." He tilted her chin with his index finger and made her face him. A tear dropped from her eye and he wiped it off with his thumb.

"What's going on love?" She looked at him for a while as though she was trying to register. She wandered her eyes around the room and it clicked. She brought her gaze back to him and started to cry. Ozi's heart broke at the sight of his frantically looking wife. He sat down next to her and pulled her in his warm embrace.

"Shhh. It was just a dream. You need to calm down now." He rocked her back and forth and she cried untill she couldn't anymore. She drifted off in his

hands and he stood up and scooped her. He placed her carefully on the bed and covered her with the sheets. She was having a hiccup. He sat down at the edge of the bed looking down on and brushing the stern of her aften back gently. She was deep in her slumber.

He went to take a shower quick and wore jeans with a round neck t-shirt and kicks. He walked downstairs and found his brothers touching base with cleaning. They were already done and the house looked spotless again.

"Wow. You'd swear we never had a braai here last night." He said making himself a cup of coffee.

Lazwi looked at him and went to stand next to him leaning agaisnt the counter with a kicken cloth hanged on his shoulder.

Banzi greeted him. "I'm going to shower." He said before jogging up the staircases.

Ozi rubbed his face briefly and balanced on the counter.

Lwazi: What's wrong?

Ozi: It's Sne.

Lwazi: What? Is she okay?

He looked concerned. He pulled the high stool and sat down next to his brother.

Ozi: I don't know. She had a dream that woke her up to be scared of me.

He rubbed the tip of his coffee mug.

Lwazi: What was that dream all about?

Ozi: I don't know but I'm guessing it had everything to do with her past. And with everything she's went throught with the kidnapping and stuff, I'm afraid it triggered her.

He heaved and brushed the back of his head.

"She couldn't even look at me, man. Whatever she was dreaming about, got her mind twisted into thinking I could physically hurt her."

Lwazi: Did you ever try to...you know?

He insinuated.

Ozi looked at him and brought his brows together and frownd.

Ozi: What? No! I'd never do that.

They remained silent. Lwazi just didn't know what to say to his brother. Ozi cleared his throat and looked at him.

"What happened with your woman last night?" He said drinking his coffee.

Lwazi eyed him and suddenly he was annoyed.

Lwazi: I don't know what I was thinking. I keep attracting these psychos.

Ozi: Would you handle a gentle woman with your kind of calibre? I mean we both know you're not the begging type. I'm not saying these psychos are good for you but if you need a woman of standards, you need to work on your temper. You can't treat women like objects. They are vulnerable beings and they need to be loved.

Lwazi chuckled and shook his head. Lwazi: Women are complex beings bro. You treat them good, they take you for a pussy. Infact I think it's best that they're treated like they are not the only ones with feelings. I've dated a few to know that they prefer bad boys than good ones. Now tell me if that isn't twisted.

Ozi: I get what you're saying but that doesn't mean they should be treated like punching bags. No

women deserves to go through abuse. If it doesn't work out, you part ways. It's as simple as that.

Lwazi: And this is why Meagan isn't getting the message that you guys are done. Your gentleness is what keeps her messing with your territory because she knows you won't do anything to punish her.

Ozi jumped down from the stool and got ready with breakfast.

Ozi: So what did you suggest I do? Beat her into a pulp for her to get it through her thick skull that I don't want her anymore? He asked while braking egg shells.

Lwazi: You should have put a bullet through that thick skull of hers the moment you realised she's rebellious.

Ozi chuckled and shook his head.

Ozi: Says somebody who sent her away from getting killed.

They laugh in unison.

Lwazi: You know what I mean.

Ozi: All I'm saying is, find a woman you connect with. She doesn't have to be perfect but real. Learn to be patient and know that not everything has to be solved with violence.

Lwazi: What do they really want?

He asked, rubbing his chin.

Ozi: To be understood. You don't have to have solutions for their crazy odd behaviour. They are too complex if you ask me and you'll loose your sanity. But I know they love good listeners.

Lwazi remained silent still rubbing his chin. He looked more like somebody who battled with his thoughts. For a man of his calibre, I'm sure he thought all this was crazy and that he wasn't cut out for it.

"Don't forget to learn their love language." Ozi picking up the trey of breakfast, he headed upstairs and left his brother in his thoughts.

Ozi Langa

I pushed the door open and She wasn't in bed. I placed the trey carefully on the bed and just as I was about to go look for her, she walked out from the closet looking good and smelling nice.

Me: Hi.

Her: Hey baby.

I took her in for an embrace and she rested her head on my chest.

Me: How are you feeling?

She pulled out from my embrace and sat down. I followed her and sat down either.

Her: I'm good. Thanks for breakfast. It smells devine.

Me: You're welcome.

We started eating in silence and I could tell she

didn't want to maintain eye contact. I didn't want to make her feel uncomfortable so I let her be. We continued to eat in silence and we finished shortly.

Her: That was very delicious. Thank you hun.

I smiled.

Me: It's a pleasure chubby cheeks.

She attempted to stand up to take the trey when I grapped her hand. She looked at it and I quickly let go.

"I'm sorry. Can we talk?"

She nodded.

I rose up and gently took her hand and we went to sit down on the couch. I made her face me.

Me: I'm worried about you sweetheart.

I said still having her hand in mine and brushing the back of it lightly.

She heaved a sigh.

"It's okay baby. You can talk to me."

Her: I know.

Me: What's going on? Why did you think I'd physically hurt you?

She faced down. I lifted her head back up, she gazed into my eyes.

Her: I had a terrible dream that triggered my unfortunate past.

Me: May I ask what the dream was all about?

Her: It was about the day my parents passed on. Aunt Nosi beat me into a pulp that night for crying about their passing. She said I was making noise.

I frowned. Kanti what kind of a monster is that woman? I mean for fuck' sakes!

Me: She beat you up because you were crying for the passing of your parents?

She nodded.

"What did she beat you up with?"

She narrated to me how her parents' passing brought a twist of fate and how her life drastically changed. She succumbed the worst things possible. From getting beaten up almost everyday with a bucket of ice poured on her naked body, going to bed on an empty stomach, being feeded rotten food, to being locked to sleep outside on most freezing nights. That became her second nature since, until the day she escaped to Amo's house. Nobody should ever go through what she went wrong. The fact that she was ill-treated because she's a stepchild, as if she made that choice...made me sick in the stomach. I cannot begin to establish how a woman, let alone that with legitimate children herself, would find comfort in ill-treating an innocent child. Whatever happened to treating everybody, whether blood related or not, with kindness? Whatever happened to random women exhibiting love demonstrations to random children on the streets? I was getting pissed off. She once told me

how wicket and twisted that old hack of a woman is but she didn't dwell much into details. I never thought my wife went through such traumatic experiences. And to top it off, she came into my life only to be kidnapped and tortured by my past. Phew!

I looked at her completely lost for words.

Me: Are those scares at your back from her?

She nodded. I cursed under my breath. I knew there and then that I needed to put a stop to it. That includes starting by paying Meagan an unpleasant visit.

I pulled her closer and locked her in my embrace.

Me: I wish there was any way I could carry this load for you. I hate seeing you like this. More especially if you think I'd ever hurt you.

I pulled her back and made her face me.

"I Would never hurt you baby. Even if I was given a chance to, I'd hurt myself instead."

I looked at her briefly and she rested her head on my shoulder. We remained silent.

Insert 39

(Unedited)

Snenhlanhla Khumalo

I woke up and he's not there. It's a new day already? Urg. I don't wanna wake up. Remind me why we have to wake up again? Careers! Right..I could just stay home and be a troffy wife because hello, my husband is loaded but nooo...I said I wanted to be carree orientated and purpose driven angithi? So here I am. I sighed and rolled out of bed. I really feel exhausted and drained. Juggling both school and pregnancy isn't child's play. And with school closing tomorrow for Easter holidays, I really just wanna go home for the rest of the holidays. I don't remember what happened last night. What I remember however, is crying in my man's arms. I must have drifted off to sleep. He's so supportive shame and I honestly wouldn't have asked for a better partner. He's going

through his own stuff but him being a Zulu man, he bottles it all in. I'm just grateful to do this life thing with him.

I went to take a quick shower and brushed my teeth. I heard him walk in and call my name.

"Nhlanhla!" He shouted. He can be loud when he wants to this one. So early in the morning though.

"En suit!" I shouted back.

"Come see this real quick baby."

"What is it so early though Ozithobile?"

"Just come already."

I finished with my business quick and walked out. He looked at me.

"Hi." He smiled.

"Goodmorning to you too."

He took my hand and we walked downstairs.

"Yini Kanti Ozi?"

"Woza maan." He picked me up and I giggled.

"You dare drop me on these staircases, you'll see aunt Nosi"

He burst into laughter.

"Knowing her, I wouldn't dare my love."

He put me down and heaved.

"I didn't notice you're so heavy lately. Phew!"

I looked at him and rolled my eyes.

"Are you saying I'm fat?" I pouted.

"No. My son is." He smirked. McM!

"I could have used my two God given feet to walk you know. But you always wanna play super man angithi."

We shared a laugh. He was really panting. I must be really heavy.

"So what did you wanna show me?" I asked. He gave me his dashing smile revealing his beautiful set of teeth. He blind folded me with his hands and guided my steps. I'm guessing we were walking

outside.

"You're ready?" He whispered in my ear and I shivered.

"Ozi maan. My suspense are killing me already." I was impatient. Or too excited? I don't know. I had to keep my knees in check. Trust them to pull the chickening stunt on me.

"You need to grow some patience woman." Urg! He removed his hands from my eyes and my jaw dropped to the floor. A red BMW SUV was parked at the drive way. With ribbons hanged and a bouquet of flowers ontop of the bonet. I held my chest in utter astonishment. A car! No he did not! Oh my gosh! I covered my wide opened mouth and looked at him. He had his hands burried inside his pockets and wore a goofy smile on his face. He looked like a man fulfilled. You could tell from how he stood his ground that he was feeling all shades of fulfilment right now. Well hey...I'm not complaining. If anything, I'm swepd off my feet.

I motioned slowly towards the new baby. She's really

beautiful. She's a goddess. I walked around her, running my fingertips gently on her curvy body. She's a dream. I turned to look at him.

"Is she mine?" I asked still lost for words. I had to ask phela.

"She's yours baby." He nodded rabidly. He leaned on the balcony wall and watched me taking my time observing her. I took my bouquet of flowers.

"Baby." I turned to look at him.

"Catch." He threw the keys and I caught them. I hopped in and ignited the engine. Oh my gosh. It even feels comfortable. I pressed on the accelerator and gave it a high rev...it roared. Now this is a perfect choice for a spotty lady like myself. This man gets me man. Isn't he goals?!

I ran out to him and he open his hands to take me in. He spun me around and I buried my head on his neck and giggled. He put me down. I hooked my hands around his neck and tiptoed to give him a kiss. He pulled me closer and devoured on my lips.

"Thank you so much baby." I mummered against his lips. He kissed the hell out of me that we didn't hear Lwazi's car pull over.

"Sies man. Get a room." We pulled out from the kiss and I buried my face of Ozi's chest.

"This is my house wena slim." Ozi said chuckling.

"That doesn't give you a right to suck faces. Nathi it's our house." He looked at the car and whistled.

"Whose baby is this?" He's obviously just as swept off.

I cleared my throat and waved my hand in the air like a queen. Atleast that's how I feel around these Langa men, like a true queen.

Lwazi looked at me and whistled again with hands in his pockets.

Ozi was completely amused. His ego was damn righg getting stroked right now.

"Hamba makoti maan. Hay mtakababa you are husband goals. Umphethe kahle umfazi wethu phela. Hau madoda."

He came to us and opened his arms wide. We shared a sensual hug.

"Okay that's too long phela." Ozi commanded. And we shared a laugh.

Lwazi let go and extended his hand to his brother. They fist bumped.

"Uyinja mfanakathi." He Complimented him.

These Langa brothers have a wierd relationship but I like it. They act all touch and eveyrting but they know where their royalties and priorities lay. They have each other's backs and the love they share is just a compelling sight to watch honestly.

"So, makoti. When are you taking me for a ride?" He asked.

"Now would be a great time actually." Ozi jumped in and I smiled. "Wait for me. I'm coming with." He ran back to the house and came back with a pack of castle lite.

Lwazi removed the balloons and we got in. They

settled in the backbeat. Okaaaaay! I see what they're trying to do and I'll prove them wrong.

"Let's test your driving wifey." Ozi said opening a can of his beer.

"You fail to follow road signs, we're taking it back. Futhi no questions asked." Lwazi said and I looked at them through the rear view mirror. They sat comfortably. Hehehe! How naive are these men? I know I took proper and much needed driving lessons and I obtained my drivers license fair and square but do they trust me much to gamble with their lives like this? Haik! Let's do this.

"Asambe phela." Ozi said and I reversed out. They whistled. They are just idiots these ones.

"Lwazi connect your phone on the Bluetooth. I wanna enjoy this cruise." Ozi said and Lwazi connected his phone. A song came on full blast and the first thing we heard was 'Master master KG.'

"Oh hell no! No freaking way bruh." Ozi protested and I laugh out loud.

"What kind of music fuckery is this, man?" Ozi asked

and I looked at them on the rear view mirror. Ozi was holding his head looking at Lwazi. This is very amusive.

"Hai kanti what kind of music do you want?" Lwazi asked fidgeting on his phone. I think he was looking for a better song because wow!

"Don't you have the Layabouts?" Ozi asked.

"This isn't even your car. How you get to make such demands baffles me really." Lwazi said looking... embarrassed? I don't know but my stomach hurts.

Ozi was in stiches too.

"You're suffering from ama 2000 tendencies. Yini iMaster KG? wuban loyo?" He said stiffling in laughter.

"Hai maan. I don't know how this song ended up in my phone."

Ozi was in tears and he could speak anymore.

"Urg Let's rather ask the owner of this care what kind of music she'd like us to play. Hai." Lwazi said.

"Be my guessed." Ozi confidently said. One thing I've

discovered about my Ozi and I is that we've got the same taste of music. I'd play a song and he'd sing along to it, leaving me completely amazed. Either I get to choose the music but it would still favour Ozi.

"What kind of music would you like makoti?" Lwazi asked.

"Nneka's shining star song please." I looked at them and saw Ozi nodding lightly with a stupid grin on his face.

"Smooth driving by the way my love. I'm super relaxed." He looked at me through the mirror and drank his beer.

We drove to the mall and decided to buy food. I bought hot wings and ice cream while they settled for deck wood and extra packs of castle lite for each. We drove back and walked in.

They put their beverages in the fridge and followed each other to the living room. They found Banzi chilled, focused on his phone. I dished the take away up on plates and poured juice on a big jug and took it to them.

"Oh no. We don't want juice, thank you." Ozi said.

Urg! Me and my short memory. They have beers stashed in the fridge. AfcAuse they won't drink this juice.

"I'll take it back for you. Relax." Banzi volunteered.

"Thank you sthandwa sam."

He took the jug back to the fridge and came to sit next to me. We ate while conversing and soon we finished. They took their beers and devoured on them while Lwazi and Ozi played Fiffa and I was chilled with Banzi. He was looking to buy some real cool sneakers so he asked me to help him choose. His sense of style is unique and his fashion sense is too complex. There's like tons of variety is this app but not even one impressed him. Picky doesn't even begin to sum it up. He's EXTRA.

Ozi's phone rang and he excused himself and jotted up the staircases. He appeared from upstairs shortly and called me.

"Baby, can we talk please." I walked upstairs and walked in. He attacked me with a kiss the moment I

step in shutting the door behind. His lips were soft and tasted of beer.

I giggled and wiggled my way out of his hold.

"No Ozithobile." I said giggling.

"Kancane baby." He said intensely gazing at me. He's drunk and I could tell by how partially opened his eyes are. He pulled me closer and smashed his lips on mine. I gave in. He groaned softly and devoured on my lips. I pulled back a bit and he was breathing down my neck. The smell of alcohol from his breath was just erotic. He bid his bottom lip and rested his forehead on mine. He squeezed his eyes shut and heaved.

"Nhlanhla."

"Hmm."

"I love you baby. Thank you for being here with me through it all. I don't know how I'd have handled the death of my father if you weren't here with me."

He let out a sigh.

"I never thought you'd be my happy ending."

I attempted to pull back but he tightened his hold on me. He was emotional. Ozi becomes very vulnerable about his feelings when he's drunk.

"I love you too Ozithobile Langa."

He groaned. I know he's tickled right now. I'm pressing all the right buttons. Nothing turns him on like me addressing him by his full name.

"Thank you for the pleasant surprise baby. I really love the car." I said with my head rested on his chest.

"Anything for you my angel." He broke the hug and took my hand. We sat down on the couch with me straddling him. He rested his head back and his hands settled on my butt.

"You look so cute." I said softly and he chuckled.

"A man doesn't look cute Nhlanhla."

"You're not a man. You're my man and you do look cute."

"Kiss me ke." He said looking at me like he's gonna zone out any second now.

I lowered my head and captured his lips. I felt his

cock twitch. I moaned softly and he smiled against my lips.

"Baby."

"Hmm." I looked up. I was resting on his laps.

"I'm going away on a business trip. That call I received was about that and I actually called you here so we could talk about it."

"Okay. When are you leaving?" I asked.

"Do you want me to leave?"

I got up and sat up straight.

"Is it not business related kanti?"

"It is but I could stay if you don't want me to go."

"Why wouldn't I want you to go? Come on hun. Go out there acquire as much knowledge as you possibly can. You're a CEO of a multi million company. I understand it comes with the territory."

"Are you sure? I'm worried about your safety. Two weeks is too long for me not seeing you." He looked

worried.

"I'll be fine babe. Besides, I was thinking of going home for the Easter holidays."

"When are you leaving."

"Tommorow." I smiled.

"Why are you smiling?" He looked confused.

"I'm driving down with my new baby." I Wiggled my eyebrows. He chuckled.

"You're flexing now baby."

"Hey now."

We shared a laughter.

I was done packing my bags and helping him pack his luggage. It was just after 6 and I have an assignment that I need to submit tomorrow before going home.

"Baby." I said.

"Mrs Langa wami." My heart swellewd.

"I'm going to the study. I need to finish my assignment. It's due tomorrow."

"Okay. I'll come keep you company. I promise to be quite." He said genuinely. He's also been so supportive of my studies. He'd stay up till late. Sometimes during wee hours of the morning keeping me company while I'm busy with my projects. He wouldn't go to bed without me. I smiled and nodded.

"Thank you hubby."

"I'll go grab a freece and make myself comfortable on the couch." He said disappearing into the closet. He was now sober. He had to take a cold shower after I denied him some naughty dance. Him and sex. Don't get me started. I walked to the study with my books and he came back shortly. He snuggled comfortably on the couch and covered himself with the fleece.

I got started and touched based on my assignment. I'd feel his intense gaze heavy on me and when I question it, he'd just smile and mouth 'I love you.'

I finished about up and it was around 10 P.M. He was now fast asleep on the couch. I shook him lightly and he opened his eyes. He have me his dashing smile.

"Are you done?" He asked.

"Yes baby. Lets go sleep now."

He got up and we headed to our bedroom. He opened the covers and I got in. He got in behind and cuddled me.

"I'm gonna miss you so much when I leave."

"Me too baby."

He kissed my neck. We stayed in silence with our hearts communicating and drifted to sleep.

Insert 40

(Unedited)

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

I woke up super late this morning and ran around like a headless chicken. I was sitting in front of the mirror doing my business when he walked in and the first thing that hit my nostrils was his expensive smelling cologne. I looked at him through the mirror and I was utterly smitten. He looked smashing in his crispy white shirt that's tucked into his navy blue slim pants.

"You look breath taking." He said leaning against the door frame with ankles crossed and hands crossed on his chest.

"You look very intimidating yourself." I rose up from my chair and went to him. I buttoned his navy blue chest coat and fixed it. He opened his arms and took

me in for a hug.

"What time is your flight?" I asked. I can't really say I'm not sad for the fact that he's flying to the U.S because I am. My heart is wrenching actually. I don't know how I'll cope not seeing or being around him that long. I got used to being around him so much that I miss him already.

"3 P.M. I've got an important meeting with potential clients at 10. I hope I seal the deal before I leave."

We stayed in complete silence. I wanted to cry and he felt it. He squeezed me tight.

"I know you're hurting. I am too."

"Two weeks is too long."

"I know baby." Silence again. "Why don't you just come with me?" He asked. I pulled away and looked at him. He was serious.

"To the U.S?"

"Yes. Why not vele?"

"It's the eleventh hour babe. I had already adjusted myself that I'm going home. Now I have to readjust.

That's just messing with my moodswings. Why did you not ask me last night?" I suddenly felt the need to cry. Bloody pregnancy hormones! I sniffed and he chuckled.

"So this is inevitable huh?" I looked at him and he stifled a laughter. This is clearly amusive to him.

"Let's go have breakfast at our favorite restaurant then. It's the least we could do before we both leave. I'll buy you tubs of ice cream."

"And hot wings?"

"And hot wings sweetheart." I tiptoed and kissed him.

"Let me finish up then I'll be with you soon."

"Uphumela futhi?"

"Yes. I think I just should to save time. I don't wanna arrive home late."

"Okay. Don't take long. I'll wait downstairs."

He dragged my luggage and walked out. I tied my afro into a neat bun revealing my beautifully structured face. I'm becoming chubby. So much so that I can't even trace my jawline. Pregnancy. Haise! I

still look stunning though. I sat there and admired myself on the mirror.

"NHLANHLA COME ON NOW!" He shouted from downstairs.

"TWO MINUTES!" I shouted back.

"YOU SAID SO 30 MINUTES AGO!." What happened to men being gentle with thier women kanti? Haibo! I finished up and walked downstairs. I found him already on his feet.

"How are we going to travel then because I'm not coming back here?"

"Use your car. I'll drive behind you."

"Okay."

I found it already parked outside with all my stuf inside. He took it out of the garage for me. How sweet. I got in and drove out. He drove after me.

My phone rang connected to the Bluetooth. I looked at his car through the rear view mirror and he was abit behind. I answered.

"Missing me already?"

"You're driving like somebody who's got balls."

I chuckled.

"What does that mean?"

"Slow down."

"Okay." This car's comfort is very deceiving. You can't even tell that you're speeding unless you check the speedometer. I reduced the speed a bit. We arrived at the restaurant and parked. We got out and met each other half way.

"You're very brave for somebody who just started driving five minutes ago, you know that?"

I chuckled.

"I didn't notice that I was speeding hao. I'll tone it down." I smirked.

"Nhlanhla!"

"I promise baby. Now relax."

We walked in hand to hand and the attention we were drawing. Hai phela! My man is quiet a catch and it didn't help that I'm smoking-hot myself. Now

allow me to blow my own horn. Today I rocked in a bohemian look. I had on a beggy fawn jumpsuit with a navy blue blazer and boyfriend boots. I completed the look with woop earings and a rose gold hand bag. I look stunning, even if I say so myself.

I felt my heart drop to the pit of my stomach and Ozi's body tense up. He squeezed my hand and there she was...approuching with her head dropped. She brought it up and the look she wore! Her gaze widened in shock like she was seing a midday ghost. She wanted to jump out of her own skin.

"H..hi." It came out more like a whisper as she forced a smile.

"Meagan" Ozi said still holding me. She attempted to pass but he blocked her way. She took a few steps back and failed to maintain Ozi's deadly eye contact. He had his jaws clenched and his cheek bones were popping out. He attempted to motion towards her but I held on to his hand and pulled him back.

"Ozithobile, no!" I pleaded with him. He did not even

look at me. He had his eyes fixed on Meagan.

"Make sure this is the last time our paths cross because I won't be held responsible for what will happen the next time I see you Meagan." His voice came out commanding and stern. Her throat made a slight move. I think she swallowed hard. I cannot comprehend how she's intimidated by him but still have the guards to get me kidnapped. Because from how she looks right now, she clearly knows what he's disabilities are.

She literally sprang on her feet and he tightened his hold on my hand.

"Calm down baby. She's not worth it."

He curved me with his arm and let out a sigh.

We walked in, a hostess greeted and ushered us in. We found a table and he pulled a chair for me. I sat down and he settled on his, direct to me.

A waitor came and we orderd a full english breakfast with Orange juice. He disappeared shorty.

I looked at him, he looked absolutely annoyed.

"Can we just forget about Meagan and focus on our breakfast, please?" I said.

"I'm sorry. I'm ju..." His phone rang and he answered.

"Lwazi...Yeah...no I'm not. She's leaving soon...yeah...okay bye" he hung up and placed the phone on the table. "Lwazi wants to join us for breakfast. I hope you don't mind because I told him he can come." He said rubbing his cheek with a thumb.

"Yeah sure. It would be nice saying goodbye to him actually."

"Awesome then."

Our food arrived and we digged in. I stole fries in his plate and he chuckled.

"Why do women like doing this."

"I'm not a woman baby."

"Afcause you're not wena sthandwa sam."

I threw a savient at him and he ducked.

"I'm gonna miss you uyazi."

"Don't even mention it. That time I didn't even get any action to last me for two weeks."

He twitched his mouth to its corner and I laughed.

"You won't die Ozithobile."

"Don't do that." He narrowed his gaze and bit his bottom lip.

"What?" I teased.

"My full name Nhlanhla." He looked down between him and the table and cursed under his breath. His hand disappeared under the table and I laugh.

"It's not funny baby. And It doesn't help that you're sitting there looking so damn sexy. Uuurg." He groaned.

"Manje what was your hand doing down there?"

"Adjusting Jack. He's getting excited angithi."

We chuckled in unison.

Lwazi pulled a chair and sat down.

"Sup fam." He picked a fry in Ozi's plate and looked around for a waiter.

"I don't share food with men for obvious reasons wena slima. So don't put your hand in my food. For all I know, you just touched your meat before uza lana and didn't even wash your hands." Ozi said and both Iwazi and I bust into laughter.

"Uyislima ngempela." Lwazi said.

"Hi Lwazi."

"Hello makoti. you're leaving huh? "

"Yup. I miss home."

"I should come visit before you come back. The place looked refreshing, man."

"I'd love that hey."

Sudden noise erupted from some corner and some guy was harrasing a waitress.

"I ASKED FOR COFFEE 25 MINUTES AGO AND YOU BRING IT COLD. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS?" He shouted and poured the poor lady with the coffee. She gasped.

"Oh my gosh. Is he crazy?" I said annoyed.

"Do you want to go take care of that?" Ozi asked looking at Lwazi.

"Ey Angizingeni." Lwazi said.

Ozi pushed his chair back and walked over to the table.

Ozithobile Langa.

Seeing this guy harassing the waitress pressed on my already annoyed nerve. I felt my body heat up again. I was still very set off by seeing Meagan and I wanted to take out my frustrations on something. This guy is being a jerk so he deserves being at the receiving side of what I'm about to do to him. Besides, nothing pisses me off like men treating women like dirt. I walked over to their table. He brought his gaze up and looked at me.

"Enden?" he said.

"Please get him another hot coffee. It's on me." I said

to the waitress and she nodded walking away.

"It wasn't necessary to embarrass her like that my guy." I said with my hands burried deep in my pockets.

"Ey, you don't even know me like that. Ungakhulumi nami."

He looked at me from head to toe.

"Can we talk outside?" He rose up and walked out. I follwed him. He turned to look at me the moment he stepped outside.

"Who the fuck do you think you are nigga." He said.

I released a very hot slap across his face.

"First off all, I'm not a nigga. And secondly, I'm the guy who'll teach you to show some little respect for women." He tried to throw a punch but I punched him first on his stomach. He groaned.

"Women aren't toys saan."

"Hade bruh." He said holding his stomach.

"Now go get your coffee. I expect you to give her a

wide smile accompanied by a fat tip." He nodded. I walked in and settled down on my seat. They looked at me.

"What?"

"What did you do to the poor guy." Lwazi asked.

"Nothing. We just talked."

"Hmmm." He wasn't buying my story. I don't give a sack of flying cats right now. He had it coming.

The guy walked back in and Lwazi looked at him and laughed. I felt Sne's eyes heavy on me and I didn't dare look at her. I digged back in on my food. Lwazi's plate came and he ate aswell. I called the waitress and payed for the guy's coffee with a tip ontop.

We walked out and got to the parking lot. She was very emotional and it broke my heart. I pulled her in for a hug and she let it all out.

"Come on love. I'll be back before you know it. I promise." I brushed her back.

She cried till she couldn't nomore. I looked at Lwazi and he just shrugged. She finaly placated. I cupped

her face and we shared a salty kiss filled with emotions.

Lwazi cleared his throat and we looked at him.

"Let me love and leave you makoti. Travel safe and take it easy on the accelerator alright?" He hugged her and we fist bumped.

"Don't forget the meeting at 10 baba ka still coming."

"I'm right behind you."

"Bye Lwazi and thank you." She said. Lwazi waved his hand and walked away.

"Do you still want Ice cream and hot wings? "

She smiled and nodded. I smiled back.

"I'd love that."

"Okay. Are you gonna be able to drive?"

She nodded.

"Okay. Let's go."

We drove out and went to buy to a near by mall because there isn't Chicken Licken here. We arrived

soon and I went to buy her goddies and flowers and came back. I got in her car and handed her. Her face beamed.

"I bough you flowers. I hope they cheer you up."

"Thank you baby. They are beautiful."

"You still have your credit card right?"

She nodded.

I watched as she indulged on her ice cream while I leaned closer and brushed her belly. It's growing quiet big lately.

"I'm gonna miss my bonding sessions with my son."

She giggled and just savoured on the ice cream.
Soon she was done.

"I have to go baby."

"Me too." She leaned over and I cupped her face. We shared a sensual kiss and I felt Jack twitch. I broke the kiss. It's better this way. I hugged her so tight that I felt chills travel down my spine.

"Travel safe okay. I'll facetime everyday."

"Travel safe too baby. I love you."

"I love you too Nhlanhla. Call me if you feel threatened. Especially about that Aunt Nosi woman."

"I promise. Bye."

"Bye my love."

I kissed her one more time and kissed her belly then hopped out. I watched her drive away and soon I drove out too and headed to the office. I've got a meeting with potential clients and soon after that I'm flying to the U.S. how I wish she could go with me though.

Insert 41

(Unedited)

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

I stirred my eyes and rubbed them a few times. The walls are different from those that I'm used to waking up surrounded by daily. I wandered my eyes around trying to register my surroundings. A smile curved from both coneres of my mouth when my eyes met with a framed picture of my parents hanging on the wall . I'm home! I arrived pretty late yesterday and resorted to sleeping in my parent's room. I took my time and admired the picture. My mother's smile was dashing from it. Almost like I could hear her speak. I miss her. I miss her so much it breaks my heart. I wish she was here, now that I'm going through this pregnancy. I'd be lying if I said this stage in my life isn't overwhelming at times. And even though Ozi supports me in everyway

possible, a mother's guidance would make it a whole lot easier for me right now. Phew! But I'm home and that's all that I needed. Away from the city's busy life and lights. I don't know how to explain the peace that comes with being at home but it does wonders to my soul. I rolled out of bed and pushed my slippers in. I walked out and went to the bathroom. My parent's house isn't that classy but we've got running water and a flushing toilet. Something most households in this village envy. Atleast I don't have to go outside each time I need to relief myself. I did my business and walked out. I went from room to room and noticed the whole house smelled musty and it sure as hell needed some much proper cleaning. Spiders found themselves a home in every corner here and I can only hope there are no rats hosting parties during my absence. The last time I was here, was during Lobola negotiations that turned what was meant to be a beautiful, remarkable day into a sorrowful one. That ordeal left my premature relationship with Amanda dented in a way that I don't even know if it will ever be fixed. I gave up trying reach out to her. Even after Dlomo's arrest,

she still ignored my calls. So I let her be.

A rough persisted knock came through the door just as I was packing crockeries that we used on the day of the lobola. Everything went south real quick and we never had a chance to put everything back to it's original place.

I headed to the kicken to attent to the door. I unlocked and before I could even hold the knob, it turned and the door was pushed open...too wide and quick it nearly hit my bump. I stepped aside, making way for her to come in. She looked at me from head to toe as she raised her nose in regard with contempt. She smacked the poor chewinggum so loud in her mouth that I believe if there are rats in the house, now they know they have company. So early in the morning! Did she even brush her teeth?Haike!

She walked over to stand in the middle of the room.

"Yimoto ka bani le ngaphandle?"

I let out a sigh and walked past her back to the living

room. She followed me.

"Sawbona nawe aunt Nosi." I said.

"Akuyenzwanga nomshado kodwa usuw'letha amadoda endlini ka bhuti."

Amadoda? Is she kidding me right now?

"I came alone aunty. It's my car that's parked outside." I said as I put the crockeries inside the boxes.

She clapped once and held her waist. I looked at her and nothing has changed about this woman. She was wearing a leopard print legging with a pink t-shirt that was lifted up by her big breasts. Her belly was out in the open and she wrapped her head with stockings. Her black, dry and cracked heels revealed from the flip flops.

"It's your car?" She burst into laughter.

"Haibo ntombazane. Nami ngingaythenga phela." She said looking at me. This woman is full of contempt I'm telling you.

"Well my husband bought it for me. So that makes it

mine."

I saw her amusement disappear from her face as she looked at me and blinked rapidly.

"Eyakho?" She enquired.

"Yebo."

"That good to nothing of a man buyed you that car. Ngobani?"

"Because I'm her wife and I needed the car aunty."

"You left the village 5 minutes ago kodwa usubuya nemoto. Uyalotsholwa futhi usuka phansi. Hai phela imithi unyoko akushiyele yona iyasebemza sisi." She chuckled.

I felt my heart wrench. I looked at her as she took a sit.

"What's that supposed to mean aunty?"

"Akhekho umuntu ophile kahle enhloko ongafuna ukulobola wena. Aze akuthengele ngisho nemoto pho! Kusobala ukuth imithi iyaksebenzela ntombazane. Kodwa everything that's finished...kubuye kuphele. Trusted me. We saw

things happen in front of phambi kwethu thina. We see and shut up"

When is she gonna realise that english isn't her friend? Futhi I cannot believe she'd think that low of me. I always knew she didn't think highly of me kodwa le!

"Manje iphi lendoda yakho edelelayo?" She asked.

"Ukhona. And akadeleli aunty, please."

"He had his hands in his pockets when he speak to us. Uyibizani leyonto? Abafana base madolopeni angikaze ngibathande. They don't respect. That's why I wanted you to marry uBra Pat."

I rolled my eyes.

"Why uKhosи angashadi naye kanti if he's that good?"

"Unomlomo kanti this days. This is what I mean. Loyamfana wama suit ukufundisa ukudela nje k'phela. You can even talk back. Hee!"

"I'm sorry anti kodwa if you're so good with arranging marriages for other people, yindaba uKhosи angashadile even now?" Or youself even. I battled

with the edge of saying that out loud but I suppressed it.

"Uthini?"

She raised her hand to slap me but I protested.

"Don't you dare aunty." She formed in into a fist and lowered it down.

"Your days of hitting me are over. You'll stop with your abusive behaviour if you don't want to end up in jail." I said with a very stern voice and she blinked a few times. She's clearly startled by my sudden courage to defence myself and wouldn't believe her eyes.

"Uyadelela since uhlala ePitori. Kuyok'siza ukuthi uphindisele leya moto emuva, ubuye la ekhaya and get married to ubra Pat." She rose up.

What's this woman's obsession with bra Pat kanti?

"Gone are those days where you called the shots in my life aunty. I'm married to Ozithobile Langa. And I'm not taking that car back. Deal with it." I shot back. I'm sick and tired of being bullied by everyone. More

especially this woman. Who does she think she is?
Rhaa!

"Ithi ngihambe mina. Watch out ke ntombi. Ungaze
ufe nje ngoyihlo nonyoko phela."

With that said, she walked out. I remained squatted
and dumbstruck. What's that last statement
insinuating?

Afternoons are the most heart soothing about being home. Watching the sun shadows and the smoke from coal chimney smoke as it claims it's spot on the atmosphere, is what declares home. I was preparing myself a fruit salad when my phone rang. I picked it up from the table and a smile creped out from my mouth. I answered.

"Hey you." I said, sitting down.

"Hello chubby cheeks. Unjani?"

"I'm good. How are you?"

"I miss you. Can we FaceTime?"

"Now?"

"Are you busy?"

"No. Not really. Give me 5 minutes to connect then."

"Okay."

I hung up and went to take my laptop. I lay in bed and called him back. He answered.

"Wifey." He gave me his dashing smile.

"Hey my love."

"You look so beautiful." I wish I could kiss you right now."

I smiled. I missed him so much and I felt like crying.

"I miss you too baby. How's USA?"

"Busy. I just came out from a conference meeting. I'm going back to another after an hour."

"Busy much huh?"

"Very. I wish you were here. I miss your magical hands. How's home?"

"It's good."

He frowned. I know he doesn't believe me but I'm not about to tell him about aunt Nosi's bitchy behavior. He might put everything on hold and fly back here. So, no.

"Are you sure baby? Why am I not convinced?"

I flashed him a smile.

"I just smiled. Are you happy?"

He chuckled and nodded.

"I wish I was there. I've never had sex with a girl under her parent's house before. This would be my chance to explore."

He chuckled and I laughed.

"You're so naughty baby. There's nothing special about that."

"Oh there is. Imagine us trying to suppress our moans and groans because we don't want the parents to hear us having sex. It's a pity they aren't alive anymore."

I don't know why that didn't make me sad. I love how everything that comes out of his mouth makes me

happy.

"Hai langa usile maan."

He smirked. And I saw some guy appear from the background.

"I'm sorry to cut you short sweetheart but we have to prepare for the next meeting. I'll call you later alright?"

"Okay baby. Love you."

"What happened to the 'I' ?" He said and I giggled.

"I love you Langa."

"That's my girl. I love you too yezwa Mrs Langa wami."

I blew him a kiss and he caught it and placed it in his heart. I chuckled and hung up.

I walked back to the kicken and realised I don't have a Yoghut. Zama walked in and smiled.

"Look at you." She said still smiling.

I opened my arms wide and we shared a hug.

"Hello Zama. How are you?" We broke the hug.

"I'm good. How are you dear."

"I'm good. You look so beautufil. Wow." I said rubbing her cheeck. She's really beautiful. She looks different from both her mother and big sister. She's a total opposite. Even chatector wise. Zama is very laid back and reserved. Unlike...you know who.

"You look stunning youself." She brushed my belly and I felt a kick. Oh my gosh. Both our gaze widened as we looked at each other. This has never happened before. Another pleasant light kick came through and I smiled.

"Wow. This has never happened before Zama."

"Are you serious?" She said as she placed her hand catelyfully on my belly and smiled widely. I just nodded rapidly with a grin on my face.

"I must be a specal case then."

She must be indeed. We stayed there and listened to the kicks. I cannot wait to tell Ozi.

They finally stopped and I asked Zama to acompany

me to the store. I needed yoghurt for my fruit salad.

We went out and I locked the door.

We walked to the store and I felt my load ease up. I really missed this change of scenery. The sight of watching boys play soccer in the streets barefooted and greeting everybody I know was just amazing. I'd catch a few people giving me funny stares. I'm guessing it's because of the pregnancy but It didn't get to me. I was enjoying every bit of this moment and Zama was a great company.

Unknown location.

Narrated.

Mike took off his leather gloves and jacket and placed them on the table. He lit his cigarette and pulled a chair to sit before her. She brought her gaze up and looked at him. He looked at her back with a very chilled facial expression. He pulled a few puffs of

the cigarette and blew the smoke her direction. She looked away and he rose up from the chair. He went to stand next to the window and looked outside. She was shaking in fear and shivering from cold. She was only in her underwear, tied up on a chair with her mouth sealed with a duck tape. She couldn't establish how she could have ended up here with this man. But she knew kamar was a bitch. Funny how fate can twist in a blink of an eye. A few days ago, she had somebody else kidnapped. But tonight the tables have turned and she's the one at the receiving end of the stick.

He came with another cigarette on his hand. Only this time, it wasn't lit. He sat down on his chair, leaned forward and balanced on his knees. He looked at her right in the eyes with his sharp blue eyes.

"I wish I could say I don't love her but I." He said, still looking at her.

"I don't take kind to people who harrass those that are close to my heart. Both Ozi and Sne hold a special place in my heart. And I wish was doing this

for Ozi morethan I'm doing it for Sne because he's my bestfriend. He's sacrificed the most unbelievable things in his life for me. And there's nothing that I could do that will come close to showing my gratitude to him. But this isn't about him. It's about that exceptional woman you nearly got me hurting her. I love her. And it's crazy." He grinded his teeth and lit his cigarette.

"I'm going to remove the ducktape from your mouth. Not that it would help you if you scream but I hate noise. It irritates the shit out of me. So if you know what's best for you, you wouldn't do anything to irritate me. Rightt? She nodded and Mike roughly pulled the ducktape from her mouth. She winced.

"Shhhh!" He put his index finger on her mouth.

"You've already failed." She looked at him and pleaded with her eyes.

"Please don't do this. I'm begging for your mercy." She whispered.

"I did not say you can talk. You'll talk only when I say so." He looked at the cigatette on his hand and

noticed it was burning out. He flicked its ashes on her thighs and she winced yet again.

"You know Meagan. Women like you make me sick. You made me hate my job." He pulled a puff and pressed the cigarette on her thigh. She screamed.

"Shuuuut the fuck up!" That came out extremely low and chilled.

"I just said, I don't like noise. It's either you're slow or just rebellious." He pulled and pressed the cigarette yet again, this time on her boobs.

Meagan suppressed the excruciating pain that stung the tip of her heart. She was scared to let it all out. But tears were already rolling down her cheeks.

"I'm a chainsmoker when frustrated. And right now, I'm beyond that. So you'll bare with me as there isn't an ashtray in here."

"Fuck You!" She spitt out.

"If you're gonna kill me just do it now, ass hole." She said fiercely and Mike chuckled.

"Ooh fierce. I like." Mike kept the pulls coming and

pressing the cigarette all over her body. She was numb from the pain.

"If you think you're suffering, then you have no idea because this is just the tip of an icebag. An eye for an eye, right Meagan? You nearly got her fucked. But now look at you."

"Go fuck yourself, man. She's also having you under her spell and you don't even see that." She whimpered.

"Is she? How so? Do tell?"

"Why don't you ask yourself how come you all fall for her? She's a witch. Untie me and I'll help you deal with her."

She felt her cheeks burn from the slaps Mike kept realising. She fell down on the ground with the chair.

"I had hoped this would be fun but I'm getting disgusted by the sight of you."

He put the ducktape back on and untied her. He picked her up and walked out with her mumbling and kicking. He got to his car and put her in the booth.

He drove away to where her car was and pulled over. He killed his car engine and went to take her out of the booth into her car booth. She looked at her as he was about to close the booth and pleaded with her eyes. She was mumbling trying to say something but was obviously not audible. She pleaded but her cries landed on deaf ears.

"I hope you become a chicken in your next life so I'd get to eat you. Travel well bitch."

He banged closing the booth and poured petrol all over and lit it. It came to flames. He did not even watch it burn. He hopped back into his car and brought the engine back to life. He lit another cigarette and drove away.

Insert 42.

(Unedited and short)

Michael White.

I'm a guy who's mostly mistaken for being chilled and laidback. Some say I'm an egoist and self-centered. While in actuall fact, I'm ruthless as fuck. I'm not a fan of long speeches. I'm a man of very few words and noise irritate the hell out of me. I love my peace of mind and I don't take kind to weaklings. People who feel deserving like the world owes them something, set me off. If I was able to make something of myself, regarless of my background, why can't they? I grew up with a silver spoon in my mouth. But that flew out the window when my father came home drunk every night and beat my mother into a pulp. I was just a small boy. I couldn't do anything to protect her. So I watched the scene eveyday, curled up in a coner as that became our

second nature untill that jerk dozed off with his cigarette that torched the house on fire. He burned it down with both him and my mother inside. I had ran away from home that night after he gave me a beating of my life. Fortunate for me, I survived. Unfortunately for my mother, she burned into ashes. I become disoriented for a while trying to figure life out throught my pain. I never attended any counselling. I lived and learned to bottle it all inside. Little did I know that I was a ticking time bomb. I got into a very ugly fight one time in university that left a couple of men dead. I had always seen Ozi at our football practice. But the night of that ordeal was what cemented our brotherhood. He came through for me when I was ambushed and thought I'd loose my life.

Hi, I'm Michael White. A 32 year old white dude you don't wanna mess with. I'm a doctor by profession and wolf at night.

I switched on the T.V and news about a woman who's body couldn't be identified was found burned

and in ashes inside a car booth just outside centurion. I changed the channel and there it was again. Oh for fuck' sakes! What was she? An Ice queen or something? Mcm! Don't these people have better news to report or something? My phone rang just as I switched the T.V off. I looked at the caller ID and answered.

"Ozi."

"Mike, Whats up, man?"

"I'm good bro. How are you?"

"Awesome. I just saw the news." There was silence. Is he waiting for me to confirm what he already knows? Yes I did it. I killed that bitch. Now can we all get on with our lives?

"Did you do it?" He finally gathered the courage to say it.

"Yes I did."

He remained quite again. If I didnt know any better, I'd say he still felt something for that chick.

"Are you alright?" I asked.

"Yeah I'm good. Is just, when you said you were going to take care of it, I didn't think you meant it." I chuckled and shook my head.

"I don't go around wasting my breath saying things I don't mean man. You should know this by now."

"Yeah but burning her. Aren't you over that phase?" I clenched my fists. When my mother died, I promised to punish anybody who'd ever hurt me with fire. I wanted them to die painfully the same way that my mother did.

"Don't go there man. Not today." I said.

"Don't fuck with me Mike. I'm not gonna be able to take you out of that hell hole again. You can't afford to go back there." Shit! I pressed on his nerves. And he was right.

"I won't. Just relax okay." I said trying to convince him. I understand why this is very sensitive to him. He went through hell and back when I fell into depression in my final year and I wanted to quit. He had my back and was there for me when I literally had nobody. I finished my degree in Medicine with

him watching me like a hawk. There isn't anything o wouldn't do for him. We're off the same age but he's the responsible one. As ruthless as he is, he's always been responsible.

"I got to go. Don't do anything stupid."

"Yeah sure."

He hung up. Phew! I walked to the fridge and took out a beer. I sat down on the couch and browsed through my images. There she was. Her beautifully structured face with perfect futures filled my heart with joy. I stole the pic in her sleep that night and I haven't been able to go to sleep without thinking about her since. She's just perfect. I never thought I'd fall for a black woman. Let alone one which belongs to my bestfriend. How do I tell my heart to forget about her while it actually longs and yearns for her? This is some fucked up situation. I leaned back and downed my beer.

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

Zama and I stayed up till late and I asked her to sleep with me. I don't know why but I was feeling offish last night. Like somebody somewhere was loosing their soul. It must be pregnancy homorns. We were seating in the living room watching reality shows salivating on some goddies. I swear I eat like a pig lately. My mouth is always stuffed with food and I couldn't care less. It doesn't help that the belly is dramatically growing lately. Hai! I'm pregnant. Let me just do what pregnant women do and embrace this moments because I'll miss them. Zama was focused on her phone fidgeting with her fingers while I was focused on the TV screen.

"How long are women going to be victimised by men though? I'm sure she got killed by her boyfriend. Nobody would do such to a woman unless she cheated and the boyfriend couldn't handle it." She said gazing on her phone.

"What are you talking about?"

"Twitter is buzzing with UP students posting about a

lecture from their campus who is believed to have been torched alive in her carbooth last night. A miss Meagan Dube."

My heart dropped. I lost my appetite that instant. I jumped from the couch and snatched the phone from her hand. She puzzled. My eyes widened as I saw her picture with a 'RIP' caption. Oh my gosh! Meagan is dead? But how? Who would do such a terrib-...I felt terrified at the thought that crossed my mind. I sprang off my feet and walked out.

"Uyaphi?" She said and I just ignored her. I charged to the bedroom and my phone rang just as I walked in. Speak of the devil! I shut the door behind me and answered.

"Hello."

"MaKhumalo wam." He said ecstatic. Bloody murderer!

"Don't 'MaKhumalo wami' me. What did you do Ozithobile? Futhi are you even in the U.S?" I was fuming.

"Hey calm down. What did I do now?" He asked. Is

he gonna play dumb with me right now?

"Did you do it?"

"Do what? Baby you're speaking in riddles right now and you're not making any sense."

"Don't patronize me maan Ozi. You killed her angithi?" I was now crying. Why am I crying? Am I crying for Meagan or for the fact that I miss him? Urg! Bloody moodswings.

"Oh. That."

"Is that all you're gonna say? Oh that? A woman died Ozi. In bloody flames and only God knows who did it. Wena uthi oh that?"

"You need to come the fuck down Snenhlanhla. I couldn't give a sack of flying cats if Meagan burned or got eaten by dogs. I did not kill her. I'm the the U.S damnit. How could I possibly been able to do that?"

My mouth was left hanging. Why is he shouting at me? I soabed. He remained quite and listened as I sniffed.

"You had nothing to do with it?" I said throught my

cries.

"Every dog has it's day. I thank whoever that did it. Good riddance." He spit out. What is wrong with this man? A human died here. Nomatter how evil one is, nobody has a right to take their life.

"Why are you okay with this?"

"I'm sorry. Did you suggest I buy a bunch of bouquet and get it delivered at the crime scene as a sign of grieve maybe?"

I remained quite. Completely dumstruck.

"Don't fuck with me Snenhlanhla. Now came yourself down and stop upsetting my child."

I hung up and laid on bed and cried. Why is he being so harsh?

The door pushed open to in came Zama. She held me in her arms and didn't say anything. She rocked me back and forth and I just cried. I'm hurt. By everything. More especially about Meagan's sudden heart wrenching death. Nobody deserves to die such a painful death. Nobody!

"Come on now babe. You're gonna upset the baby."

"He was harsh with me Zama. Why did he speak to me like that?" I sniffed.

"I don't know Sne but that man loves you. I Don't know what happened but I'm sure he didn't mean to."

"I hung up on him."

"Calm down now. Wipe those tears and call him back." She said and I broke free from her embrace. She smiled and wiped my tears.

"Call your man girl. Don't let issues get in between you."

She's right. I nodded and she stood up.

"Let me give you space. I'll be back alright? Now placate and smile. the baby can sense this negative energy."

I giggled. When did she become so smart? She walked out and I called him. He picked up almost immediately.

"Baby." He said softly. My heart swelled.

"I'm sorry."

"Are you calm now?"

"Yes. Just a bit."

"What's wrong with you?"

"I don't know. My mood swings are all over the place lately."

I heard him chuckle.

"I'm sorry shandwasam. But you need to take control of your temper. It doesn't sit well with me. I feel disrespected."

I remained quite.

"I miss you so much." He said.

Tears breamed my eyes again. I wish I could hold him tight and inhale his scent.

"I miss you too baby. There's still a complete week to go. I can't handle that."

"But you didn't wanna come with me mos." He was laughing.

"Baby don't. I needed to come home. It's a good thing futhi ngoba the baby just kicked yesterday."

"What? The baby kicked?"

I nodded rapidly and realised he can't see me.

"Baby...did you just say my son kicked? For the first time and I wasn't there?"

"Yes baby." I smiled.

"Why is that boy such a traitor? I'm only gone for 5minutes and he's already betraying me? I'm hurt."

I laughed.

"Only one week left my love. Hang in there alright."

"Okay. I'll try. Let me go make him money now. I have to go. Please refrain from getting upset baby. That boy is gonna be moody."

I giggled.

"Okay baby. I love you yezwa."

"Nami Ng'yakthanda sthandwa sam. Bye now."

"Bye." I hung up and sat on the bed. He kicked again.

This time it was very strong. I smiled and held my tummy.

"I'm sure your father would have said you're going to be a striker with that kick."

Insert 43

(Unedited)

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

I regret refusing to go with my husband overseas. His absence makes my heart grow fonder. I wish he could come back already. I was enjoying being home until everything that happened today. It kinda messed up with my mood and now I feel lonely. I'm longing for him so much, it hurts. I sat on the couch and decided to make a few phone calls to my friends, starting with Amo. Her phone rang for the longest time and just as I was about to hang up, she picked up.

"Hey girl." She said panting heavy.

"Uhm...Hi. Have you been running or something?"

"No, why?" She giggled. There was a voice of a man in the background. Is she having sex?

"Oohkay. Why do you sound like you're catching up

with your breath then?"

"Uhm...let me call you back babe." She giggled again and with that said, she hung up. Wow. How nice.

I called Khethelo next because I couldn't call Bandile. His relationship with me has since been dented because I refused to be his girlfriend. There's no bad vibe or anything like that between us. We're just cool and everything but things aren't the same as they were before. And I'm also respecting his relationship by keeping my distance. I'm just glad she's got a girlfriend now and she's super friendly. I like her alot and they look compatible together.

Khethelo's phone rang and he picked up after a while.

"Village girl." He said and I bust into laughter.

"I trust you to say such."

"I saw your WhatsApp status that you are home.
How is it ntwana?"

"I'm good man." I let out a sigh.

"That doesn't sound convincing. Are you alright?"

I remained quite. I became emotional that instant.

Meagan' sudden death is affecting me in ways I never thought it could.

"You know you can talk to me about anything Ngwana."

"I know. I'm just going through stuff. Do you remember Meagan, Ozi's ex-girlfriend that kidnapped me?"

"That twisted chick. Yeah I do. Don't tell me she tried her tricks again."

"Well she did. She got me kidnapped again but I was lucky to have been rescued. Story for another day. But what's upsetting me more now is that she's dead Khethelo."

"Eh. She's dead? What happen?"

"Don't you watch news dude?"

"I'm not a stuck up phela mina. News are for people who care about what's happening in the world. I don't."

I found myself chuckling.

"That's because you're a weirdo."

"Yeah but on a serious note man ntwana. What happened to her?"

"Her car was torched with her inside the booth." I heaved. My heart was really heavy. I felt like breaking down. I thought I came home to unwind but it looks like it doesn't get any better than being in the city. Bad news just keep following me.

"Woah! That's hectic mos. Seems like she had a lot going on in her life that woman. I mean out of all the deaths there are in the world, she choose to burn?"

Is he crazy? Kanti what's wrong with people making fun of her death like that? Are they cold hearted much?

"Haibo Khethelo she did not choose to die. Let alone in that manner."

"Hai you know what I mean. She probably met with her match and they sent her straight to hell. Anyway why do you sound troubled? shouldn't you be popping champagne or sipping on some good juice celebrating that she's finally out of your life?"

He's right. I should probably be relieved but I can't.

I'm not as heartless as they are. Could it be men's nature to not get touched by somebody's death or Meagan was just not their cup of coffee?

"I don't know why I'm affected, but I am Khethelo. To top it off, I'm all by myself here. And I think I'll attend her memorial service if there will be any."

I heard him chuckle.

"You're sweeter than I thought. Anyway you sound like you could really do with some talk. My mom is still there. Call her and meet up. Maybe you could be able to vent."

"Oh. I didn't know that. I'll pay her a visit. Thanks ntwana."

"Don't sweat it. Come give me a ride on your new baby once you're back. She looks like a goddess."

I chuckled. He's not even mad that I didn't tell him. I never told anybody for that matter. Not even Kamo. I just posted a picture of it on my WhatsApp but nothing to raise eyebrows. And anyway I'm not used to having anybody to share stuff going on in my life with. I'm sure they'll understand that I'm new to this.

I'm still adjusting.

"You can count on it man. Thanks for your time. I'll see you soon ke."

"Keep well ntwana. Bye."

"Bye."

I hung up and sat there thinking. I need something to keep my mind off things. I looked around the house and it was spotless. I finally decided to go cook up a storm to ease up on my heavy heart. Usually cooking is therapeutic for my broken heart and right now, I hope it does me wonders. I had bought groceries to last me for two weeks. So I took out everything and put my momma's cooking techniques into some good practice. In about an hour, the house smelled appetizing. I finally finished and went to take a quick bath. I finished and came back to dish up. I went to sit in front of the TV but I'd zone out in my thoughts. I tried to eat but I felt too moody and lonely, I couldn't stomach even a small potion. I lost my appetite and went to go put the food away.

I decided to resort to bed and wet my pillows to sleep. My day just turned gloomy and right now there isn't anything that would make me feel better and safe than just be in my man's arms. I looked at the wall clock, it was just after 10. I switched off the TV and lights and went to my room. I took off the gown and got under the covers. I called Ozi but he did not pick up. I don't know how many missed calls I left for him. Mcm!

I switched off the bedside lamps and just when I was slowly drifting off to sleep, I heard a rough knock coming through the kitchen door. Who could that be, this time of the night? I dragged myself out.

"Who is it?" I asked standing next to the door.

"Vula lana wena."

I rolled my eyes and unlocked. The first thing that hit my nostrils is a smell of booze. Is this woman ever sober though? She must be going through stuff of some sort because no person in their right state of mind can resort into drinking this much. The alcohol is already in her system. So much that she'd still

smell of it even when she's sober.

She pushed me aside and stumbled in.

"Hmm."

She raised her nose and smelled around. "It smelling nice nice here. Udma ini ngapha? Ngilambeeee." She said opening and peeking in every pot.

"Don't just stand there. Dish me up. I want to be eaten phela."

She went through the cabinets and fridge. I just leaned against the wall and watched her do as she pleases. I've got no energy, none whatsoever for her tonight. Besides, it's her brother's house angithi? Let her do as she pleases ke!

"Hmm kukhala wena cheese. Wena polony ngapha. Hamba cheese girl. Udma impilo nge folk and knife mos wena. Kumnandi. Hai ngiyakvuma maan. I'm sure you wouldn't mind neh? Indoda yakho i rich mos." She said as she raided out everything that she needed and placed it on the table.

"Give me plastic." She said leaning on the table and

burrying her head. She's totally wasted and off balance.

I walked over to the drawer and came out with a plastic. I put everything that was in the table and placed it in front of her. I think I'm just gonna wake up in the morning and head back to Pretoria. She might as well take everyrthing. I took out a container and dished up for her and put it in the plastic bag. I shook her lightly, she was already snoring. Is she sleeping while standing? Wow! I shook her again. She brought her head up. She was already drooling on the table even. She looked at me with her eyes partially opened. I pointed at the plastic and she looked at it. She tried to speak but burbed. Yuck! She shook her head and raised her finger. She had no energy left in her to even whisper a single word. She was finished. She took the plastic and stumbled out, burbing yet again...leaving the room smelling of an African beer. God forbid. What kind of an alcohol does she even drink? Hah!

I left the door open for a while and refreshed the air with Glade. The kicken was revived again. I locked

and headed back to my room. I got under the sheets and checked my phone hoping I'll find missed calls from Ozi but nothing. My heart grew even fonder for his presence. I laid up watching the ceiling. Another knock came through the kitchen door again. Oh for peace's sake. She just raided my kicken. What more does she want now? I ignored it but it persisted. Urg! I got up very annoyed. I didn't even put on my gown. I just headed out.

"I don't have alcohol in the house if that's what you want." I said unlocking. I opened the door without even looking.

"I always bring myself alcohol."

I turned swiftly to meet with his tall figure. He was standing on his feet with his hands burried in his pockets and wearing his dashing smile.

"Oh my gosh baby!" I jumped onto him. He held on to me tight and laughed. I wiggled myself away from his embrace. I wanted to see if it really was him or my eyes were playing tricks on me. I looked at him. He looked as handsome as ever. Just like the first

time I saw him. I was literally drooling over him. Utterly lost in his well structured body. He cleared his throat and I snapped out of it. He chuckled.

"Are you gonna let me in? Or must I just fly back to the U.S?" He flashed me a smile. Oh my gosh!

"Oh, yes. Come in." I said excitedly. He walked in and shut the door behind him. As soon as he turned, I attacked him with a kiss and devoured his lips but he pulled back. I raised my eyebrows. He smiled and stuck his tongue out to moisten his lips. He gazed deep into my eyes, I felt weak on my knees.

"I've waited for a weak to kiss you. I wanna take my time savouring it. Please let me."

With that said, he pulled the back of my head with his hand and took my lips in his. I gave in and shut my eyes. He swiped his tongue in my mouth sending chills down my spine. A soft moan escaped my mouth and I felt his lips curve into a smile against mine. He savoured on my lips and it felt like the very first time we kissed. River Jordan must have been flooding down there right now because wow, he was

kissing me like his life depended on it. My heart started to race but he broke the kiss and looked at me. I opened my eyes.

"Hi." He said.

"Hello."

"You're more beautiful than I can remember." He said looking softly in my eyes.

"You look appealing yourself." He chuckled and pulled me in his embrace. We both let out a sigh. I rested my head on his chest and inhaled his scent. He smelled too damn good I got aroused even more.

"I missed you so much."

"How did you get here? When?" I asked still in his embrace.

"Today. I took the first flight. I couldn't take it anymore." He said brushing the stern of my hair back. My heart smiled. I missed him so much either.

He pulled back and cleared his throat.

"Uhm. I decided to come here. I couldn't wait till you came back after two weeks. I hope it's not a big

deal." He enquired carefully looking at me.

"You have no idea how glad I am that you came baby.
It's a pleasant surprise."

He squated down. He put his hand around my waist
and rested his head on my belly.

"He's the reason why I couldn't stay any longer. I got
so jealous when you told me he kicked."

I chuckled.

"Did he kick today?" He said brushing it gently.

"Yes. They are becoming stronger each time."

"Hey there champ. Mommy told me about your first
kick and I couldn't help but drop everything. I hope
you realise that I flew back all the way from the
States because you betrayed me."

I coudn't help but get smitten. He looked at me and
smilled.

"Now be a good boy and keep those kicks coming.
I'll be waiting, alright." He slid his cold hands
underneath my pyjama top and I winced. He kissed
my tummy and rose up.

"I have to let my guys go." He looked at his wrist watch.

"What guys?"

"I asked them to drive me here so you and I wouldn't travel back in different cars."

"Oh. Are they outside now?"

He nodded.

"Hau baby. Why did you not tell me. We could have invited them in." I said heading to the door. He held my hand.

"Uyaphi?" He raised his eyebrow.

"I'm going to invite them in."

"Like hell you will. They aren't staying. I'll be back just now." He walked out and came back after a while with plastic bags full of food and goodies and his luggage.

He placed them on the table and heaved. He held on to his waist and looked at me.

"Did you cook? It smells good in here." His eyes

landed on the pots over the stove and I couldn't help but bust into laughter.

"Why are you laughing?" He looked at me puzzled.

"Seems like everyone is hungry tonight. You won't believe who was just here raiding my cubbets before you arrived." I said packing the food away and dishing up for him.

"Who?" He pulled a chair and sat down.

"Aunt Nosi. If you arrived 5 seconds earlier, you would have bumped into here."

"She was in here?"

"Hmm. Doesn't it smell like African beer in here because she burbed and wow."

We both bust into laughter. I gave him a mountainous plate of food and sat down opposite him.

"Thank you baby. Uthi uAunt Nosi wenzeni kahle kahle?"

"She stumbled in here and demanded that I dish up for her. Then she raided my fridge and cabbets. She

took all my groceries."

He looked at me puzzled before chuckling and shaking his head.

"She's got issues shame. She should see a Shrink."

He said with food in his mouth.

"I'm glad I didn't bump into her ke ngoba I probably would have ran for my life. This time of the night nogal." He rolled his eyes and I bust into laughter. He shook his head.

"You've outdone yourself here my love. The food is delicious."

I smiled and watched him eat. He had his head burried in his plate and forgot I was here for a moment. He brought it up and found me looking at him.

"What?" He shrugged his shoulders and I just shook my head. I love this man, God. How he's able to come through for me each time I need him the most, baffles me.

He finished eating and I offered him his beer, but he

said no. That's a first. He must be getting cold vibes from being in my parent's house.

"Thank you for the food sweetheart. You're the best."
He kissed my forehead.

"Let's go sleep then. It's pretty late."

"I wouldn't love anything morethan resting next to you right now." He wiggled his dark brows. We resorted to bed.

I got under the covers and watched him undress.

He finished shortly and joined in. He pulled me closer and I was in his arms. I felt electric shock waves as his hairy legs came in contact with my skin.

"So...I get to spend the night in the house where my woman grew up in."

"How does it feel?"

"Like home."

I raised my head and we looked at each other.

"Really? You feel like home."

"Yes my love. But do you know what else could ignite

the spark?" He smirked.

"Do tell." I smiled.

"Me pinning you agaisnt this bed right now and make love you you under your parent's roof." He looked at me intensely.

"That's crazy baby." I giggled.

"Not as crazy as what I wanna do to you right now."

He flipped me over and in seconds, I was underneath. He smashed his lips on mine we kissed untill there was no kissing anymore. He broke the kiss and intensely looked at me again.

"Why do I love you so much Snenhlanhla?"

I coudn't answer. I was already taken by the moment so much that my breathing my escalating. He traced his fingers on my parted lips and slowly took them in his. This time he savoured on them slowly and sloopy. I felt chills travel down my spine. I couldn't keep my body in check as it yerned for him.

"Langa." I mummerd between the kiss.

"Hmm."

"Make love to me."

"As you wish baby." He pulled me even closer and deepened the kiss.

Insert 44

(Unedited)

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

I did not sleep a wink last night. Ozi kept me awake, making love to me all night, I think I'm gonna go back to Pretoria with a sour cage. I'm not complaining though. I missed him so much and last night was dedicated to us. He couldn't stop commending how peacefully quiet this area is.

We've finally discovered a new way of sleeping. He wraps his arm around me and hangs his leg ontop like I'd escape.

I removed his hand that was weighing heavy on me and he mumbled. He turned to face the other way and fell back to his deep sleep. This is what happens when you deprive yourself a good sleep from hours of flying because of sex. I rolled out of bed and

wrapped my gown. I walked out to the bathroom and did my morning business. I brushed my teeth and washed my face. I walked back in the room and got dressed then walked out again. I swept the yard and watered the flowers. My mother's flowers must be a special kind of spicies because they aren't seasonal. They are forever blossomed and alive.

By the time I finished outside, the yard looked refreshingly beautifil. I was satisfied with how it looked.

I went back indoors and started cleaning the house while listening to Jacaranda.

I finished around 10 and even bathed, there was still no sign of Ozi waking up. I decided to go wake him up. So I prepared a full english breakfast with a glass of Orange juice and took it to him. I pushed the door open and walked in. He was still fast asleep. I placed the trey carefully ontop of the side table and shook him lightly.

"Baby." I said.

He mumbled something and turned. He rubbed his

face before looking at me.

"Hey, good morning."

"You wouldn't wake up so I thought I should make you breakfast."

"What time is it?"

"Just after 10."

"Oh man. How tired was I?"

He got up and sat upstraight.

"You wouldn't let me sleep angithi. Those are the quencequenses."

He chuckled.

"These look mouth watering. May I brush my teeth first please?"

"Yeah sure. I've already put your stuff in the bathroom. First door on your left."

"Thank you."

He rolled over and walked out. I made the bed and opened the windows and curtains for some fresh

breeze. He came back looking revived.

"The house looks quickly clean. What time did you wake up?" He sat down on the bed and I placed the tray next to him.

"Around 8. I couldn't sleep anymore."

"Hmm."

We ate in silence with him stealing glances of me here and there. He cleared his throat and I looked at him.

"I don't know if I'm ruining the moment but, you do know that I didn't kill Meagan right?"

I looked at him, he looked genuine but is he legit? Does it mean he's innocent? I lifted my shoulder and shrugged, dismissing him. He stopped eating and looked at me.

"What's that supposed to mean Nhlanhla?"

"I don't know. You tell me."

"You can't possibly think I did it now. I was in the States for crying out loud."

"That doesn't prove anything baby. And the way that you keep insisting that you were there makes me wonder. I mean, you go on a business trip and suddenly Meagan dies. It raises suspensions don't know think?" I said eating and not looking at him one bit.

"I could get you proof that I was in the U.S, if that's what you want."

I could feel him looking at me.

"You could be in the U.S and still get her killed. That doesn't make you innocent."

"I-did-not-kill-her!" That came out stern. I raised my eyes and looked at him. He looked at me back.

"Okay. If you insist then it shouldn't be a problem if we both attended her memorial service right?"

"What? Like hell we will. I'm not attending some stupid memorial service just to prove my innocence and neither are you."

He rose up headed to the door.

"I'm going to bath. Thanks for the

breakfast."

He walked out.

Ozithobile Langa.

I sinked myself deep in the bath tab and allowed the warm water to sooth my body. My body was atching from the long flight and my muscles were in knots. I flexed my joins and groaned a bit. The door pushed open and she came in. She placed new towels onttop of a mini table and leaned agaisnt the door frame. I continued with my relaxation moment and could feel her eyes heavy on me. I coudn't give a damn if she thinks I killed Meagan or not because truth is, Mike beat me to it. I'm pretty much just as guilty.

I finished bathing and dried myself up.

I walked out and she followed me.

I lotioned myself and felt her hands on my back. I closed my eyes and let her magical touch do me wonders. She pressed on my knots and I groaned

softly.

"You're so tense. Lay down and let me massage you." She said softly. I laid on my stomach and she got ontop of me. I relaxed my body and let her work her magic on me. A rough knock came through the kitchen door and she startled. She got off me and I looked at her.

"Are you okay? Why are you so jumpy?"

"Yes. The knock just came unexpectedly. I'll go check who it is."

"Okay. I'll get dressed so long. Thanks for the massage."

She gave me a faint smile and walked out. I could tell that she's uneasy. I took out my long sleeved navy blue t-shirt with sweatpants and kicks. I dressed up and sat down. I took out my laptop and sent a few emails and got busy with company figures. I had drifted off to my work when I heard commotion coming from outside. I battled with the edge not to go out. I didn't want to over step but I got so concerned. I walked out.

"Wuye lomfazi obalekile lona Pat?(Is she the woman who ran away, Pat?)" I heard a man's voice.

"Yebo phela. Ngizomthatha nalengane yakhe. Izokhulela ekhaya. Akuyona inkinga leyo.(Yes. I'm gonna take her with the baby. I'll raise it. That isn't a problem.)" Another voice said.

I walked in and the room went dead. I looked at all these old, potbelly, taxi driver looking men that were crowding the room and my wife.

"Sanibonani. (Greetings)" I greeted, looking at Sne.

"Hau! hau! hau! madoda. Nayi imihlola boh. Sekuchamuka nama soka ekamelweni(God forbid. Now boyfriends emerge from bedrooms.)." One old man said looking at me puzzled.

"Yah nangu lomfana wakhona madoda. Wuye yena lo ongithathela umfazi wami. Udelela kabi futhi.(Yes, here's the young lad gentlemen. He's the one that stole my wife. He's full of contemp even)." bra Pat said with his head hanged, avoiding making eye contact with me. I redirected my focus back to Sne.

She looked terrified.

"Are you okay baby?" I asked still looking at her.

"Uthi baby? Uyadelala lomfana madoda. Udelela impela. Hau! Hau! Hau!(He's calling her baby. This lad is really full of it)." I looked at this chatterbox of an old man briefly then focussed on Sne again.

"Snenhlanhla." She looked at me and nodded.

"Please excuess us." I said. She looked at me and pleaded with her eyes. She attempted to walk away but this old man yeld at her to stop. I clenched my jaws.

"Awuyi ndawo wena mfazi. Yima khona lapho.(Don't you dare walk away, woman. Stay where you are.)" I felt heat build up on my body. I wanted to punch his sorry old ass for even speaking to my wife like that but I contained myself. I looked at Sne.

"Just go baby." My voice came out stern yet calm. As soon as she disappeared, I motioned slowly to the one old man who seemed to be the one calling the shots. I had not even got to him when bra Pat sprang out on his feet leaving one Omega sandal

behind. I stood next to the old man and burried my hands deep in my pockets and looked at him.

"First of all, I do not apprecite the tone you're using to address my wife. Secondly, I don't have patience. So I suggest you take your crew and head out before shit hits the fan. This isn't one of your taxi territories."

He looked at me, then at the other guys who suddenly went mute and bust into laughter.

"Ucabanga ukuthi kuse Gauteng lana wena cheese boy. Uthathe umfazi ka Pat maan. Sizokukhomba umuzi onotshwala namhlanje.(You think this is Gauteng, cheese boy. Today You'll shit your pants.)"

I chuckled and looked at him.

"And what can you possibly do, mageza? Bring the whole taxi rank squad?" I said gazing at him. He chuckled nervously.

"Hehehe. Niyamuzwa lomfana madoda?(Are you listening to this lad?)" He said looking from side to side at his fellow men but they were not budging.

"Leyangane ingumfazi ka Pat. futhi sizohamba naye." He attempted to walk past me but I blocked him. This old man is really testing my patience. I didn't come here to cause drama at my wife's home but this potbelly sorry ass is twisting my arm.

"I'm warning you, man." I whispered. I had already reached that zone. He chuckled and pushed me to walk past again. I lost it and threw a much anticipated punch on his stomach. He groaned in pain. I held him up and pinned him against the wall.

"Snenhlanhla is my wife. You'll refrain from having all this sense of ownership on her. She's mine!" I attempted to throw another punch but Snej walked in.

"Ozi no! Leave him."

I shut my eyes and cursed under my breath. I clenched my jaws still pinning this man on the wall. I never want her to see me like this. Not even slapping anybody. I lowered my hand and let the guy go. He stormed out followed by his useless crew. I remained faced to the wall and tried to placate before I could turn to face her.

"Ozithobile." She called me softly and I felt a sense of calmness shower me over. I was still faced to the wall. I turned slowly and looked at her. I curved my mouth to the side and scratched my head.

"I'm sorry about that. You shouldn't have seen it." I said barely being able to look at her. She just stood there with her arm cupped on the belly just looking at me.

"I must just make peace with the fact that I'm married to a man of your calibre before I succumb stroke or go into early labour." She said. I narrowed my gaze and looked at her. I was trying to figure out what she was trying to say.

"What do you mean?" I enquired carefully.

"Follow me." She walked back and I followed her to her room. My eyes widened and I quickly shut them.
Shit!

"Yini leh." She said with her thick eyebrow raised.

"Uhm...baby I can explain." I walked to her but she stopped me. I remained glued to the ground.

"You cannot explain to me the obvious. I thought we agreed...actaully you promised that you'll leave this life behind Ozithobile."

"I have."

"Then what's it doing in your luggage Ozi?" She said poiting at the gun that was on the bed. She went through my stuff. But I cannot bring that up now, unless I have a death wish right?

"Okay baby let me explain. The thing is- " my phone rang, coming into my rescue. Oh thank you sweet Jesus. I answered.

Lwazi Langa.

I called him and he picked up instantly.

"Thanks for saving my ass man. I owe you you." He said on the other side of the line.

"Dude you better come back from the U.S before I blow her stupid brains out. She's been playing me man. All this time she's pretended to be with me

when-

"Ey slow the fuck down dude. I've only got two ears. Not pipes. Whose brains are you blowing and why?" He said. I sat down and heaved.

"That nuisance Itu chick is Sakhile's daughter man. Turns out, she's been using me to keep tabs on us and the company." I managed to say.

"What? What kind of a sick joke is this? Did you not do a proper background check on this chick like I asked you to?"

"I did man. She was as clean as they come. She's obviously good at what she does."

"I don't understand. Did you not say you met her at a pub one night?" He asked.

"I did. Well... She's the one who kinda initiated things and I went with the flow. I didn't think she could be shady. I mean she doesn't look shady."

"You are obviously slower than a lower grade. And I clearly overestimated your stupid ass. I could expect such from Banzi but you're taking the cake. Didn't

you learn anything from Banzi's animosity?" If he was here he was definately going to punch my teeth out.

"I know man. I don't know what happed." I said.

"You used your horny dick to think instead of your head, that's what happened. Fix your mess before I come back Lwazi. Don't bullshit me man. I've worked too damn hard and fought tooth and nail for you and your weak ass dick to jeopardise the company like that." The line died. He hung up me. Great! I paced up and down the room. I was fuming.

"Sit your ass down, man. You're making me dizzy." Mike said. He was sinked deep in the couch smoking like a frustated man.

"That bitch! How did you find this information on this chick Mike?" I asked still pacing up and down.

"Her bitchy attitude raised suspicions on the day of the braai. There was something off I couldn't shake about her. And besides, I look out for people who look out for me. So I kept tabs on her and voila! Turns out my suspensions about her were right." His

eyes were closed this whole time. I don't know how many cigarettes he smoked since he got here.

What's eating him?

"What's your problem dude? You smoke better than a chimney." I asked. He chuckled and rubbed his chin with a cigarette inbetween his fingers.

"Matters of the heart, mate." He said. I'm gonna have to get used to his short replies. This dude is weird as fuck.

"Piece of advice, lock those feelings down and throw away the key. Women ain't shit man. They are all the same." I said sitting down. He raised his hand and shook his head.

"That's where you're wrong, pal. I can't stop thinking about her. She's exceptional. Nothing like what I've seen in all my days of dating and fucking around."

His eyes were still closed. I looked at him and shook my head. He's not a big fan of chit chats so I'll let him be. Besides, I need time to think myself. I must really be loosing my touch in the game if chicks like Itu and that stupid father of hers are able to play me

like that. I remained quite and battled with my thoughts.

My Zulu speaking people, please Excuess my zulu
neh. I begoooooo!

Anyway, I thought I should atleast leave you with something. So I sacrificed my sleep just to post an insert ke before I could go home. I love you.

Goodnight

Insert 45

(Unedited)

Ozithobile Langa.

I woke up to her butt on my cock. I looked under the covers, her butt cheeks were out to play. She was wearing a silky sexy night dress that revealed all her assets. I let out a sigh. So she decided to deny me of my husband privileges after we had a very heated argument about the gun she found in my luggage earlier. She went to sleep without even talking to me. I don't understand why women have to be so pig headed at times. When they are mad, then shit has to hit the fan. I know she wore this sexy piece just to torture me.

I shook her lightly to wake her up. I can't deal with this erection. It also doesn't help that she's flipping sexy right now.

"Baby." I shook her.

"Hmm." She mumbled in her sleep and turned to face my direction with her eyes still closed. This woman is ridiculously beautiful.

"I'm stuffed honey, please. Just a little."

She slowly opened her sleepy eyes.

"Ozi lala maan."

"I can't Snenhlanhla. I want you baby." I sulked. She got out of bed and headed to the bathroom, swaying her round hips from side to side. She must be enjoying seeing me suffer this much.

"You're not getting any. Go back to sleep."

Is she kidding me? She's not doing me any justice by being provocatively sexy like that. I want to fuck the shit out of her right now. I sat there waiting for her to come back. She walked back in and got under the covers, with her ass staring right at me. Damn! I cursed under my breath. I swear to God, my wife's got some great ass. I stared at it back and bit my bottom lip. I really wanna sink myself deep inside her right now.

"Baby please. Just a quicky then. I promise I'll be fast." I pleaded, grabbing her ass firm. This woman is driving me insane. She's able to turn me on effortlessly.

"No. That's your punishment." She said stiffling a laughter. I got out of bed and headed out. Angeke phela. Such torture! Jack was poking in my boyleg.

"Not now champ. You'd better go back to sleep." I said adjusting him and walking out.

"Where are going?" She asked.

"I need a beer."

I could hear her chuckle. I walked out to the kitchen and took out a cold castle light. I opened it and threw away the cap across the room and downed it half way. I walked back to the room and she was snoring lightly. I shook my head. She's really adamant about this. My fierce woman. I took out my laptop and sat down on the edge of the bed and decided to work. I need some distraction.

Amanda Dlomo.

I hate how my mother is using me to get back at Sne. All for what? A man with no integrity like my father? Psm! I never really wanted to believe what the internet has always covered on unpalatable stories about him. I didn't want to believe my own father was capable of such evil acts. But now that he's arrested, I'm battling with thinking anything positive and him all at the same time. My mother should just make peace with the fact that, her husband isn't who she thought she is. I mean he cheated on her before and even impregnated another woman. He has no integrity.

It's ridiculous that I'm denied a chance in life to be with my only sister. I have been ignoring Sne's calls since my father got arrested. Somehow mom is rest assured that Ozithobile Langa, along with Sne have everything to do with his arrest. That's a load of nonsense if you ask me. Now she threatened to disown me if I defy her and ever make contact with Sne. I miss her so much and I hate how bad things

have turned between us. But if I want to obtain my diploma, I'll have to keep my distance until I don't need mom or dad's dirty money anymore. There's no way I'm letting her go. She's all I have anyway.

The door swang open, disturbing me from my thoughts. I looked at her direction, she gave me a faint smile. She looks like she hasn't had a decent sleep in ages. She's drained and aging.

"Mama. Uright." I asked out of concern. She nodded her head.

"Yes baby. You have to get ready. We're leaving in an hour."

I raised my eyebrow in confusion.

"Where are we going?"

"To visit your father Amanda."

"Mama we talked about this, please."

"Don't get started with that nonsense. I'm not in the mood for your childish behavior. Get ready in an hour. Don't let me come drag you out of here."

"I'm not going." I protested. I don't understand why

she feels the need to keep showing dad that she cares by continuing to pay him visits with cigarettes and toiletries. That's just absurd. The man doesn't care much about her. He never did. And if she wants to play the good wife then that's her business. But she should keep me out of it.

"You will take a bath, dress decent and go visit your father, even if you have to do it screaming and kicking. Do not test me." With that said, she stormed out. Mcm! I can't wait to gain my independence and live my own life away from this toxic home.

I got up and dragged myself to the bathroom to take a bath. Shortly I was done with everything. I took took my hand bag and walked out. I found her seating in the kitchen. The car was already idling outside.

"You're exhausting my car petrol. I've been waiting for ages for you to get done."

I rolled my eyes. I'm done mos, aren't I? Urg!

"What do you think we should take for him?" She added.

"She's your husband. Why are you asking me?" I asked rhetorically. I went to the fridge and took out a bottle of water.

"You're very disrespectful Amanda. This isn't how I brought you up."

"It must be home brewed then." I mumbled, hoping it come out as a whisper. She flew across the room to slap me but quickly regretted it.

"I've got too many stress factors already. Please don't add on the list. Let's go."

We walked out and drove to the mall. She bought stuff that she thinks my dad will need plus packs of cigarettes then we drove straight to New Lock prison.

The drive was quite and tense. The journey took long but eventually we arrived.

"Please hold your horses. I do not want to have to deal with your childish acts. It's your father who's behind these walls and I need you to show some compassion, siyezwana?" She said, looking at me sharp. I just nodded and we walked in. We arrived at the receptions and they took us through the

visitation process yet again. I'm super annoyed right now. Do they have to do this each time we visit? Urg! They lead us to the visitors room and we sat down. This is no place for humans to stay at. It's gloomy and depressing. The big walls and bad aura leaves none to the desired. I guess they purposely designed it that way.

I was drifted off in my own thoughts with my eyes wandering around these big walls when he walked in. I felt a huge lumb on my through. I'll never get used to seeing him in these orange overalls. He sat down on the other side of the table and looked at me briefly.

"You look beautiful everyday, my princess." He said. I gave him a faint smile trying to force a chuckle. I don't know how I feel but I'm mess right now. Anger doesn't even begin to describe it. Mom nudged me sharp with her elbow. It took every fibre in my body for me to be able to whisper a word.

"Thank you." That's all I could say. His throat made a movement, like he just swallowed down a lump of disappointment. He smiled weakly and nodded

lightly, redirecting his focus on mom.

"It's so nice to see you my dear."

Mom didn't respond. I looked at her, her eyes were breaming with tears. She looks hurt. It was writing all over her eyes.

"Mama." I called her softly. She looked at me and blinked the tears away a few times. Why does she keep coming here if it brings out the worst in her? I don't understand.

"We brought you these. I hope they are enough." She pushed the plastic bag to my dad without even looking at him.

"Ngiyabonga maka Amanda. Kodwa why can't you look at me?" He said, looking carefully at my mother. Is he slow or something? What woman in her right state of mind would find strength to look at her alleged child molester of a husband? I felt my body tense up.

"Baba what do you have to say for yourself? You haven't said anything regarding your arrest since. Don't you think we deserve to hear it from the

horse's mouth?"

"Amanda! Ngikukhuzile njalo nga lama nyala akho"
she jumped in to protect him. Unbelievable.

"It's okay, let her speak her heart. She has a right to."
He said. Look at him acting all decent. I just want to spit out on his face right now. I'm disgusted to be called his daughter even. My life turned upside down. I was the talk of the campus all because of him. People pointed with each other of me every where I went. I don't even know why I'm here. I rose up from my chair and attempted to walk away. He called me.
"Ozi Langa set me up my child. I had nothing to do with all these allegations against me." He said looking at me. I chuckled and shook my head.

"I knew you were gonna pin it on somebody else. Have you no decency?" I was balancing with my hands on the table, leaning forward.

"Why would he do that baba. What does an affluent man like Ozithobile Langa have to gain in all this?" I said fuming.

"I didn't take you to those expensive schools for you

to be slow Amanda. Connect the dots maan. I was a stumbling block between him and my daughter. He knew I wasn't gonna let him have her. The only way to get rid of me was to get me locked up. Can't you see that."

"That's ridiculous. All those women who testified against you regarding their sons can't be lying. It's time own up to your errors and make peace with the fact your dirty deeds are coming to catch up with you. And you have nobody but yourself to blame for it." I was still on my feet.

"You need to watch your tone young lady. I did all I had to do, so you'd have everything that you have today. I do not appreciate you're ungrateful self right now. I worked hard for you to go to university. Start showing gratitude."

I chuckled in disbelief and looked at mom, she was facing down this whole time. I redirected my focus back dad.

"I don't need your filthy money baba. You can gladly take it and shove it where the sun doesn't shine."

"Amanda!" Mom said. I looked at them both and grapped my bag. I walked out but but swiftly made u-turn.

"Snenhlanhla is better off without you. You're a pig. I hope they lock you up and throw away the key." With that said, I stormed out leaving my mom behind. I walked to a taxi rank and took a taxi to Sizwe's place.

Ozithobile Langa.

I was woken up my a ray of sunshine stinging my face. I looked on her side of the bed, she wasn't there. I rolled out and went to bath. I came back and got dressed. I have to go back to Pretoria soon. The company needs my attention and there's no way I'm leaving my wife behind. With those bunch of bellypots taxi drivers, I'd be dammed.

She walked in and smirked.

"Goodmorning." She said.

"Uyadelela wena. Come here."

She walked to me and gave me a kiss. I made her sit on my lap then wrapped my arms around her belly.

"How did you sleep princess?"

"I slept good. Wena?"

"Don't even-..." I felt a very strong kick on my arms. My eyes widened in shock. I looked up at my wife.

"Oh my God honey, did you feel that?" She just giggled and nodded her head. I did not expect this. It hasn't kicked once since I arrived here and I was starting to believe that its mother was just trying to lure me into coming here. I squatted down and placed my hand on the belly. Another kick came, I was grinning like an idiot.

"No girl kicks this hard. It's a boy baby." I said, very amused. This just made me feel foreign. I have never experienced this kind of joy in my life before. I'm going to have a baby, with the woman I love with all my heart. I don't know how I feel. I did not feel the tears that were rolling down my cheeks. She was wiping them.

"Are you crying?"

"No!" I said with my lips pressed together.

"You're crying baby. Ooh my poor husband." She made a funny face and I couldn't help but chuckle.

"You dare tell my brothers about this, uzongazi kahle." I rose up and smashed my lips on hers. She wanted to say something but I shut her up with the kiss. She giggled against my lips. I pulled back and kissed her forehead.

"Thank you for this gift maKhumalo. I don't know how I can ever be able to show you my gratitudes. You make me whole." She wrapped her arms around my waist and rested in my embrace.

A knock came through the kitchen door. She looked at me and I raised my eyebrows.

"Let's go attend to it." I said.

"No, it's okay. You can stay, I'll be fine."

"I'm not taking any chances. For all I know, we have a taxi rank squad camping in the kitchen right now. Let's go mfazi ka bra Pat."

I pulled her by the hand and we walked out. She

couldn't stop giggling.

"What did you do to bra Pat's shoe that he left in the kitchen baby?" I said laughing. She joined me and burst into laughter.

"It's somewhere outside. I'm gonna make fire with it. I heard shoes make warm fire in the stoves."

"Hehehe ngathi ngiyabona likhulume inside the stove lithi ' Ngiphindisele.' " we were still in stitches when we arrived at the kitchen and the door was open. I quickly let go of her hand. Mrs Gumedé looked at us with a suppressed smile on her face. I curved my mouth to the corner and brushed the back of my head in embarrassment. She couldn't have heard that, could she? Shit!

"Sanibonani." She greeted with amusement.

"Yebo." We greeted back in unison.

"Mrs Gumedé." She said, ecstatic. "What a pleasant surprise. Please come in."

Mrs Gumedé walked in and they shared a bone crashing hug. I stood there and looked at them. Okay

I'm kinda dumbstruck right now. Do I excuse myself or do I just stay and observe? This is awkward. They pulled away from the hug and just when I thought it was over, they baby kissed. Okay, that's it. That's my que.

"Uhm...I'll be in the bedroom." I said.

They both looked at me like I just said the most dumbest thing.

"Don't excuse yourself on my account. I don't bite you know." Mrs Gumedé said, looking as intimidating as I can remember. We crossed paths a few times and despite our history with her husband, I always held her with high regards. I admire and respect the kind of woman that she is, smart and powerful. She's emotionally intelligent. She knows where to draw boundaries and when. And that's what I respect most about her.

"No Ma'am. I just came to take water and go back to the bedroom. I was kinda busy with work on my laptop." Anything to get away from her. I have to show some respect now that she's like a second

mother to my wife. That practically makes her my mother-in-law right?

"Big companies like Langa constructions were never established in bedrooms. Sit down now. She will get that laptop and bring you water. Right She?" She looked at She and she was just smitten. She's amused right now.

"Definitely." She said still all smiles. Traitor!

"Let's go to the living room." She said and pulled my hand out. We got to the living room and settled down.

"I'll go prepare breakfast." She said. I wanted to signal with my eyes to her not to leave me alone with this woman, but she deliberately avoided my eyes. She walked out and left me with Mrs Gumedé. I cleared my throat and looked at her.

"So, Ozi, how have you been mfan'wami? Since your father's burial." I looked at her, she looked genuine. Somehow I felt at ease and free to confide in her.

"It's still fresh mama. But my brothers and I are taking it one day at a time. Thanks for asking." I said still looking at her. She nodded her head.

"I'm glad to hear that. I know it hasn't been easy and it will never be the same without him, but I trust you enough to make it through without him. He raised you well." She said. I felt a sense of relaxation wash over me. I loosened up a bit.

"Thank you so much. I appreciate that. And I'll do my best."

I looked away. There was a brief silence and I could feel her gaze heavy on me.

"How are things going between you and Sne?" I moved my gaze to look at her.

"We couldn't be happier mama. There are trials and tribulations that are testing our fate but I'm sure they aren't here to brake but solid us." I said, confidently.

"Do you love her?" She shot straight. I looked at her, she meant business. I moved uncomfortably in my seat and looked her direct in the eyes.

"I proposed to her mama. Afcause I love her. I love her more than I love myself. She's the best thing that has ever happened to me. And my ultimate goal is to live my life making her the happiest woman on earth.

I'll live to fulfill and reach that goal." She smiled widely. Sne walked in with a tray of English breakfast and placed it on the table. She sat down next to me and took my hand in hers. I squeezed it.

"Snenhlanhla, when Bandile and Khethelo told me how happy you are, I didn't want to believe it until I saw you. And now as I'm seating here, I can tell you one thing, you have found yourself a true man here mt'anami. You are blessed. Now my heart is at ease knowing that you're in right hands." She said with a straight face. Does she always have to look so intimidating? Hai! But I'm glad she approves of me. Actually, I'm over the moon. I never thought her judgement about my relationship with Sne would touch me so deep and mean this much. I'm grateful that my wife has her in her life. She's pure.

"Thank you so much. I really appreciate that."

She was already sipping on her coffee. We joined in and ate.

"Manje when is the actual wedding"?

Sne nearly choked on her toasted bread.

"Are you okay?" I brushed her back lightly while stifling a laughter.

"Yeah I'm good. Uhm...we haven't decided on the date yet. I was thinking, It would be best after the baby is born."

"Okay. But don't derail on it too long. Sifuna ukushadisa phela." Mrs Gumede said.

"Yes ma'am." I said out loud. She pinched my thigh. I chuckled. We had our breakfast over light conversations. Untill there was a knock on the door.

"Come in!" She shouted humorlessly while we were busy indulging and conversing. Whoever that was making her way to the living room is one lazy person. Judging by how they were dragging their flip flops that were clapping against their feet. Her presence weighed on us the moment she stepped in. We all brought our heads up from the plates and looked at her. She froze on the ground, looking puzzled with her mouth hanging. If uSatan ubambekile, was a person!

Insert 46

(Unedited)

Narrated.

Aunt Nosipho remained dumbstruck and glued to the ground, with her mouth hanging. It was as though she didn't expect to find Sne with company. Or Mrs Gumede to be precise. She looked at them as they looked at her back hoping she'd say something or greet at least but words obviously failed her. She didn't know if she should storm out or remain standing.

"Be careful with flies, aunty. They might find comfort in your hanging mouth." Sne said. Ozi nudged her lightly. She rolled her eyes.

"Hau. Sanibonani. I didn't know it that you have visits." Aunt Nosi said, still on her feet.

"Sawbona aunty. Please joins us." Ozi said.

She didn't want to be told twice. She sat down next to Mrs Gumedé and helped herself. She did not smell like a brewery today. Which is a good thing. She rose up from her seat and brought her a mugg. She was already salivating over the food.

"Ngizwe ngephunga nginhlula phela. I wasn't mean to come in but ke the smell called my name." They all looked at each other. Mrs Gumedé was just looking at her puzzled. She must have been starving because she eats like she hasn't eaten anything for days.

"This food is too small for me. Please increase it ngyabuya." She walked out and they were left puzzled. She came back shortly followed by Khosi and Zama.

"Hlalani phansi girls. We're having breakfast in my brother's house today." How brave of her. Not that Sne has any problem with catering for them but the audacity of this woman always leaves her baffled. Where is that woman who was dumbstruck just a minute ago? Hai.

"Sanibonani." Zama said, looking annoyed. She looked at Khosi. She's lost a whole lot of weight. Embarrassment washed over her face right now. What was she doing here then if she wasn't so comfortable?

"Hello." Ozi and Mrs Gumedé greeted back.

"Please sit down. There's plenty of food for everyone." Sne said.

"No. I just came to greet. I'm kinda full, thank you." Zama said shyly.

"Yey Hlala phansi udle wena slimá. I don't want to hear you say you're hungry later." Aunt Nosi said with her mouth stuffed.

They sat down and Sne went to prepare breakfast. Zama walked out to help her and they walked back to the dinning room shortly. Nosipho and her daughters ate, while Mrs Gumedé tried her utmost best to make the situation less awkward by creating and keeping conversations going. She's very smart and aunt Nosi wasn't acting all bitchy as always. I trust both Ozi and Mrs Gumedé to be intimidating

this much.

They finished eating and Sne couldn't help but notice how moody Khosi looked. She looked like a lost puppy. Like a lonely soul. Something isn't right with her. As drained as she always looks, this is way beyond it. Her weight loss is alarming.

They took the plates to the kitchen and her cousins helped her with the dishes. Zama's phone rang and a smile crepted out on her face. She walked leaving Sne alone with Khosi. Sne stole glances at her but she avoided making eye contact.

"Are you okay?" Sne managed to asked. Khosi looked at her briefly then moved her eyes away. She was sniffing.

"Makhosazana, what's wrong?" Sne moved closer to her, she was crying. She held her hand and Khosi let it all out.

"My mother is cruel Sne. I'm sorry for all the bad things I've ever done to you. I wanted to feel better about myself so I took it all out on you." She sobbed.

"It's okay Khosi." She brushed her back gently.

"It's not okay Sne. It's far from being Okay. She made me sleep with all these village old men just so we'd have money for groceries. She said I was fat and ugly and that nobody would ever find me attractive. Hence she pimped me to all those men. I liked it at first. It was fun getting all that money effortless but I couldn't take it anymore. Guilt started to weigh heavy on me and I wanted out. She said she'll get me killed if I stopped because I was her source of income."

She continued to sob. Sne's heart dropped to the pit of her stomach. She couldn't believe what she was hearing.

"Why did you not report her to the police Khosi. That's abuse."

"She's my mother Sne. I Wouldn't be able to leave with myself if she went to jail."

Sne remained quiet. Completely baffled. Kanti what kind of a twisted master is this woman? She wondered to herself.

"I stopped sleeping with them and we haven't been able to buy groceries for weeks now. We've gone to

bed on hungry stomachs while she drank herself to sleep all day every day. We don't have food in the house. This is why she raided your cubbets the other night." She said.

"It's just food dear. I wish you had told me earlier. We could have done something against this evil acts. You don't deserve such treatment." Sne said.

"Oh but I do. After how ill I treated you, I deserve it all coming. Even with the sickess that I found out about, it's God punishing me. I wish I could turn back the clock and make things right Sne." She said. She had stopped crying now.

"What sickess? What are you talking about Khosi?"
Sne looked at her. She was fiddling with her fingers.

"I tested positive last month. She doesn't even know about it because I can't even talk to her since I stopped making money for her. I have nobody to talk to. I'm depressed" She whimpered all over again. Sne's heart dropped. Ozi walked in and stopped when he saw them. He brought his dark brows together and frowned. Sne could tell he was

confused. She signaled to him to go back and he did. She remained with Khosi and comforted her. She doesn't know how she can possibly help her but it breaks her heart that her own mother is the one sending her to an early grave.

The following day.

Ozithobile Langa.

We decided to come back from the bundus due to the company needing my attention. I spend the whole night comforting my wife from all the traumatic news Khosi just dropped on her yesterday. With everything she's put her through, she still sympathizes with her. I've never met anybody who's big-hearted as her. Don't get me started with that aunt Nosi woman. My body steams each time I think of her. I still don't understand the level of whicketness that woman has. Like, it defeats me. If

she's able to ill-treat her own flesh and blood like that, how much for Sne?

We woke up very early and travelled back to Pretoria. The sooner Sne leaves this place, the better. She can't afford to absorb all these negatively around her. I know her cousin needs her but my child's wellbeing takes priority. I don't want a moody child. So I'm doing my best to protect it.

We arrived at my house and the first thing I wanted to do was to take a long proper shower. I can't get over how far that place is. Sne was sleeping the entire trip. I had to chase her to the backseat because her dozing off was contagious. It's just after midday and I can't believe how much I didn't miss this place. It's a good thing that I came back with my wife because I wouldn't have handled being here without her. I'm so used to having her around. Being in the Bundus did me a number. Regardless of all the drama and that aunt Nosi woman, I still enjoyed my stay there. It made me miss being in my home province.

I headed upstairs and took a cool shower. I finished shortly and walked out to get dressed. She was taking a nap. I didn't want to disturb her. So I went to my mini office and called Lwazi. It rang for a while then he picked up.

"Sure." He said.

"I should organize you a job at one of these call center companies wena saan. Your answering skills sucks big time."

I heard him chuckle.

"They'll loose clients in one day. What's up?"

"I need to see you. How quick can you get here?"

There was silence then some shuffling going on.

"Let me call you back in a minute."

He hung up before I could say something. I opened my laptop and checked my emails. My phone rang. It was him. I answered.

"Do you have company?" I asked.

"Yeah, she's here." He said.

"Who?"

"Itu."

"Why are you still seeing her?"

"I'll tell you later. Let me get ready. I'll be there in an hour."

"Sure." I hung up.

He'd better have a logical explanation as to why is he still seeing that girl. If Sakhile thinks he'll steal our company that I worked so hard for, then he has another thing coming. I picked up my phone and called Charles. He answered almost immediately.

"Bozza."

"Charles, how are you?"

"Grand bozza yam. What can I do for you?"

"I need you to do some digging on Sakhile from Sakhile constructions. Find every little detail there is about him. Don't leave no stone unturned. I want to know how many dogs or rats he has if he does."

Everything Charles."

"Is there something wrong Bozza?"

"I don't pay you to ask me questions Charles. Now get on with your work." I hung up and went out.

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

My phone rang, disturbing my peaceful nap.

I looked at the caller ID. Mcm! I don't know who died and made her queen of Shiba this one. She thinks she's a special case. I tossed the phone aside and rolled over. I headed to the en suite to take a loo and rinse my face. It stopped ringing. I finished and walked out. It rang again. I wouldn't hold my breath if I was her because If she thinks I'll pick up anytime soon then she'll suffocate. I don't want to talk to her. It finally stopped ringing and beeped. A message came through. I checked it.

'I know you're probably seeing my calls and just ignoring them. Please answer Sne.' -Amanda.

I don't have time for this. I attempted to walk out when it rang once again. Oh for heaven sake. I looked at it, it was Sizwe. I answered.

"Hey stranger." I said.

"It's me. Please don't hang up." She said. I removed the phone away from my ear and hung up that instant. If, and when I'm ready to talk to her, I will. For now, I also need my space. I walked out to the kitchen and found my husband with Lwazi and Mike. Whatever they were discussing seemed very important for them to look that tense. Their body language said it all. They didn't even acknowledge my presence.

"Hello there." I said and passed through.

They turned to face me.

"Hello Sne." They greeted back in unison.

"Uhm...babe. do you need something?" Ozi said. Why does he look so unsettled?

"No. I came to cook. I feel like it. Why?"

"Don't worry about it. We'll order in tonight. You can

go back to rest. I'm sure you're still tired from travelling."

Oohkay! Is he trying to get rid of me right now? Wow. He doesn't seize to amaze me this one. I just eyed him and walked back upstairs.

"I love you." He said. I waved my hand and dissapeared.

Ozithobile Langa.

I noticed how Mike looked at my wife as she dissapeared upstairs. I hope he does something with his feelings before it causes a drift between us. He's my best buddy and there isn't anything I wouldn't do for him. but when it comes to my family, especially my wife, I wouldn't blink twice before slitting his throat open and sent his head back to the U.S on a silver platter.

I cleared my throat, bringing him back to life. He snapped out of it and looked at me. I gave him the

'don't you dare' look, he lowered his blue sharp eyes away from mine. I redirected my focus back on Lwazi.

"Why are you still seeing this girl?" I asked.

"If we have to find out precisely what's going on then I'll have to get her even closer and beat her at her own game." He said confidently.

"And how are you planning to do that?" I enquired carefully.

"I have to get her to trust me. I'll soften her up a bit and get her to fall inlove with me."

I shook my head in disapproval.

"That's a very stupid idea." Mike jumped in. Lwazi looked at him.

"I'm sorry but do you have a brilliant one, Doc?" Lwazi shot back. Mike raised his hands in the air in surrender.

"No need to get all worked up about it, mate. I was just saying." Mike leaned back on his seat and relaxed.

"Listen Lwazi, we don't know how well trained this chick is. You have to be careful around her. It's our family business that's at stake here." I said.

"And I understand that. At first I wanted to make her dissapear for good bu-"

"Not every problem requires killing people Lwazi. This isn't a movie. We're not acting here." I said. He chuckled lightly.

"I didn't go ahead with it now, did I?"

We looked at each other.

"I wish you did. For once, I agree with you there. That one was a brilliant idea. You have to deal with a problem first hand." Mike said. I looked at him. He had a blank face. I know he means what he just said.

"And i suppose that's getting rid of them permanently? Like you did with Meagan, right?" I asked.

"You guessed right." He said, in a very chilled tone. This is more like him. He doesn't think twice before killing somebody. He's coldhearted.

"You're the one who killed Meagan?"

We all turned to look at her. Shit! When did she get here? I thought I told her to go upstairs.

"Baby." I got up from the couch. "I thought you went upstairs." I said, almost stuttering. She didn't acknowledge me one bit. She came and stood before Mike. His face suddenly flashed. It's as if she has some kind of a powerful effect on him.

"Uhm...Sne." He rose up from his seat. He wanted to touch her but contained himself quick. She was still looking at him.

"Why did you have to kill her In such a cruel manner?" Her voice was breaking. Mike looked at me. I rubbed my face in frustration. This is one hell of a mess. I'm pretty certain that, to her, we're all just a bunch of killers. I understand that I told her about my past but having her hear about such from people I'm surrounded with, is just something different on it's own. At least now she knows that I didn't kill her.

"It was a mistake. I didn't mean to kill her." Mike said. Did he just lie to her right now? Whatever he's feeling

for my wife's got him pretty bad because I don't recognize him right now. It's Like he doesn't want to portray his wicked side to her.

"How do you sleep at night?" She turned to look at all of us. "Why do you kill people like it's nothing. What's wrong with you people?"

I attempted to hold her but she retreated.

"Calm down baby. Please." She looked at me with glassy eyes. They were already breamed with tears. My poor wife. How much can she really digest?

The intercom buzzed, grabbing our attention.

"I'll get it." Lwazi went to attend to it. A knock came through the door shortly and he opened.

"Can I help you officers?" Lwazi said. We all turned to look their direction.

"Good afternoon Mr Langa. We're here for Ozithobile Langa." They made their way towards us.

"Officer Dladla. If I didn't know any better, I'd say you like me. To what do I owe this visit, this time around?" I asked.

"Mr Langa, you're under arrest for the murder of Meagan Dube. You have a right to remain silent. Anything you say, will or can be used against you in the court of law."

"What?" Lwazi and Sne said in unison. Mike chuckled.

"Are you fucken kidding me?" I said. They were already handcuffing me.

"Please don't make things difficult for us Mr Langa."

I chuckled and let them be.

"You'd better pray this is all just a bad dream and that you're gonna wake up from it Dladla, because I don't take kind to fake allegations. This isn't the first time you make a grand entrance in my property." I said.

"It was me." Mike said. They looked at him in confusion.

"I'm the one who killed her. Ozi had nothing to do with it." I chuckled.

"Is this some kind of a joke sir? We're working here." Mr Dladla said.

"If you did your job properly then you'd know who did it. But you're just lazing you're fat tummy around, eating the state's money and waisting it's resources by making wrong arrests. Now, are you gonna uncuff him or you need help doing that?" Mike said. They uncuffed me. I rubbed my wrists and burried my hands in my pockets.

"What's your name sir?" Mr Dladla said, looking at Mike.

"Michael White." Mike said, unbothered.

"Michael White, we're now arresting you for the murder of Meagan Du-

"Yeah yeah. Save the long boring speech. I have my own lawyer. I won't need one from the states. Now, can we leave already?"

He was as chilled as they came. Mike is like a deep sea. Chilled but dangerous. They cuffed him.

"Take him." Dladla said to his team.

"We'll be right behind you, mate?" I said. Dladla turned to face me.

"Mr Langa, we apologise once again, for intruding your space. I hope you understand that we're just doing our job." Mr Dladla said.

"Yet you're still in our property. Get the fuck out, man. Shaya is'shwapa." Lwazi said. Mr Dladla nodded lightly before following his team and they walked out with Mike handcuffed.

"What did just happen?" Snej asked. I couldn't bring myself into looking at her.

"That was fun to watch." Lwazi said chucking. This idiot is adding fuel to the already burning fire. I might not be the who killed Meagan but I've got a pile of questions coming my way and I'm not ready.

Insert 47

(Unedited)

Ozithobile Langa.

There's nothing as frustrating as having to stop someone from going back to their old habits again. Especially when you've seen them trapped in there before and experienced shitty series of unfortunate events due to the fact that, when they are in that dark space, they loose all senses. Now I need to make sure that Mike gets out of jail before he goes back to that dark space. I can't afford to see him go through that phase again. It's hell if you ask me. All hell brakes loose and all shit has to hit the fan. He has an ultra persona living inside him and once he's awaken, I can't put him on a leash.

I woke up and rolled out of bed. I went to my mini office and made a brief phone call to my lawyer. I

asked him to meet me at New Lock prison in two hours. I have to do what I have to do to get Mike out of jail. Even if it's the last thing I do.

I went to take a shower, dress up and soon I was finished. I walked out of the closet and found my beautiful wife still sleeping. How I wish I can prevent her from constantly getting hurt! I sat ontop of the bed and brushed her hair back. Why does she not wrap her hair up when she sleeps like most woman do?

"You'll get early wrinkles from frowning this hard."

She said softly. I chuckled and pecked her lips.

"Good morning chubby cheeks."

She punched my chest.

"I don't have chubby cheeks baby. You're making me feel fat." She whined.

"Even if you were, which you're not. You'll still be the most beautiful woman for me and my eyes would still be fixed on you and you only."

"Prove it."

I leaned over and took her lips in mine and kissed her. I pulled back and looked at her eyeballs.

"Was that convincing enough?"

She shook her head, no. I leaned back and kissed her lips again then her ears and neck. She giggled.

"How about now?" I said, still kissing her.

"You're gonna be late." She said between her giggles. I pulled back up and pecked her lips.

"You're so beautiful."

"And you look smashing yourself. Office?"

"No. Prison. I have to get Mike out of there."

She nodded.

"He's my friend baby and he has no one." I said.

"But I didn't say anything though." She smirked.

"You didn't have to. I know you better phela ungumfazi wami wena."

She smiled.

"You'll be late then. Get going."

"Okay sweetheart. Let me love and leave you. Don't forget dinner at Lwazi's place tonight angithi?"

"Aren't you gonna come back so we'd drive together?"

"Oh I will sweetheart. I was just reminding you. Angithi I'm trying to be a good husband." I winked. She stood up from the bed to hug me. I picked her up and gosh, she's really heavy. I won't tell her that though, unless I've got a death wish.

"Okay, let me go now baby. Please rest okay?"

"Okay. Bye."

"Bye." I walked out and drove away straight to prison. I arrived there almost simultaneously with my lawyer. I got out of the car and we approached each other. We shook hands and greeted.

"Zweli."

"Langa. What trouble did you find yourself in this time?"

I chuckled. What kind of a thug does he think I am?

"I wish it was me but there's a very close friend of

mine who needs help behind these tall walls." I briefed him fully then we walked in. They let us into some interrogation room and we sat down.

"Only one of you is allowed to see Mr White. One visitor at a time. It's protocol." A prison warder said.

"Don't tell me about Protocol. We're both his lawyers and we're gonna see him both." Zweli said. The warder nodded and walked out. The door swang open shortly and in came Mike...looking as chilled and laid back as ever. He chuckled when he saw us and pulled his chair and swivelled on it. He looked at Zweli then at me.

"What are you doing here, mate?" He said.

"This with me is Zweli, my lawyer. He's here to get you out." I said.

"According to how I was briefed, they aren't supposed to keep you in here if they haven't charged you yet. So we're getting you out." Zweli said. Mike looked at him and chuckled.

"Not now." He said. I looked at him puzzled.

"What do you mean not now, Mike?" I enquired.

"Lucy needs to be fed and I've got just the right person to feed on my cravings." He said playing with the hand cuffs. I looked at Zweli and asked him to excuse us, he did. I was left with Mike alone.

"Just what kind of a sick game are you playing, Mike? Who's that prey? You've been in here for five minutes but you're already preying?" I was already fuming. His mother must have bumped him on the head a few times when he was young because I swear, there's a loose screw somewhere in there.

"Dlomo needs to go." He said and this time, he looked in my eyeballs. I clenched my jaws together. This motherfucker!

"You're not gonna do anything to him, Mike. Do you hear me." My voice escaped between my grinded teeth. He chuckled.

"Lucy is hungry, mate. He needs to be fed."

I sprang on my feet and went over to his side. I pulled him up and pinned him against the wall and caged him in. We looked at each other deadly in the

eyes.

"Don't you dare sink back in. Or I'm gonna kill you myself. Don't test me, Mike. I've had just about enough with your bullshit already. Tell me if you're suffering and I'll take you out of your misery." I said, with him still caged.

"Okay. Fine." He said. I let go of him. And we looked at each other briefly.

"Guard." He called out.

The warder peeked through the door.

"My time is up." He said. I still had my jaws clenched.

"Don't try me Mike." I said.

"Go home mate. I'll get out when I'm ready." With that said, he walked out voluntarily. I punched the desk a few times. Zweli walked back in.

"Enden? I thought we're getting him out." He said. I looked at him and let out a sigh.

"Let's just go." We walked out to the parking lot.

"Sent me your invoice. Thanks for your time, man."

"Anytime."

We shook hands and went to our respective cars.

I got in my car and punched the steering wheel a few times in frustration then rested my head on it for a while. I finally gathered some strength back and drove out. I arrived at my office and started with my day. I hope I do something productive after the shitty morning I just had. How am I gonna explain Dlomo's death to Sne if that lunatic kills him? I've already gained myself preying eyes from her about Meagan's death. I can't have this again. Dammit Mike! I cursed under my breath.

Narrated.

The evening was here and Lwazi invited Ozi and Sne over his house. Itu was the host.

The door swang open and in walked Ozi and Sne, hand to hand. Itu's insides turned with nerves but

she tried hard to keep calm.

"Do you always make a habit of arriving at people's houses without knocking Ozi?" She said looking at them with so much contempt, with her arms crossed in her chest.

"This is my brother's house if you haven't noticed. And the last time I checked, I never negotiated his Lobola. Now be a good girl and stay in your lane." Ozi said making his way in with his wife's hand still in his. Lwazi jogged down the staircase and greeted them.

"Hey family." He took Sne in for a hug.

"How's my champ doing?" He added, rubbing Sne's big round belly.

"He just started kicking recent and I swear, he's gonna sent me to an early labour." Sne said, heaving.

"He's a Langa phela. He's bound to give horse kicks." Lwazi said chuckling.

Itu wanted to jump out of her skin with jealousy.

"Bafo." Lwazi extended his hand and he fist bumped

with Ozi.

"Ola mfanakithi." Ozi said.

"Thanks for coming. I really appreciate it."

"Anytime champ. We're family." Ozi said while looking around. "I need a beer, man. What do you have here?" He got interrupted by A lite knock that came through the door.

"I'll go check it. Make yourselves comfortable. There's plenty of beers in the fridge." Lwazi said, heading to the door. Ozi made his way to the fridge to take a beer. Itu was piercing through him with her eyes. Annoyance was the order of her mood this evening. But Ozi gave zero fucks about her.

"The handsome one is here everybody." Banzi made his grand and roudy entrance. They all turned to look at him.

"You made?" Lwaza said.

"I wasn't gonna miss it man." He attempted to hug Lwazi but he retreated.

"Ey, don't come here with your gay tendencies wena."

Lwazi said and the whole room erupted in laughter.

"Come on, you know you wanna hug me." Banzi said laughing.

"A handshake will do man." Lwazi said. Banzi shook his head chucking.

"You're a sucker for sentiments." He extended his hand to shake with his brother but Lwazi attacked him with a hug. They hugged while laughing then broke it. Banzi bumped Lwazi on the chest with his sports bag and made his way to the power couple. Sne had her arms wide opened for him already. They hugged and Lwazi wiggled his way out of her embrace and took a few steps back.

"You are heavily pregnant, my goodness. You look gorgeous though." He said and Sne giggled. He motioned back to him and touched her belly. Itu rolled her eyes clockwise.

"Hello there little champ. It's your most handsome uncle speaking here. I know you don't know my voice because I'm always away but tell you what, I'll buy you very cool sneakers and gadgets just to make up

for lost time, alright?" Eveybody chuckled.

"Uzongimoshela umtwana Banzi." Sne said and Banzi raised his hands in surrender. He looked at his brother and smiled.

"Babu Langa." He said, monitoring his brother's face carefully with a warm smile plastered across his face

"Small." Ozi said with a grin on his face, clearly tickled.

"You look more like your father as you grow old man. Dark and ugly." The room bust into laughter.

"You wish mfan'wam. You could never be as smashing as I am even if you wanted to." Ozi said.

"Hm confident much huh?" Banzi said and Ozi shrugged his shoulders.

"I can't help it man. It runs in my veins."

"Yeah right." Banzi said and looked at Itu who looked lost and annoyed.

"Hi uhm..." he said with his dark gaze narrowed, trying to remember her name.

"Itu." Itu said.

"Right!" He snapped his finger.

"How are you Itu?"

"I could be better if you didn't evade and crowd my man's house this much."

Everybody was already following each other to the living room, not acknowledging her one bit. It was as if she was asked the question in passing nje.

She wanted to punch the wall and break her fingers with frustrations. The fact that these Langa brothers are so close makes her cringe in fear. How on earth is she supposed to accomplish his father's mission when they are so United? And anyway, what's with the special treatment they are giving this rural girl? Is she some kind of an ice queen something? She thought to herself before stomping her feet and making her way to the living room. She was met by roudy voices. The Langa brothers along with their favorite wife, were already settled comfortably having beers. She cleared her through and they turned to look at her.

"I'll go dish up for everyone in the dinning room." She said.

"Thank heavens. I was about to die in starvation." Banzi said. She remained glued to the ground. They looked at her blankly.

"Is there anything else?" Ozi asked.

"Isn't Ice qu—" she paused and cleared her throat again. "I mean Sne coming to help me?"

Ozi raised his dark eyebrow.

"I thought you had everything all figured out in YOUR house madam." He emphasized the last part. Itu flexed her shoulder, tilted her head and blinked a few times. She wanted to say something but chose not to. She charged out, leaving them to their catch up session.

"What's with her?" Banzi asked. They shrugged their shoulders.

He looked at the unbothered Lwazi.

"Why are you with this chick bro? Because for one, she's not your type and two, she's a nuisance." He

added. Lwazi looked at him back and drank his beer.

"She's our future asset small. Sit back and learn."

Lwazi said.

Sne looked at Ozi, then at Lwazi then back at Ozi again. He sensed questions coming his way but pecked her lips shutting her up. She looked at him and he curved her around his arm and they settled back on the couch listening to Banzi telling them about Cape Town.

"I don't know if I'll be able to go on with this dad. It's too much for me." Itu said.

"Don't be an idiot now, my princess. That's your future legacy you're working on. Fix your eyes on the ball and don't loose focus. It will be over soon."

Sakhile said on the other side of the line.

"I don't have the guards dad. What about my conscious? I won't be able to live with myself. " she said crying.

"Just do what you're suppose to do Itumeleng. You're racing against time here." With that said, the line died. She slowly removed the phone from her ear and placed it on the table.

"Are we ever gonna eat?" Lwazi said, walking in followed by everyone and almost busting her. She startled and wiped her tears frantically.

"Uhm...yeah. uhm...I was just....phew the onion is messing with my eyes." She stuttered and began dishing up for her and Lwazi. Everybody sat down but Ozi remained standing, watching how trembling her hands were. He burried his hands deep in his pockets and narrowed his gaze.

She finished dishing up and gave Lwazi his plate then sat down next to him and smiled.

"Did you cook all this food?" Ozi asked, looking at Itu.

"Yes I did. I hope you enjoy it because I outdone myself here." She said.

"Why?" Ozi enquired.

"Excuess me?" Itu said, shifting uncomfortably on

her seat.

"Why go through all the troubles just to cook a storm for us?" Ozi's questions followed up, making her palms sweat.

"Well, I wanted to apologize for how I conducted myself the other day." She said trying to force a smile. Ozi nodded lightly, still not convinced. Everybody started dishing up and attempted to dig in.

"Don't eat." Ozi said, still standing.

They looked at him puzzled.

"Oh sweat Jesus. I thought I'd never see the day my brother says grace." Banzi said chuckling.

"Haibo phela babe, get on with it. I can't wait to savour on these already." Sne said, swallowing down saliva.

"Why are we eating different food?" Ozi asked, wandering his eyes on the table then looking at Itu.

"Uhm...oh that. I cooked small chicken because my man and I love it and I thought I should cook stew beef for everyone." She said with her voice almost

shaking.

"We also want chicken." Ozi said. He took her plate and replaced it with Banzi's. Banzi looked at him puzzled. While Lwazi stifled a laughter.

"My brothers and I will share the chicken. You can have the stew just for today. I'm sure you don't mind right?"

Itu's face was already flashing. Her pals were sweating.

"I don't mind the stew. It lo-." Banzi didn't dare finish his sentence when he saw his brother eyeing him intensely.

"Actually you know what, my doctor said I should stop eating beef for now. So chicken will do." He pulled the plate in front of him.

Sne had already established what was going on and played along.

"The chicken isn't enough of the rest of us. Why don't we just order in guys and let Lwazi and Itu enjoy their chicken." Sne said.

"I broke my nail trying to prepare all these and you're telling me you're gonna order in. Such audacity!" Itu fumed.

"Maybe you should stop trying to look like amniotes with those long claws. How do you even look at yourself in the mirror and live to see another day? That make up looks scary and thick enough to be used on five more women." Ozi fired shots and Itu gasped.

"For all I know, it melted in these food. I even lost my appetite by just looking at you." He added. Itu pushed her chair back and ran out crying.

"What the hell was that all about bro?" Banzi asked.

"Did she just try to poison y'all?" Lwazi also asked.

"Pretty much. I warned you about this doll faced but as usual, you hardly listen Lwazi." Ozi said pulling his chair and sitting down.

"That bitch!" Lwazi said on the down low.

"Keep your cool. Banzi throw this food away. We'll order in." Ozi said.

Banzi took all the bowls and went to throw them outside and came back.

"Did you just throw away my bowls, man?" Lwazi asked.

"They contained poison Lwazi." Banzi replied.

"You owe me. First salary, you're buying them."

"Yeah whatever."

They ordered food online and waited for it to be delivered. Itu walked in with a clean face. Banzi couldn't help but bust into laughter. She pulled her chair and sat down with her chin held high and breasts out. Thatha wena girl! She looked like someone who just got recharged and revamped. They looked at him in silence. The tension that suddenly filled the room... you could even hear a niddle drop. Banzi sense that Lwazi wanted to skin her alive right now but came into her rescue.

"So miss Itu. What is it that you do again?" Banzi asked her.

"I'm an investigative journalist." Itu said.

"Interesting. Could you happen to be investigating us right now?" Banzi added. Sne looked at her and suddenly something clicked.

"What firm do you work for again?" Sne asked.

"S&S."

"And What's your surname? "

"Mkhize."

"Oh wow. This just keeps getting interesting." Sne said and everybody looked at her puzzled.

"She's the one who wrote an article about our engagement on gossip column."

They turned to look at Itu but she was facing down.

"Is this true Itu?" Ozi asked. She nodded.

"How did you find out about that evening because it was a private setup?" Ozi added.

"In my line of Judy, we're bound to find out about these things. When we heard that the restaurant will be closed early for the rest of the evening, it raised suspicions. So my team and I camped outside and

waited. The rest is history."

Everybody remained silent and baffled. Their food came and Itu's phone rang just as they were about to eat. She excused herself and walked out. They all looked at her, wondering.

Insert 48

(Unedited)

Lwazi Langa.

"Thanks for the wonderful night Lwazi. What a turn of events though." She said as they walked towards the door.

"Wonderful night my left bum. We nearly died. All thanks to that doll face." Ozi said.

"No. All thanks to you for saving our lives bro. You're really like a deputy parent. I don't know what kind of an ancestor I could have been. Imagine a handsome uncestor like myself. I'd probably make the heavens shake." Banzi said and we all laughed.

"Who said you'd go to heaven Banzi? Hai!"

I always thought I was the craziest in the family but this one is proving to be the one taking the cake.

"I'll see you guys around. Thanks for honoring the invitation." I said.

"No worries man. Sala nalo nodolly wakho. Siyahamba thinks." Ozi said and they walked out. I jogged up the staircase and walked in my room. She was already under the covers. I pulled them off and threw them on the ground.

"Get up." I said. She looked at me frightened.

"Where am I going." She asked.

"I said get the hell up." I pulled her out of bed and ribbed her lace underwear off. She thought it was sexy at first but her facial expression changed when she realised how deadly my eyes looked.

"Lwazi please. What are you doing?"

I ignored her and pulled her in the bathroom. I pushed her under the shower and ran the cold water. She winced as it hit her bare skin. She attempted to run out but I gave her a deadly look, she walked back in.

"This water is cold baby. I'm freezing please." She

cried while gasping for air. I lit my cigarette and sat down on the table seat.

"Don't you dare step out until I'm done smoking." I said and took my time puffing.

"Where do you get the nerve to try and poison my family?" I asked in a very chilled manner. She kept quiet.

"I said where do you get the nerve to try and kill my family Itu?" I looked at her. She was now shivering in cold. Her skin had goosebumps from cold. That's exactly how I want it. I rose up from the toilet chair and threw the cigarette in it. I pulled her by the hair, screaming and kicking and went to my dark room in the basement. Nobody knows this place exists apart from Ozi. The last time I sat my foot in here was when I took Palesa's corpse out. She was the love of my life and I had completely devoted myself to her but she cheated and fell pregnant with another man's bastard child. I lost all sense of compassion and locked her to die in the basement. One night while sleeping at Ozi's place, I hallucinated about it and he woke me up throwing punches. That's how

her body was discovered. I hated women since and promised myself to never fall inlove again. I hated how she played me for a fool.

I switched the lights on and dragged her on the staircase going down. I made her sit on a chair. She was whimpering and begging for mercy but I had already switched to that zone.

"Lwazi please. It will never happen again. I'll leave town and never come back again. I'll even stay out of your life, please." She pleaded.

"You can scream and shout as loud as you can. This house is soud proofed. Just so you know, you're not the only or the first woman to die down here. I hope her ghost keeps you company untill you loose your last breath." I said, heading to the door.

"Soon my father will realise that I'm missing and the first place he'll come searching is this house. Don't be an idiot."

I chuckled and stopped. I turned to look at her.

"That whimp who sents women to do his dirty job will come here? That man? He's got no balls that one.

Even my brother's unborn son surely has balls bigger than those of your fathers. Now, don't waste your breath my dear." I walked up and stopped when I reached the door.

"Nobody crosses the Langa clan and lives to tell the tale." I walked out without even looking at her. I won't miss his stupid ugly face. I'll pee on her corpse once it has decomposed. Useless bitch!

Snenhlanhla Khumalo

I kept stealing glances of him but he was too focused on the road. I touched his shoulder and he turned his gaze at me and smiled.

"Can we go to our favourite spot?" I said. He narrowed his gaze at me, clearly not comprehending what I was saying.

"What spot?"

"Your spot silly. You haven't taken me there since I became your girlfriend."

He laughed.

"You were already my girlfriend when I took you there. You just didn't wanna admit it yet." He said still laughing and focusing on the road again.

"Liar. You were too sure of yourself. That's why you thought I was already into you."

"But you were into me babe. Very bad. I felt it when I kissed you." He looked at me briefly. I was smitten. I can never get used to how handsome he really is.

"You're so full of yourself." I said.

"And this is why you love me this much."

We drove in silence and arrived at our spot after a while.

We parked and remained in the car due to the chilly weather.

"This isn't safe you know." He said looking outside the window.

"Nothing is gonna come near where Ozithobile Langa is. Not with that aura." I said. He turned to look at me with one eye narrowed and suppressed a

smile that wanted to creep out from both corners of his mouth.

"Let it out. I know you wanna smile."

"Why am I getting the feeling that you're falling inlove with my shady side?"

"Well..." I lifted my shoulder and fiddled with my fingers. He tilted my face up by my chin with his index finger.

"Baby..." he said softly. I looked back at him.

"I am falling inlove with it. I realised that it's not all bad. I mean take for instance what conspired tonight. If you weren't so vigilant, we could have ate that poisoned food." I said looking down.

"Look at me baby." He said and I felt chills travel down my spine. I brought my gaze up and met with his.

"What are you saying my love?" He added.

"I'm saying I love you for who you are. How you're always able to come at the rescue of people you love really turns me on."

He widened his gaze and grinned.

"Are you turned on right now?"

I nodded rapidly. He leaned forward and pecked my lips. I felt his hand between my legs. He pulled them apart and slidded futher in. I heaved.

"Let me in baby. Open up." He said against my lips. I did as per his wishes and felt his finger slid inside my cage. I gasped and he chuckled. He moved it in and out and a soft moan escaped my mouth.

"You're so wet." He whispered and pulled away from the kiss. I pulled him closer and burried my head on his shoulder. I moaned some more. He kept moving his finger slowly and I felt my body tense up.

"Baby..." I mumbled softly.

"Hmmm."

"I think I'm gonna cum."

He increased his pace a few times and pulled his finger out. I whined. He licked it cleaned and kissed my pouted lips.

"Lets go home sweetheart. Ngifuna ukukudla skoen."

He said as he ignited the car engine.

"Skoen baby?" I asked seductively.

"Yes my love. skoen skoen."

I felt my clit throbbes and couldn't help but attach him with kiss. His breathing escalated as I touched his already hard cock. I pulled back and he drove away. He stopped a few meters away and pulled over. He rubbed his eyes frantically and rested his head on the steering wheel.

"Fuck baby I'm too horny. I can't see." He said and I chuckled. I handed him a water bottle and he drank it down.

"That's much better. Let's go home now." With that said, he sped off.

New Lock Prison

Naratted

Yaba yaba yaba zumba yaba zumba yaba zumba

peeeee...yaba yaba yaba zumba yaba zumba yaba zumba.

A song erupted as prisoners began climbing ontop of tables and danced, pressing on Mike's sleeping nerves. He pulled the covers over his head and tried to block the noise but it was too loud. He sprang on his feet and shouted.

"SHUT THE FUCK UP." He screamed as he blocked his ears. Mike likes very quiet places. They bring him peace and keep him sane. Nothing irritates him like noise and roudy places. It triggers and wakes his ultra persona up and once she's awake, nobody will be able to put her on a leash. She doesn't go back to sleep without spealing blood and nobody will be ready for what Mike will do once he switches to his ultra persona named Lucy. He gave it a name after his mother. He believes that she lives inside him in order to seek revenge for her painful death.

"SHUT UUUUUUP!" He yelled once again but there was no way his voice could compete with the noise. The inmates were obviously singing at the top of their lungs. They continued singing and dancing.

Little did they know, there was a monster being awoken slowly. Mike was slowly but surely getting triggered and Lucy had already taken over.

He took out his sharpened toothbrush and pulled one of the inmates and stabbed him a countless times. Blood came gushing out and the crew moved back and caused commotion. The inmate fell on the ground and the whole room went dead. Mike climbed onto the table still holding the toothbrush and looking like a wolf. His blue eyes glowing fiercely. All the inmates that were onto the table jumped down quietly like they were afraid to make noise. He rolled down the top of his blood stained orange jumpsuit and tied it on his waist. He looked down at them with his blood shot eyes.

"Now you listen to me and listen very carefully because it's the last time I'm gonna say it. There won't ever be noise in this cell. Failure to comply, you'll see your mother's bum."

The room still remained quiet. He looked at them one more time and jumped down. He got back in his bed and slept on his back burying his hands under

his head and closing his eyes.

Insert 49

(Unedited)

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

"Even from across the sea, so far across the sea.

I can hear you calling me, baby come to me.

Destiny controls the end, nomatter where you are.

Dream and dare to love again, your home is in my heart.

I know the way I feel about you won't pass.

Oh yes it's gonna last and stand the test of time.

So your search for love is about to end.

You're future holds a place where true love begins."-
Boys to Men_your home is in my heart.

The music came on full blast from downstairs and I wondered what was going on. I rolled out of bed without even wrapping a gown and headed out. I was met with a complete dim house, candles and rose pedals that were beded on the floor from our door heading down the hall way. Across the room was red lights flashing "Goodmorning beautiful". My jaw dropped to the floor with shock. Or excitement? I don't know but I felt butterflies in my tummy and goosebumps hitting the roof. I looked around and romance was obviously the order of the day. The wondow blinds were rolled down, denying the light from penetrating the house. Small red lights from all corners of the house were on, making the whole environment appealing to the eyes with the help of these candles on the floor. I did say this house was a dream when I sat my feet in it the first time but I never thought it had such beautiful fitures. The owner obviously knew what he wanted when they were designing it because wow, it's a heaven on earth. My heart swelled as I followed the rose pedals

down stairs. The music became louder as I approached and there was a male voice singing along to this beautiful song which happens to also be my favourite. I knew my man can sing but I never thought it was this deep. I made my way down the staircase and there he was, in his jeans and an apron wrapped around his naked torso. Sexy didn't even begin to sum up how delicious he looks in that apron. His broad chest was oozing underneath and his biceps were out to play. Hmm! He looked like a snack, I tell you. He was busy lighting the candles that were on the beautifully set table when he turned to see me. He stopped singing and flashed me one of his dashing smiles. I smiled back with my eyes fixed on the table. God, this man is goals maan. He is just goals. He motioned towards me and extended his hand to take mine. I gladly extended mine to his and he made me twirl unexpectedly. I nearly fell but he caught me. I was now bending backwards in his bedded arms, looking at him as he looked deep in my eyes. He placed a soft peck on my forehead and I giggled.

"Hi." He said.

"Hey." I said softly.

He pulled me up and wrapped my arms around his neck while he carefully placed his on my waist. He gazed through my soul and started singing again.

"Take a romantic journey just to start at the beginning.

You won't know where you're going 'till you get there.

And is it just physical or is it lasting love?

Please don't give up.

We won't know unless we try."

He stopped singing again and looked at me.

"Nnhlanhla." He brushed my cheeck still looking at me. His face was full of all sorts of emotions. I untangled my hands around his neck and settled them on his sexy biceps. He chuckled then switched back to the intense look again.

"I love you MaKhumalo. And you're so ridiculously beautiful."

I blushed.

"You know, when I think about all the shitty stuff you've been through in the course of knowing and being with me, it's crazy. Nobody would have been able put up with all the nonsense I put you through. People find the next exhibit when shit hits the fan but here you are, still standing before me." He said.

"Bab- " he placed his index finger on my parted lips and made me shush.

"Let me finish my love, please. I don't want you saying anything in return of everything that I'll say to you this morning. Just listen and absorb okay?" He said looking down at me and I just nodded lightly.

"You're an amazing woman. And with all honestly Nhlanhla, I don't deserve you."

"No baby but you do." I jumped in. I know he said I shouldn't speak but I'm not gonna let him go ahead saying such nonsense. If anybody deserves me in this world, it's him. Now why does he feel like he

doesn't when in actual fact, he does?

He looked at me intensely and I looked right back at him. As intimidated as I was of his look right now, I stood my ground.

"You're not just beautiful and clever but you're also stubborn aren't you?" I smiled but he didn't. Oohkay!

"I wouldn't have asked for a better woman to walk this journey with. I knew God had answered my prayers when I bumped into you that other day. It wasn't a coincidence that we met, baby. Destiny brought us together because when I first saw you that day, I noticed just how young you were...well you still are, but I lay on my bed that night battling with the thought of letting you go but I couldn't.

What I felt for you didn't stop me from pursuing you, even after cracking my skull long and hard about it. I knew you're the kind of woman I needed, heck, I wanted. Damn Nhlanhla you drove me insane and the thought of another man having you as his own made my body cringe."

I chuckled. Is he jealous? Wow.

"Last night you proved just what a right choice I made about you. You overcame your fears and accepted me for who I am. I never thought I'd live to see the day but here I am. Thank you so much for loving me with my flaws and shortcomings. Baby, there isn't anything I would do for you and you know that right?" He tilted his head and searched my eyes. I nodded still looking at him. I've never seen him looking so vulnerable before. Even when he lost his father. Shame, my poor man.

"And the most important thing I need you to know is that I'd never hurt you deliberately. I love you enough to let you go if I fail with my mission, which is to make you happy. I don't want to dominate in this union, baby. I want you to be your own individual and do your own individual stuff. Even though it's still my Judy to guide you, please let me know if and when I come across as too strong that you feel overshadowed by me. Okay?"

"But we're good together baby. If there's anything that I noticed about us is that we're stronger and good together than we are apart. All those few times

we spend apart, made me realise that." I cupped his face with both hands.

"I love you just as much as you love me. And I'd rather have a rollercoaster life with you than a smooth ride with someone else. Ngifuna wena and wena wedwa. I can't imagine myself living life with somebody." I said.

"Hell will have to brake loose that day. Not when I'm still alive." He said and I looked at him amazed.

"Hau kanti didn't you just say you love me enough to let me go if you don't make me happy?"

"Hai baby phuma lapho please. The thought of you in another man's arms nje drives me crazy. I don't even wanna think about it." I laugh and pulled his head down then kissed his lips. I turned to look at the table and smiled.

"You've outdone yourself here Langa. It looks beautiful."

"You think so? I wanted to thank you for being this incredible woman that you are."

I tuned and looked at him.

"You and your pleasant surprises kodwa. It has become your second nature huh?"

"Tell me you don't love it." He said smirking.

"I love it baby. I love you. Very much."

I pushed him against the kitchen counter and our bodies touched. I untangled the apron and pulled it up, it dropped to the floor. I grapped his manhood and squatted down still looking at him. He had a stupid grin plastered across his face. I worked his belt and unbuttoned his jeans. I pulled them down followed by his boyleg, his cook sprang out to freedom. I cupped it and stroked it a few times, it dripped some pre-cum. I stuck my tongue out to moisten my lips and took all of it in my mouth, he cursed.

"Uurh fuck!" I looked at him, he was balancing with his hands on the counter, his head hanged back and his eyes shut. I started to suck and lick and suck and lick...he had his hand at the back of my head already, increasing my pace and speaking in tongues. I

looked up at him, his facial expression was somewhere between pain and pleasure. I increased my pace and he pulled out instantly.

He picked me up and made me hold the counter. He pulled my silky nightdress up and shifted my penties to the side. I bended over and gave him enough room, he inserted himself from the back entrance without warning and started to grind hard.

The sound of my ass clapping against his thighs was competing with the music in the background.

He ponder deeper and harder and I was screaming out loud while he was groaning and speaking in tongues. I felt my body tense up and my legs started trembling bad. He pulled out and turned me swiftly. He placed me ontop of the counter and squatted down abit spreading both my legs wide open on either side of his shoulders and started to suck me. He sucked on my clit and I felt a wave build up. I held on to his head and pushed it deep in me like a wanted my cage to swallow his head. My legs started trembling again and just as I was about to hit the wave, he came back up and inserted himself

again.

"Ozi..." I sulked between my moans. He attached me with a kiss and swept his tongue in my mouth. He placed his hand on the counter and pulled me closer to him with the other and started to pound me deep and hard. He was groaning so loud that I felt his husky, bold voice vibrating in my empty stomach.

"Shit baby I'm cuming." He said with his voice hardly audible.

"Cum with me Nhlanhla. Relax your body and cum with me sweetheart." I dug my nails on his back and he increased his pace. He pounded faster and deeper until both our bodies tensed up.

"Ooh babeeey!" I screamed out loud.

"Aahh fuck Nhlanhla. Uuuuh shiiit!" He released and hanged his head on my shoulder and we tried to catch our breath. I clenched my walls on him and he groaned softly.

"Shit baby, don't do that."

I giggled and he kissed my neck. He came to my

face and we kissed shortly.

"That was amazing." I said.

"Don't even mention it. Wow, what a steamy session. You're gonna turn me back on this instant." He let out a sigh.

"Let's go take a shower then we'll come back and eat." I said.

He picked me up with his cock still inside. It was slowly getting soft thought.

"I don't wanna pull out. It's very warm in here." He said with a smirk on his face.

"Hau baby kodwa it's a sponge bob manje."

He burst into laughter.

"You're calling Jack a sponge Bob? Uyadelela mos wena. I'm gonna have to up my game." he said while we headed upstairs. We got in and got under the shower. He put me down and ran the warm water. His juices came running down my thighs. He looked at them and smiled.

"Look at my seeds going down the drain." I laughed

and he gave me a washing sponge.

"You can't be sulking over those when you've got one cooking already." I said. He turned me around and washed my back.

"Istove sakho si baker ka mnandi baby. Jack can attest to that yoh. You're gonna be the death of me wena." He said and I turned to look at him. He looked super drained right now. I laughed and shook my head. He just stood under the shower and let the water do the trick.

Ozithobile Langa.

I'm so in love with my wife. She's everything a man could ask for. She's got all the qualities to just stroke my ego effortlessly. She's beautiful, smart and stubborn. But hey, I love her with all that she comes with. We finished taking a shower.

"Do you want me to dress to dine?" She asked. I narrowed my eyes and looked at her.

"You mean in an evening dress and stilettos?"

"Uh-huh?"

I shook my head and motioned towards her. I pulled her by the waist and captured her lips.

"Dress warm, it's a bit chilly. After this though." I savoured on her soft warm lips and she pulled back. I pressed my lips together and looked down at my cook. I looked back at her and pleaded with my eyes.

"Noooo Ozi. Tell him to sleep. I'm not giving him anything." She said taking out tracksuits in the closet.

"Just a little baby. Please."

"No hun." She gave me my clothes and kissed my cheek.

"Get dressed." She added. I let out a sigh and adjusted Jack.

"I can't get enough of you and you know it." I said.

"Manje who's suppose to eat all the food in the kitchen when we're up here having sex?" She said while dressing up and I chuckled. We finished and I picked her up the bridal style and headed downstairs.

I put her down and pulled the chair for her.

"Madam." I said. She smiled and swiveled down. I went to my side and sat down aswell.

"This looks absolutely beautiful. You're husband goals Ozithobile Langa." I looked at her tickled.

"You're welcome my love. Please do enjoy." I said. I dished up and started eating. She took her time looking at and tasting all this dishes. I sat there and watched her amused. She clearly doesn't know what she wants to eat and the way she had her mouth stuffed and both her hands in every dish was just fun to watch. Not to blow my own horn but I'm a great cook. I know my way around the kitchen. My wife's reaction towards these food right now, can surely attest to that.

"You can have everything else baby. Just slow down please. You'll choke."

"Hmmm leave me alone dude." She said almost inaudible. I chuckled and shook my head. My phone rang ontop of the kitchen counter. I wiped my hands and pushed the chair back. I stood up and walked

over to where it was. I picked it up and checked the caller ID, it was unknown. I answered and placed it on my ear.

"Ozi Langa." I said.

"Goodmorning Mr Langa. You're speaking to warder Masombuka at New Lock prison here." He said. I felt cold chills in my stomach and remained silent.

"Mr Langa, are you still there."

"What can I do for you?"

"There was a very unpleasant incident in one of our cells last night." He said. What's wrong with this guy? Can't he construct a full sentence without me having to orchestrate every word from him? Stupid ass!

"Well, what's that got to do with me?" I asked.

"Well you appeared on the next of keen for the guy who killed one inmate last night. "

I felt knots in my stomach. Damn you Michael. I looked over at Sne and she was busy stuffing her face with food to even notice me. I cleared my throat and focused on this guy again.

"Uhm...who's that inmate that he killed?" I asked.

"Micheal White is the perpetrator and he killed an inmate named Bongane Zondo."

I felt my body ease up and I let out a sigh. I didn't realise I was holding my breath this whole time. Oh thank you sweet Jesus.

"Okay so what do you want with me?" I asked.

"We need you to come to the office today."

"I can't today. You'll have to make it tomorrow."

"Sir, I don't think you understand. You ha-"

"I said I can't today. I've got other important errands to run. I'll make time and come. Until then please don't crowd my phone." I hung up and threw the phone on the counter. That motherfucking Mike! He's crazy if he thinks I'll bail his ass out of jail after what he just did. Or maybe I just should and save Dlomo's ass before he gets to him? Urg dammit! He just ruined my mood and now I can't think straight.

I walked back to my seat and sat down.

She looked at me and I couldn't maintain eye contact.

"It's good to know that I take priority in your life." She smiled. I looked at her carefully trying to figure out what she was saying precisely. She looked at me back and smiled even widely.

"I know Mike needs you for whatever shit he did but I'm glad you're putting me first." She added.

"Did you hear that?" I asked softly and puzzled. She nodded.

"You were literally a few meters away from me hun. Afcause I heard that. And you should stop beating yourself up for other people's messes. If it's too much load for you then use me, this is why I'm here after all. To help you with your burdens." She said, looking right into me. I felt my groin clench and I couldn't help it anymore. This woman just gets me and it turns me on.

I pushed my chairs and went to pick her up.

"I wanna stick my cock deep in you that my son holds it if he can. Fuck Nhlanhla you drive me nuts, woman." I headed upstairs and pinned her against the door the moment we walked in.

"I don't promise to be gentle but if I'm hurting you please tell me ,okay?" She looked at me puzzled.

"Nhlanhla." I said and she bit her bottom lip sending me straight to my zone. I ribbed her track top apart and it dropped to the floor. I burried my head on her neck.

"Baby..." she whispered and I didn't acknowledge her. I was already heating up.

"Make me your bitch Langa and have your way with me." She added, seductively and I felt extreme cold chills travel down my spine. The electric waves that were exchanging between us right now were insane.

"With pleasure baby." That's all I managed to say.

I'm sorry I couldn't post last night. I hope this makes up for it.

Insert 50
(Unedited)

Ozithobile Langa.

Today I woke up during the wee hours of the morning because I've got a very busy day ahead. I started my day with some heated gym session. I lost a whole lot of nutrients last night because damn, my wife gave me her all. I had sex and made sweet love to her till I couldn't anymore. Now I need all the energy I can possible get to kick start my day. I have to go to prison before I go to the office. I can't say I'm looking forward to my visit there. I should get Mike out as soon as I possible can. I finished with my gym session and took a luke warm shower. I wrapped a towel around my waist and headed to our room. I walked in and she was still fast asleep. I dissapeared to the walk in closet and got dressed in my 3 piece charcoal suit and a crispy white shirt. I paired it with a black pair of Italian leather shoes and

a black belt. I walked out and looked at the wall clock, it was just after 6am. I went over to the bed and pecked my wife's pouted lips and walked out. I took the elevator down to the underground garage and reversed the black BMW 3 series out and screeched the ground, speeding off. I was on my way to the office when my phone rang. I pressed the answering button without even checking the caller ID.

"Ozi Langa." I said but there was silence. I looked at the screen and saw Lwazi's name.

"Lwazi." There was silence again then some shuffling and sniffing.

"I'm loosing it bro. I'm sinking back in that dark space." He said, sniffing.

"What? Where are you?"

"My house."

"I'll be there just now." I hung up and made a U-turn. I can't go to the office when Lwazi sounds like that. He's a tough nut to crack and hardly cries but when he does, I know shit is hitting the fan. Palesa really did a number on my brother. He loved her dearly but

she betrayed him...turning him from a loving gentle guy into someone I couldn't recognize. He hasn't been the same since she passed on. I remember when she got burried, Lwazi drank himself to sleep all day everyday. He was hurting so bad that he cried everyday looking at her pictures and didn't eat or take a bath for days. It broke my heart. I hated seeing him like that and I don't want to see him go back there again. I drove between lanes like a maniac untill I arrived at Hatfield. I punched the code and drove in. I turned the door knob and pushed, it allowed me. I burged in and called his name.

"Lwazi!" He didn't answer. I jogged upstairs and pushed his bedroom door open, the bed was clean. It didn't look like somebody had slept on it. My heart started to beat against my rib cage. I panicked and walked to the closet to look for him but he wasn't there eithe. I attempted to walk out but remembered the bathroom. Why did I not think of that? I motioned fast to the bathroom and he wasn't there still. Dammit Lwazi. I saw your car outside man, where are you? I thought to myself. I couldn't think anymore.

I stopped for a moment and regrouped. I walked out and attempted to walk back downstairs but I heard a sniffing sound coming from his office. I turned and made my way there. I pushed the door and was met with darkness and a smell of booze. I switched the lights on and there he was, sitting on his butt against the wall with a bottle in his hand. My heart dropped to the pit of my stomach at the sight of this. I looked around and there were two more empty bottles of whiskey next to him.

"Lwazi" I called his name softly but he didn't look at me. I took off my blazer and threw it on the desk and rolled up my sleeves. I sat down next to him and wrapped my arm around him.

"What's going on, mate? What triggered you?" I said looking at him but he shook his head and couldn't hold back anymore. I pulled him to my laps and he let it all out.

"Let it out man. Let it all out." I said, still holding him in my arms. I hate seeing him like this. The last time he was this down and out was after he killed the love of his life. Nothing, not even life itself made sense to

him after that. When Palesa died, he died with a part of him. Not even dad's sudden heart wrenching death triggerd him this deep. I sat there wondering what was going on with him and then it hit me. That chick Itumeleng! Damn it Lwazi. I hardened my jaws, trying to calm down and hoping that my over imaginations are getting the better of me. I cleared my throat and gathered some strength before whispering a word.

"Lwazi. Where is Itu?" He rose up swiftly from my embrace and wiped his tears vigorously. I looked away and grinded my teeth.

"I don't know what's gotten into me bro. I just lost it." He said between his hiccups.

"What did you do? Where is she?" I asked calmly.

"In the basement." He whispered. My gaze widened in shock.

"What?"

He cupped the back of his head with both his hands. I sprang on my feet and walked out. I ran to the basement and the door was locked. I ran back to the

office, he had his head burried on his knees.

"Where's the key?" I moved my gaze, tracing the direction of his hand as he pointed to the dest. My eyes met with keys that were laying on the desk and I grabbed them. I ran back to the basement with my heart racing. I could only hope and pray, for his sake that she's still alive. Not that I gave a sack of flaying cats about what happens to this doll faced. But it can't be in this house. Or let alone in this basement. History can't repeat itself. It wouldn't be good for his sanity.

I unlocked as fast as I could and pressed the wall switch, the lights came up while I was already jogged down the stairs. She was curled up into a small ball in the coner. I said a little prayer and ran to her. I squatted down and held her, her body was as cold as ice. I pressed her neck to feel her pulse, it was still there. Oh thank heavens! I picked her up and walked out.

"Please help me, Ozi." She whispered and I looked at her. I kinda felt relieved that she was talking. It means she's okay right? I mean she wouldn't be able

to utter a word if she wasn't right? I was trying to convince myself. I went to Lwazi's room and placed her on the bed. I ran to the bathroom and filled the bath tab with warm water and ran back to take her. I put her inside and paced up and down the room. It suddenly hit me that she was half naked. It couldn't be appropriate to see her in her underwears like that. This can't be right. My wife wouldn't approve. I walked out and sat ontop of Lwazi's bed. I couldn't help but wonder if she was recovering well in there. I wandered my eyes around the room and saw a bathing towel on a chair. I took it and walked back in. I pushed the door open and our eyes met. I threw the towel at her.

"Put that ontop."

She nodded and tried to wrap it around her under the water. I was really relieved to see her being able to even lift up her arms. She finished and looked at me.

"Thank you for saving my life Ozi. I don't know how I'll ever repay you." She said.

"How about you do that by telling me what a bright

young girl like yourself is doing getting herself in such evil acts like that?"

She swallowed hard and faced down.

"You're a successful journalist Itu. What does your fault hold against you?" I said, still looking at her. Her face changed from whatever emotion she was wearing, into sorrow.

"I'm trying to help you here. You tried to poison us with my pregnant wife included. Do you know how much the thought of that is fueling me?"

She brought her eyes up and looked at me. She tried to say something but her throat was dry.

"Are you warm now?" I asked. She nodded.

"Good. You'll find clothes ontop of the bed. Dry yourself up and get dressed." I walked out instantly and went to the office. Lwazi wasn't there anymore. I walked downstairs and found him drinking water. He eyed me and I just passed him and took out a glass and placed it on the kitchen counter.

"She's okay." I said and I heard him heave.

"Thank you bro. I don't know what I'd do if you didn't come." He said and looked at him. He really looked drained, like he hasn't slept a wink last night. I poured water into the glass and looked at him before heading upstairs.

"It's probably not a great idea that you be in the same room with her. So I need you to stay outside and eavesdrop our conversation. Just incase you're unsettled with me being up there with her."

"Yeah, I understand. I'm right behind you."

I nodded and walked upstairs. I kicked the door open and she was sitting at the edge of the bed in Lwazi's tracksuits. I gave her the glass and sat down on a chair. She took a sip and I looked at her.

"Drink it all down. You must be dehydrated." She looked at me concerned. I looked at her and chuckled. I rose up and took the glass from her hands and took a sip.

"It's not poisoned. Now drink because I don't have the whole day." I went back to my chair and sat down. She drank it all at one go and put the glass

down. We looked at each other in silence then she cleared her throat.

"Well, my father's company is being liquidated due to debts. It hasn't been doing great in the past few years. So he borrowed money from the bank to keep it afloat. It hasn't been easy with you as the opponent. All his clients were pulling out because they are receiving better services at Langa contractions. Due to that reason, his company hasn't been able to make enough money to settle the debts and pay its employees."

"So where do you come in all this?" I asked.

"Well, he said I must get into a relationship with Lwazi and eventually get married to him so I could have a share in half of his assets. That includes shares at Langa contractions." She said, fiddling with her fingers.

"Then how was your plan going to work if you poisoned us?" I enquired further.

"Lwazi isn't that smart."

I looked at her. What is she talking about now?

"In what sense?" I asked.

"He's just hardcore but he's not brillent. I wasn't gonna succeed with my mission with you still around. You'd obviously be his brains so the only way to win was to eleminate you."

"And my pregnant wife? Are you that heartless?"

"I'm sorry Mr Langa. I know you don't trust me but I wasn't gonna let you eat the food. My conscious wasn't going to let me. When you walked in that day, I had just gotten off the phone with my father and telling him that I can't do it but he threatened me." She started to sob.

"I don't want to be caught up in his shady businesses. I worked hard to be where I am but I'm never enough to him because he always rubs it in my face that I'm useless and that he wished I was a boy."

I let out a sigh. To even think that Lwazi nealy killed this poor girl for her father's evil missions against us?

"He doesn't care about me Mr Langa. Wether I die or rot in jail, I'd just be a good riddens for him. That's why he puts me up to do his dirty jobs."

"But that's no excuse for what you nearly did. You should have came to use and let us know." I said.

"I know and I understand if you want to sent me to jail. I deserve it."

"Nobody will sent you to jail or hurt you for that matter. Not even that spineless father of yours." I said and rose up and she did too.

"I can't go home. Not after the failed mission. I don't know what he'll do to me." She had a pleading look on her face. I looked at her and heaved. Lwazi walked in and Itu stepped back.

"I told you to stay out, man. Are you crazy."

"I know but I couldn't help it. I want to help." We both looked at him puzzled.

"Look Itu..." he said walking towards her. "I know what I did to you is unforgivable. And you don't have a reason to trust me or even with your life for that matter. But allow me to make things right by helping you get out of this situation." He said. I looked at him and he looked genuine. He's my brother and I know him like the back of my head but can he be trusted

right now?

"But how?" She asked.

"You can stay in my house. I'll move out. I need to go away for a while and clear my head. You can stay here so long until the dust settles and my brother figures out how he'll help you"

Wait, what? I'm gonna help this chick now? Trust him to ambush me like that. And what does he mean he wants to go away? I looked at him and he looked at me back.

"I'll help you Itu. And I think his offer is the best for now. Nobody has to know that you're here."

We looked at her and she was very reluctant.

"You can trust us Itu. Right Ozi?" I looked at him. I'm really confused with this version of him right now. But it's a caring one and I approve of it. I shrugged and nodded.

"Okay. I'll take you up on your offer. Thank you so much." She said and Lwazi flashed a smile...one I haven't seen since she was with Palesa. Could he

got triggered by what Itu tried to do because he loves her? Because from where I'm standing right now, there's more to this than what meets the eye. I looked at my wrist watch and looked at them. They were looking at each other, almost zoned out. I cleared my throat, bringing them both back to life.

"I have to go. There's something I need to sort out." I said and they nodded.

"Thank you again Ozi for what you've done for me. I really appreciate it." She said and I nodded. I signaled to Lwazi and we walked out following each other. I turned to look at him the moment we stepped outside the room.

"What are you playing at?" I looked at him sharp. He raised his hands in surrender.

"Relax man. I promise I won't hurt her again."

"Lwazi." I said.

"Trust me please." I looked at him for a while with searching eyes.

"Fine then. If you do anything stupid, I won't spare

you. You know that right?" He smiled and nodded.

"Alright I have to run now. Take care."

I patted his shoulder and walked out.

It's about time I paid that moron named Sakhile a visit. I have been ignoring his stupid gestures since we became opponents but this time he's finally getting what he's been longing for. He asked for my attention and my attention is what he'll get. I arrived at the Sakhile constructions offices and parked outside. I walked in to the front desk and found a lady too busy painting her nails to even notice me coming in. I tapped the table and she startled.

"What floor and room number is your stupid boss?"

She looked at me puzzled.

"I'm sorry, what?" She blinked her big fake lashes a few times, looking at me.

"Did I stutter?"

"No but do you have an appointment sir?"

"I do now." I left her sitting there and made my way to the corridor. I looked at their notice board hoping I'd find his office number and there it was. He's just as stupid and predictable as I thought. Who jots down their office number on a notice board?

I headed to the elevator and found a young lady inside. She smiled but I didn't smile back. She quickly killed down her smile and I got in and pressed the floor number. The door was about to close when that dollfaced receptionist came running and stopped it. I stepped back and made room for her, she closed the elevator door and looked at me. I burried my hands in my pockets and felt this young ladies eyes heavy on me. They were exchanging whisper in my presents but I wasn't gonna give them the satisfaction. The elevator stopped and opened, I walked out after the two ladies. She ran so fast, almost twisting her stiletto to where I assumed was her boss's office. She pushed the door and I also made my way in. She was standing in the middle of the room when her boss looked so confused. His gaze widened when he saw me.

"I didn't let him in sir. He's just being difficult." She said, panting.

"Leave now Maurine." He said and she looked at me before walking out. I shut the door and motioned towards his desk.

"O-ozzi Langa." He stuttered and swallowed hard. "What are you doing here mf'wethu?" He rose up from his chair and I stood before him with my hands burried deep in my pockets and looking at him.

Insert 51

(Unedited)

Ozithobile Langa.

He was still looking at me like he's seeing a ghost. If he did not pee on himself then I don't know.

"What's the matter? Are you seeing a ghost?" I asked. He took a glass of water and gulped it down. He unbuttoned his shirt and went to open a window. He came back and remained standing.

"Langa...to what do I owe this pleasure."

I pulled the chair and swiveled down on it then pointed at his.

"Take a seat." I said and he did, in reluctance.

I took my time and looked at him. My stare was clearly making him uncomfortable.

"What have I done to gain you as an enemy Sakhile?" I asked. He blinked rapidly and took a sip of his

water again. He placed the glass down but it missed and fell. The water spilled on the table, wetting his papers.

"Urg dammit!" He grunted and I just rubbed my chin and watched him try to dry them up.

"You do know that you can't retrieve whatever information that was on those papers by drying them up, right?"

He didn't acknowledge me. He continued trying to avoid my presence by all means and I was getting pissed off.

"Sit down." I said but he continued with his business.
"I said sit your ass down Mkhize!" He startled and lowered himself slowly back on the chair.

"I said what have I done to gain you as an enemy?"

"I-uhm...Langa...I don't know what you're talking about mfe'thu." He stuttered.

"I didn't come here so you'd play hide and seek with me. I've got a company to run so don't waste my time Mkhize." I couldn't recognize the sound of my

own voice right now. He wasn't looking at me on bit. He completely avoided my eyes.

"Where is your daughter?" I asked and he swiftly brought his gaze up.

"Nooooo. No Langa noooooo." He sprang up and held his head. What a dramatic grown ass man.

"Sit the fuck down Mkhize. You're really getting on my nerves."

"If you killed my daughter Langa I swe-"

"What? You swear what? What are you gonna do Mkhize, Huh?" I stood up from the chair and motioned towards him. I got to him and we looked each other deadly in the eyes. This is the kind of look any man would give to somebody who threatens to harm their daughter.

"What can you possibly do? Sent your wife this time to come poison us again?" He blinked but still stood his ground.

"I don't know what you're talking about." He said.

"You don't know huh? What do you know? What do

you know because you're just a wimp with no backbone to do your own dirty job. What kind of a father sends their daughter in the lion's den?" I pushed him and he stumbled back and came back to stand in front of me again. He was huffing and puffing.

"Don't you dare Langa. I'm not one of those. Mina ngizokunyathela mfan'wam. Ufike kwa ncengetshe la Kimi." He said and I chuckled.

"You can't do anything to me wena. Not even when I'm off balance. You ain't shit Mkhize."

He moved away from me and rubbed his face frantically.

"What did you do to my daughter Langa?" He said while pacing up and down.

"Nothing. I'm not so sure what's gonna happen next time though." I said walking to the door.

"Where is she." He asked.

"I don't know." I was walking but stopped and turned to look at him.

"I've got enough enemies to last me three generations. Don't add to the list if you know what's best for you. I'm warning you Mkhize. Don't fuck with me." He remained quiet and I walked out. I found the young woman with the doll faced receptionist at the front desk gossiping. They saw me and kept quiet.

"You're taking the company down the hill with your gossip. Go back to work." I said with a stern voice and they bumped heads running around like headless chickens. I walked out and chuckled.

New lock prison.

Ozi Langa.

I was seating down when the interrogation room door opened. I lifted my gaze and my eyes met with a certain Police officer.

"Mr Langa." He said and threw the files on the desk before sitting down.

"It's good to see that you finally came." He added.

"I don't have the whole day. Why am I summoned here?" I asked.

"Straight to the point I see." He said and I just looked at him.

"Alright then, I won't waste your time. We actually wanted to find out a few things about Michael White, seeing that you're his next of Kin."

"What do you wanna know." I enquired.

He looked at me for a while before proceeding.

"His behavior is very alarming." He said and I looked at him. I can't say I'm surprised though. This is Mike, my bestfriend of 15 years we're talking about here. I already know what he was getting at and it wasn't something I really wanted to hear. I leaned back on the chair and folded my arms across my chest.

"In what sense?" I asked.

"I don't know how to explain it but it seems he's suffering from some psychological issues." He said. I looked at him and remained quiet.

"Mr Langa. Did you hear what I just said? That man

switches characters like he's demon possessed. One minute he's cool and chilled and the next, he's out to kill."

"And how is that my problem exactly?" I said, bored.

"Well we thought perhaps you could help us with some information that could help us figure him out."

I chuckled.

"Do I look like a doctor to you?"

"No Mr Langa b-"

"I want to see him." I said.

"But it's not yet visting hours."

"I'm sure you can do me just this one favour." I was brushing my beard.

He looked at me and let out a sigh.

"Okay. Just don't get used to it." He rose up from his chair and walked out. I sat there for a while and waited. The door opened and he walked in. A smile curved from the coner of his mouth when he saw me.

"Hey man." He said. I stood up and went over to his

side.

"Hey buddy." We hugged briefly then let go.

He looked at me and chuckled.

"You look a mess. What happened to you?" He continued to scrutinize me. I still had my shit sleeves folded after the Lwazi animosity. And I must say, I wasn't impressing. I chuckled and shook my head.

"Long story, man."

"Okay then. You're making a habit of coming here. I didn't know you liked me this much."

I chuckled and we both sat down.

"What's up?" He said and leaned on the table.

"Are you at it again?" I said. He heaved and rubbed his face briefly.

"Yeah man."

"What triggered her?" He looked at me and raised his eyebrow.

"She wanted blood." He said. I rubbed the back of my head and remained quite.

"Are you good?" He asked and I looked at him.

"Yeah I'm good."

He narrowed his gaze and looked at me like he was trying to figure me out.

"Try again."

I let out a sigh.

"I'm just exhausted. I could really do with a break but I can't. Dad left me with a whole lot of responsibilities that at times I feel they take a toll on me."

"Why don't you go on a vacation." He said.

"I can't. I was just at the U.S not so long ago and also spend some time in the bhundus. I can't abandon the company like that."

"But you also can't run it with your head space all over. You need a break to revamp and regroup man. You're also human." He insisted.

I let out a sign. I'm really exhausted and he is right, I do need a break but I just can't right now. Not while everything is still as it is.

"Yeah I'll see. So you still don't want to get out of this place?" I asked. He chuckled and leaned back.

"Missed me that much?" I laugh lightly.

"Something like that. But it's also for your own good. I promised to take care of you a-"

"And you're doing just that. Don't be hard on yourself man." He jumped in and I remained quiet.

"Look mate, you're taking care of all of us. And I understand that I also added to your load. I'm sorry about that but just let me stay here for a while. This place is what's good for me. It's better if I feed her cravings with these jailbirds than innocent souls out there. And also..." he paused and cleared his throat. I looked at him, he avoided my eyes.

"I'm inlove with your wife man. It's driving me crazy and I can't do anything about it. It's probably best that I just stay locked, away from her." He said.

"Stop talking about her."

"I'm just venting man. It's no-"

"I said stop Mike." I said between my grinded teeth

and he raised his hands in surrender.

"Sorry man. This is why I need to stay here."

He pushed his chair back and got up. I also rose up.

"Do consider going on that vacation. I'll pay for it if I have to. Just take your wife and go relax man, alright." He said and we fist

bumped.

"Thanks mate. I appreciate that man."

"No sweat. I'll see you around. Please stop crowding me." He said and walked out.

"Mike." I called him. He turned before he could walk out and looked at me.

"Don't kill him man, for my wife's sake." I pleaded and he just looked at me and smiled then walked out. I rubbed my face briefly and walked out either. I guess I'll just have to let him be. Maybe he is better off in here than out there. I just hope by the time he gets out, he'd have gained his sanity back. My phone rang as I walked out and I answered.

"Mfana kithi. uRight?" I asked.

"I need to talk to you. Can you come by my house?"

"As in now?"

"Yeah, if you come an hour late you won't find me."

"What? Where are you going?"

"Just come Ozi." He said and hung up. I rushed to my car and drove off.

I arrived at his house and saw Banzi's car. I wish I had all the time and energy to travel like Banzi does. This champ is all over the place. You'd swear he isn't based in Cape Town. I pulled over and walked out. I made my way to the door and was welcomed by loud voices. I walked in to where they were seated and they turned to look at me. All this loud voices for just two people?

"Gents." I greeted.

"Ola." They greeted back in unison.

"Are you ever at school though?" I asked, looking at Banzi.

"Yeah man. But I also can't stay away when my family needs me." He looked at Lwazi and I also moved my gaze to him. He looked more exhausted than he was when I left him here. They were sitting outside on the veranderr, I sat down and joined them.

"I came as soon as I could." I said looking at Lwazi who still had hiccups. Did he cry some more after I left? Because his nose was puffed and his eyes were bloodshot. He heaved and faced down.

"I'm going away for a while. I need some time away from the outside world." He was still looking down.

"What's going on bro?" Banzi asked. I could tell that seeing him like this was disturbing to him.

"I've been trying to suppress this anger within me for sometime now and I realised that I'm failing. It's taking over my life and I want to stop it." He stoped and drew in some much needed breath. "I haven't healed from Palesa' passing. I kept searching for her in all the girl's faces and charectors and when I couldn't, it drove me to the edge. I thought I'd replace her but I can't. So I realised that I actually need to

deal with this and talk to someone."

"What, like a shrink?" Banzi asked and he nodded.

"Holly crap man. You ain't gonna talk to no stranger about your feelings like that. That's being a pussy."

He added.

"Watch your tongue Banzi." He looked at me with eyebrows raised.

"Maybe I am a pussy after all. I mean I act all tough but deep down I'm bleeding. Who am I fooling?"

Lwazi said and he still had his head hanged.

"Do you want to go for a professional help?" I asked and he nodded.

"Where are you gonna go?" I added.

"Bhuti this is ridiculous man. Don't tell me you're also supporting this crap." Banzi said, all worked up.

"Lwazi needs help, Banzi and it takes a man of integrity to admit and realise that they need help. There's nothing shaming about that. And it doesn't make him less of a man. He needs help and we are going to support him in this tough journey. It's not

just his battle but ours also." I said and Banzi nodded.

"Are you gonna be okay though bro?" He asked and Lwazi just shrugged. He was sobbing.

"Where are you going then?" I asked.

"I want to go far from everything and everyone untill I'm healed. So I'm going to P.E." He sniffed.

"Do you have everthing figured out already?" I asked.

"Yeah. I already booked for my stay there and I'm flying down in two hours."

"What! Two hours?" Banzi said and I just ran out of words. I felt a very dry lump on my throat and I swallowed it down. I never realised the impact of Lwazi's presence untill now that he's leaving. I can't say I'm not hurting because I am, deeply.

Banzi went to him and pulled him up.

"I need you to know that I still respect you so much and that I'll be here for you when you need me." He had his hand on Lwazi's shoulder and Lwazi just nodded. A stream of tears came running down his

cheecks like someone just opened a water tub. I guess it's true when they say, everyone is fighting a demon that nobody knows nothing about. I never thought I'd see the day where my brother hit rock bottom and look so vulnerable. I've always drew my strength from him at times of need that I didn't realise he was just acting tough to cover his wounds up. He was bleeding inside this entire time and I'm pretty sure loosing dad in that manner also rubbed salt to his fresh wounds.

He was whimpering and I stoop up. We grouped hugged and comforted him. His cries were really of someone who needed help. He can't take it anymore. We let him cry it all out till he placated.

He packed his bags and was ready to hit the road. He didn't want to bid Itumeleng goodbye so we just left and drove him to the airport. We watched his flied take off and this is got to be the hardest things to witness. Banzi was also trying hard not to brake down but I could tell that he wasn't taking it well.

"So, when are you going back?" I put my hand on his shoulder and he turned to look at me. He gave me a

faint smile and cleared his throat.

"Immediately when we get home." He said and I nodded.

"I'm sorry. I wish I could stay but I've got to go back to school." He added.

"Don't worry about it champ. I'm not all alone hey. I've got Snenhlanhla here with me." He nodded and we remained silent.

"Aright then, we should probably get home. You've got a long way to go." I said and we walked back to the car and drove off. We arrived at Lwazi's place and he dropped me off without walking back in. We bid each other farewell at the gate and off he went. I pressed the code and walked in. I found Itu seating on a couch. She looked up when she heard me walk in.

"Hey." I said.

"Hey."

"I just came to take my car."

"So he's gone huh?" She said and I nodded. She

wanted to cry but I excuesed myself real quick.

"I'll see you around then. Take care alright." I said and she smiled weakly. I walked out, leaving her on the couch. I got in my car and drove home.

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

I thought I heard Ozi's car park in the drive way about 20 minutes ago but he didn't come in. I walked out and saw him resting his head on the steering wheel. I walked to his side of the door and opened the door, he didn't look up.

"Baby." I said but he didn't respond. I heard him sniff. I pulled him out and he complied. I opened the backseat door and we got in at the back. I looked at him, his eyes were red and swollen. He looked at me and a tear droped from his eye. He pressed his lips together to supresse the edge to let it all out.

"Heey. It's okay baby." I wiped the tear drop off with my thumb and pecked his lips, they were so salty.

"I love you." I said.

"Just hold me please." He said with a quivering voice and I pulled him in for a hug, he gave in. I felt my top getting wet. My heart sank to the pit of my stomach and I found myself crying with him. He held me tight and whimpered. I rocked him back and forth while brushing his back gently. He kept crying and it was a heart wrenching sight to watch. Whatever that happened clearly touched him in the depth of his soul because I've never seen him cry like this before. Not even when his father died. He acted all touch and strong for his brothers that he didn't fully grieve. Maybe it's only sinking in now. Shame man, my poor husband.

He pulled away from my embrace and kissed my forehead.

"Thank you maKhumalo. I don't know what I'd be without you." He looked really drained. I kissed his cheeck.

"It's okay baby. I'm here for you and I'm not going anywhere." He gave me a weak smile.

"Aren't you hungry?" I asked. He shook his head. I frowned because he never say no to food. He must really be hurting.

"Okay let's go inside then."

"Okay." We got out and walked in. He walked straight upstairs.

"I'll make you hot chocolate and a sandwich then?" I said but he dissapeared without saying a word. I made two cups of hot chocolate and a sandwich and took it upstairs. I pushed the door and walked in. I found him inside the covers already. His clothes were on the floor and curtains were still open. I looked at the wall clock and it was just after 6Pm. I closed the curtains and switched on the lights. I sat down and ate then took the dishes with his untouched hot chocolate downstairs. I closed curtains and locked the house then went upstairs again. I kicked my flip flops off and got in the covers. He was already snoring, looking like an innocent vulnerable soul. I kissed his cheeck and watched him sleeping while I brushed his dark eyebrows.

Insert 52

(Unedited)

Snenhlanhla Khumalo.

There's nothing that irritates me like someone who calls me morethan once like I owe them money. If I don't answer the second time, you should just stop calling. There's absolutely no need to blow my phone up. There goes my beauty sleep now, urg!

I was about to reach out to it when it stopped ringing. Goodridance! I sank back inside the covers and he turned to face my direction. He wrapped his hand around me and intertwined his leg with mine. My phone rang again and I shifted to reach out to it but he pulled me closer.

"Hhmm." He mumbled.

"My phone is ringing, love" I said.

"Leave it." He said with a horse voice and his eyes still closed but I reached out to it and answered.

"Hello."

"Hi Snenhlanhla."

I removed the phone away from my ear and checked the caller ID. I put it back on my ear again.

"Amanda." I said.

"Please don't hang up." She said and I remained quiet.

"Sne please. Give me another chance." She added and I let out a sigh.

"I'm still sleeping Amanda. You have no right to blow my phone up like that so early."

"I know and I'm sorry but I wanted to talk to you. I can't do this anymore Snenhlanhla."

"I'll call you when I wake up, please. "

"Okay."

"Bye."

"Bye." I hung up and let out a sign. She must really have an imperative reason to call me this early and ruining my beauty sleep. It was great hearing her

voice though. And I can't say I don't miss her because I do. The little time I spend with her really gave me a sense of belonging. I was looking forward to our union but it got destroyed before it could even establish. My dream bubble of having a sister got busted real quick and it hurts. I heaved again.

"Are you good?"

I turned swiftly to look at him, he had his sleepy eyes slightly opened and looking at me. I didn't notice he was already up.

"Morning. Did I wake you?" He narrowed his sleepy gaze and I shied my eyes away.

"No you didn't and don't change the subject." He said with a stern voice.

"I'm not changing the subject love. And yes I'm okay. How did you sleep?" I said, getting out of bed. He pulled me and made me get ontop of him.

"Talk to me baby." He said.

"It's nothing hectic love. I don't want to bother you." I said.

"Well, I want to be bothered. I can never get enough of being bothered by you. Now, talk to me. What's got you upset so early?" He said and I smiled. I don't know where he draws his strength from honestly. Just yesterday he was an emotional mess, which I still don't know why. But today here he is, ready to take the bull by its horns.

"You've got enough on your plate as it is love and honestly I don't want to bombard you with my own problems." I said. He brought his dark eyebrows together and frowned.

"Your problems are mine too. And no matter how bombarded I am, I still have room to accommodate yours." He said and I narrowed my eyes and looked at him.

"Okay let's go about it this way then.." he got up and sat on his butt. He leaned back on the headboard.

"Bombard me with your problems and I'll bombard you with mine. That way we can both offload our burdens." He continued and I laughed lightly.

"Oh wow. And what do you call that, some

therapeutic session?" He chuckled.

"Whatever you want to call it, sweetheart. You can go first." He said and I lifted my eyebrow, he was being for real. Ooohkay!

"Well, it's Amanda." I said and his face changed instantly. He was now looking at me with a straight face. If only he knew how intimidating he looks when he wears a straight face, he'd stop doing it period!

"I don't know what to do with my situation with her. I mean she's my sister and I love her but I don't know if we'll ever subdue this predicament and have the kind of relationship I always dreamt to have with her as my sister." I added.

"What kind of a relationship is that?" He asked.

"You know babe, the kind where I can be able go to her about anything and vise versa." I stopped and inhaled deeply then exhaled. "When I found out about her, I wanted to have an ever ending healthy relationship with her."

"Not anymore?" He asked. I shrugged my shoulder and looked at him. He took my hand into his and

squeezed it.

"You have to stop shutting out your feelings baby. You are human and you need to allow yourself to feel something. It's okay to be reluctant about how you feel concerning her and the whole situation but how are you ever gonna find closure if you don't open up about it?" He said and I looked at him confused.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"Give her and your relationship a fresh start. As much as you're hurting, she's the only person who can take away this particular pain that you are feeling concerning this situation...by opening up to her. Set yourself free from this bondage." He was still looking at me but with concern plastered across his face this time. I was getting touched at the depth of my soul that I looked right into his eyes. He was playing with my fingers.

"Give it a try sweetheart. And honestly you're both just victims of the same circumstance. You can't punish her forever for something she didn't do or

shut her out forever for that matter. She's your sister and you need her in your life as much as she needs you." He continued. I curved my mouth to the corner trying to digest.

"Do you really think so?" I asked and he nodded lightly.

"Wouldn't it be nice though to have her in our child's life? I mean I only have brothers and Amanda is practically our son's only aunt. We can't deny him of that privilege. It's his birth right and it just wouldn't be fair on him. And anyway babe, I just don't want you living life wondering how things could have turned out if you had fixed things with your sister."

He said.

"But I always tried to reach out to her babe. She's the one who shut me out." I said with pouted lips.

"Yes but she's also reaching out now. Doesn't that count for something?" I kept quiet.

"She called you literally a few minutes ago, didn't she?" He added and I lifted my shoulder dismissively.

"Now that it suits her." I spit out.

"Come on baby. Don't be like that. Just be grateful that she's finally ready to talk. Don't shoot her for trying now. Come here." He pulled me closer and curved me in his embrace, I rested my head on his chest. He brushed my shoulder and we remained silent. I was digesting everthing that he just said. And as much as I hate to admit it, he is making a whole lot of sense. It would really be nice having Amanda in our lives. I mean she's literally the only blood relative I have. I let it all sink and made peace with the fact that I'm going to give it a try.

Ozi was now awfully quiet and It rose my concerns. I cleared my throat.

"So, what's bothering you." I wiggled my way out of his embrace and looked at him. He gave me a faint smile and chuckled.

"Would you forget about it if I asked you to?" He asked and I shook my head, no. He chuckled again and shook his head.

"Uyahlupha kodwa sthandwa sam'." I chuckled.

"I know. So..." he looked at me briefly then moved his

gaze away and heaved.

"A lot has happened yesterday and I don't even know where to start." His face suddenly saddened again. He still hasn't recovered from whatever that transpired yesterday.

"Well start at the beginning." I said and he looked at me.

We decided to stay indoors with him working from home today. He called the office and asked Inathinkosi to cancel all his meetings for today. He really wasn't up for a crowd. What happened yesterday really did him a number and I honestly wish I could carry some of his load for him. He is doing everything he can to keep his family intact and make sure that everyone is okay and it's taking a toll on him. He has too many responsibilities that I feel it's just too much really. It can't be easy juggling between being a CEO of a multi billion company and being head of a family. He's also human and needs a

break aswell, hence the indoor mode today.

We were curled up into a small ball and cuddled on the couch. He was taking a break away from work and his mini office. Nothing makes my heart swell like seeing him taking time from his busy schedule to bond with his child. It's really nice having him brush my tummy, as cold as his hands are and as much as I hated it at first, I came to learn to live with and love it. He has a story telling and song session with his son daily. The gynecologist once told us that babies can sense voices, sounds and even touches. Now Ozi has made it part of his daily routine to do all those things during his bonding sessions. He's so adamant that I'm carrying a boy. He also doesn't stop going on about his crazy stories that all Langa men give birth to first born sons because they've got strong sperms. Imagine! Psm? When I suggested to him that we should go for sonar to confirm the baby's gender, he refused...said he wanted to prove himself right. So I let him be. He's so natural and exciting that he's already started practicing the baby

language. I can't wait to give birth and watch him become an incredible father to our bundle of joy.

The intercom buzzed, stealing our compelling moment. He removed his hand from my belly and looked at me.

"Are you expecting anyone?" I shook my head.

"You?" He also shook his head.

"I'm not in the mood to see anybody. Go attend to it please." He said.

"Hau baby, kanjalo nje. What if they steal me when you're up here and you can't even save me?" He burst into laughter.

"That person would have signed a death wish contract with the devil. Not with my wife and certainly not in my own territory. Now, go phela." I looked at him as he pulled the throw and snuggled comfortably on the couch. I shook my head and got up.

"Best husband award goes to you shame." I said, walking out and leaving him in stitches.

"I love you too mama ka still coming." He said. I walked downstairs and answered the intercom.

"Yes?"

"Hey stranger. Sizwe here."

What? Sizwe? What is he doing here?

"Okay come on in." I punched the code and waited. A knock came through to the door and i went to attend to it. I opened and widened my eyes in shock. I couldn't fathom how I felt seeing them both here. But I most definitely realised how much I missed them. Amanda cleared her throat, bringing me back to life and I looked at her. She's even more beautiful than I can remember. Oh my gosh, how long has it been?

"Well, are you gonna invite us in?" She said.

" Afcause." I smiled and opened my arms, we shared a bone crashing hug and remained like that for a while.

"I'm so sorry." She said and I hugged her even tight.

"Me too." I said. I heard her sniff and I was aslo

crying. Sizwe just stood there and let us be. We finally let go and I wiped off her tears.

"I missed you so much. Oh my gosh, look how beautiful you are." I said and she chuckled between her tears.

"Says someone who ridiculously looks like me." She said and looked down on my tummy

"I'll take that as a compliment even though I feel anything but pretty." I looked at Sizwe and he had a stupid grin on his face. I went over to him and punched his chest.

"Ouch. What's that for?"

"That's for ditching me." I said and he pulled me for a hug.

"I missed you ntwana." He said and I chuckled. He pulled away and took a few steps back.

"I missed you guys. Wow, look at you. Bonny and Glide." I said and we laugh in unison.

"Please come in."

"Uhm, thanks but I'm not staying. I just came to drop

Amanda off." Sizwe said and I looked at him amused.

"You do know that you'll officially become brothers in-law once you marry my sister here and you won't avoid him forever right?" I said and he chuckled nervously.

"I'm not avoiding him. I just have to dash somewhere." With that said, he briefly kissed Amanda's cheek and bid us goodbye. We walked in and I closed the door behind. Her eyes were wandering around. I forgot she hasn't been here before. She was clearly swept off. I looked at her and chuckled.

"Would you like anything to drink?" I asked and she just nodded, still admiring the house and not acknowledging me one bit.

"This house looks even better inside. It's a total dream." She said and I continued to chuckled.

"I know. I was just as swept off the first time myself."

"How big is it?"

"I don't know. It's too big, I felt drowsy to count. But it has 5 bedrooms, that I can tell you." I handed her a glass of orange juice.

"Oh my gosh. It's a mansion. Do take me on a tour once everything is settled." She sipped her juice and we both sat down on the high kicken stools. She placed the glass down carefully and rubbed her fingers on its bream without looking an inch at me.

"Look Amanda. I know a lot has happened since we found out about each other but can we move on from that?" I said. She brought her gaze up and looked at me. Her face lit up completely.

"I wouldn't like anything morethan having a fresh start. I miss you Sne. I'm longing for you." She said.

"How have you been?" I asked out of concern. I really want to know how she's holding up with...you know what!

"I'm good actually. I didn't think I'd handle it the way I do but I'm glad that I do."she said confidently.

"Are you certain that you're not bottling it up? Because you do know that it's gonna catch up with you later if

you don't deal with it,.right?

She waved her hand dismissively.

"I don't care anymore. I just want to move on and live my life without all this toxic drama." She lifted her glass and drank from it. I looked at her and kept quiet. I was worried about her but not morethan I was happy to have her here with me.

Ozi came down the stairs and Amanda shifted uncomfortably on her seat.

"Hi Amanda." He greeted.

"Hey...hi Ozi. How are you?" She said.

"I'm good, thanks for asking. How are you doing yourself?"

"I'm okay, thanks." She said and he nodded.

He went over to the fridge and took out a water bottle. He turned on his heels and headed to the staircases.

"Nice to see you again Amanda. Please don't be a stranger." He said and dissapeared upstairs. I looked at Amanda and smiled. I know he just rubbed it in

deliberately. Sneaky ass!

"Did he just hint that I should visit often?" She asked and I nodded.

"Yup. Don't tell him that I told you but I think you're his favourite." I said drinking my juice.

"You think?" She asked, amused.

"He literally advocated for you this morning."

"You don't say!"

We both bust into laughter and I shook my head. I love having her back already. We're gonna take it one day at a time obviously but I'm willing to try. We sat there and catched up. We ended up cooking a storm and it was all good vibes. I have to say though, Amanda looks so much like me that I sometimes feel like I'm looking at my own reflection on a mirror. It's creepy but I love it. I have my sister back and that's all that matters. Right?

Insert 53

(Unedited)

I've never experinced a life as dramatic as the one I've been living these past few months. Knowing the Langa brothers and becoming one of them, gave me a new perspective about life. We've had our ups and downs, our highs and lows but in the midst of everthing, we've also had our crazy and compelling moments. They are great people and I'm morethan greatful to be a part of their crazy and rollercoaster ride; especially that of Ozi's. These past few months have really been dramatic and draining. We've experienced some series of events that I've even lost count. It's safe to proclaim that God is alive after he projected his presence in the midst of shitty situations that we got ourselves caught up in. He has really been with us. He held our hands and guided us through the storm and lately the dust has settled with Lwazi being away and still on his healing journey. While Mike and Dlomo are still behind bars. I haven't heard from aunt Nosi since we came back

from home and Khosi was taking her treatment and recovering just fine. My relationship with Amanda is fully Blossomed. She is my happy space and escape place. It's really nice to have somebody other than my husband to vent on when the going gets tough. Especially about issues relating to women. She's really been there for me and I couldn't ask for more. Thanks to Ozi for making me see reason. As for Amo, she's living her own busy life in Joburg. She has no time for anybody or anything. We talk from time to time but our friendship is nolonger the same. I think we're drifting apart due to growth and not having common taste of things, I don't know. What I do know though is that, you should set people free to be what they are meant to be with people they are meant to be with. It's okay to outgrown certain people or things as you grow old and better in life. As long as we're all good and surviving. I still love her though. She'll always be my friend.

Phew! I've become a bubbler mouth lately.

Anyway, Ozi and I decided that I was gonna have a waterbirth in our own home. He was very adamant

about not having his child be delivered at a public space. He said he's a Langa heir and deserves to be welcomed as such. We have a team ready on stand by. I'm talking about nurses, midwives and camera crews to capture the moment. All those are Ozi's suggestions, not mine. I didn't know he can be so dramatic and I had no energy to protest it. I just want to pop this baby out once and for all. I haven't been able to do much for myself lately. Ozi would either work half days and come back early or he would just work from home completely because he wouldn't leave me behind all day by myself. I asked that he hires someone to help me, he rejected the idea and said that he'll take care of his wife, so I let him be.

I'm expected to give birth sometime during this week and honesty I wish it was this very moment. I'm heavily pregnant and tired. My feet are swollen and I walk like a penguin. Ozi said it was sexy but I know he's just trying to flatter me because I look like a pig. My nose is all puffed and pale while my lips are dark. I even gave up doing my hair. I don't even comb it anymore.

I walked down the staircase going down to the kitchen and he lifted his head and looked at me. He sprang on his feet and came running to me.

"What the hell baby. Do you want to give birth on these stairs?" He picked me up carefully.

"Put me down Ozi. I'm not a bag of potatoes." I said punching his biceps, he chuckled.

"Calm down now. I'm just trying to help my penguin from rolling down these stairs."

"Mxm. Put me down. I wanna walk. I'm tired of seating." I said and he put me down next to the kitchen counter. He heaved and held his waist. I eyed him and he raised his hands in surrender and chuckled.

"Can I make you something to eat?" He asked.

"No. I'll do it myself." I insisted.

"Kodwa Sthandwa sam, I'm here to help you." He said.

"Help me take down the pots then." I said and he raised his eyebrow.

"Are you cooking?"

"Hmm."

"There's nothing I can do or say to stop you from doing this, right?" He asked while leaning on the kitchen counter. He was wearing a beggy white vest with sweatpants and socks only. He looked like a snack. Lately I have been the one to initiate sex. Yeah I said it. Now don't look at me like that guuurl. Who wouldn't like sex while they get shagged by a man like my husband huh? I Couldn't get enough of him. All I do is eat, have sex, bath and repeat. I don't know what's gotten into me but I just find him extremely irresistible. Must be pregnancy horns or I just flat enjoys having sex.

He cleared his throat and I looked at him. He had a goofy smile on his face.

"Are you actually day dreaming and drooling over me right now?" He smirked. I pressed my lips together and nodded like a little kid. He chuckled.

"Do you want me?" I nodded again while biting my nail.

"So you don't want to cook anymore?" He added and I shook my head no. Why does he keep asking me these stupid questions. I just want him this instant, ontop of this kitchen counter.

"You wanna shag?" He continued to ask with one eyebrow raised. Urg! I gave him another nod, annoyed this time.

"Shame man. Kubi mos." He said then turned and took the pots down. He placed them on the stove and started to whistle, completely dismissing my heavily pregnant self and my needs. I just stood there and looked at him. I wanted to cry because he knows just how much I want him right now but he's just enjoying torturing me. He peeked his head in the carpets and started raiding them.

"So what do you want to cook, madam?" He said without looking at me. I remained silent and felt a tear drop from my left eye. He turned and looked at me. He brought his dark eyebrows together and frowned for a while then bust into laughter.

"Are you crying?" I nodded and wiped my tears away.

"Ooh baby? Does it hurt?" He teased. Mxm arrogant fool.

"Tell me where it hurts so I can kiss it better sweetheart."

"Ini?" I asked while still crying. He's just a fool.

"I don't know phela. Where does it hurt?" He smirked.

"Why would you think I'm hurting somewhere?"

"Because you are crying sweetheart." He motioned towards me.

"Why are you crying then?" He added, while standing in front of me now. His cologne hit my nostrils and I had to keep my knees in check.

"Because you don't want to make love to me." I said between my sobs. He searched in my eyes and stifled a laughter.

"I don't want to make love to you?" He said and I nodded.

"So it doesn't hurt?"

"Ini kanti Ozithobile?" I lashed out. Urg! He chuckled

and pulled me closer.

"What did I say about my full name, Nhlanhla?" He was sliding his hands underneath my short dress. I had no penties on. I stopped wearing those on my 2nd trimester because they just became so uncomfortable.

"Nhlanhla." He said softly while burying his head on my shoulder.

"Hmmm." I murmured.

"What did I say about my full name sweetheart?"

"You said it makes you weak on your knees." I said, while suppressing the edge to cry.

"So you want to knock me off?"

He was fingering me and breathing down my neck. I just shook my head no and he pulled his finger out and licked it clean. I moaned and whined.

"Ooozi!"

"It tastes different." He said and I looked at him. He was really enjoying this and I, on the other hand, couldn't hold it anymore. I burst into tears and cried.

He looked at me and laughed, throwing his head back. I pushed him away and attempted to walk away but he pulled me gently and I turned. He smashed his soft lips on mine and we shared a salty kiss. I could feel his lips curve into a smile against mine and I pulled back. He looked at me and kissed my teary eyes.

"You are just so perfect for me, Snenhlanhla." He looked down on me, while his hands cupped my face.

"Baby pleeeease." I whined and he chuckled again.

"What do you want kanti?"

"I want your cock."

"Is it even safe to have sex while you can give birth anytime from now Nhlanhla?"

"Yes baby. People do it all the time."

"Really? Let me go goggle that real quick, I'll be back." He attempted to walk away but pulled him and grapped his bulge. He was as hard as a rod, bloody idiot. He wants me just as much as I want him. He just enjoys watching me beg him to shag

me. He chuckled and brought his head closer to mine and we shared a very sensual kiss. He swept his tongue in and my breathing escalated. He picked me up and I smilled against his lips.

"Hold on to my neck." He said between our lips and I just nodded. We went upstairs and he placed me gently on the bed and took his clothes off. He came back and slept on the side because wow, my belly was super big, there's no way he could get ontop. Did I mention how lovely and sensul our sex is lately? The fact that he takes me nice and slow because he's afraid he'll hurt the baby, just turns me on. Not to mention all the newly found positions we do lately. Heaven on earth I tell you. He manages to get it all and also give it to me from all angles. He cupped my face and savoured on my lips. I slid my hand down and came in contact with his hard cock. I stroked it while he circled his fingers on my cage. He was groaning softly and I was moaning seductively. He pulled away from the kiss and hung his head back. I increased my pace and he also did the same. I felt my body tense up, he must have felt it too because

he stopped playing with my cage. He opened his lazy eyes and looked at me.

"How do you want it?" He said with a thick, husky voice. I felt my clit throb. I turned and slept on my side, giving him my back and lifted my leg up. He helped to hold it up. He shifted and moved closer to my entrance. His warm thighs came in contact with my ass. He inserted himself from behind and i guspe . I really can't get over how big he really is. How a woman cage is able to accomade such a rod, will always leave me baffled. Ozi is gifted and a great performer. I know I don't have anything or anyone to compare him with, which I'd like for it to stay that way, but I know he is good. His passionate sex always leaves me wanting more. He started to moved in and out slowly and I pressed my lips together and started to moan softly.

"Baby..." he said.

"Hmmm."

"Kanti why umnandi kanje sthandwa sam?"

I chuckled softly and continued to moan. He would

increase his pace a bit and thrust a few times then slow down again.

"Is this even safe? Because damn, I'm enjoying it and I don't want to stop." His voice was already thick. We moved our bodies passionately like we were dancing to a certain love song. He knows my body and needs so well, it drives me crazy. He is good shame. And the fact that he is gifted down there...hmm. I pulled forward and it slid out. I rolled over and got up. I pushed him to lay on his back and I climbed ontop. He smiled weakly and placed his hand in my wide hips. My ass had become bigger since pregnancy and they are enough for him to use as handles, and boy was he using them! I did the reverse cowgirl and gave him my ass to watch. I slid his manhood in and I heard him curse softly. I bounced gently in and out continuously and he was already speaking in tongues. This position is his newly favourite. He says it turns him on when he sees my ass bounce on his abs like that. I did my did, you'd swear I wasn't heavily pregnant. I was moaning and he was groaning softly.

"Oh shit baby." He said softly.

"your ass keeps swallowing my dick in and out and it's a great sight to watch." I increased my pace and grinded him deep and hard.

"Make me cum love. Shit...I want you to make me cum." With that said, I increased my pace and gave him real good bounces. He was groaning and cursing while spanking my ass.

"Shit...shit baby faster." I bounced until I couldn't anymore. He held me down tight and let out a loud groan.

"Uurh fuck woman, do you wanna kill me?" He said softly. I turned to sit ontop of him, with his juices following shortly. I looked at him, he squeezed his eyes shut. I chuckled and he opened one eye and looked at me.

"I'm finished." He said and I burst into laughter.

"Well I still want more." I said, he opened his eyes and widened his gaze.

"Nhlanhla the baby is due anytime. It can't be healthy shagging like this. Haibo maKhumalo." I was still seating ontop of him and giggling.

"Okay but I didn't cum, can you help me?" I said. He got up and picked me up. We headed to the shower and he put me down. He ran the water and turned me over.

"Relax, I'll bath you."

"Even down there?"

"Even down there baby."

I laughed and held on to the class wall, bending and giving him enough room to wash my cage. He squatted down and took his time washing it shortly after washing my body. I felt his face on my butt cheecks and I jumped. He held me to stand still.

"Hai maan Ozi. That's gross." I said laughing.

"I'm the one whose face came incontact with this cage, now shush and enjoy the moment." He said and began eating me from behind. I kept wiggling my ass and he would chuckle. I felt the wave build up and shortly I reached my climax. He rose up and helped me catch my breath. We finished taking the shower and walked out.

"Do you still want to cook?" He asked.

"Yes baby. I feel like macaroni and cheese." I said.

"Tell you what. Why don't you relax and let me cook for you."

"You'd cook for me?"

"Afcause sweetheart. Now let's go." He took my hand and we walked downstairs. He went to lift up a single couch and came to place it in the kitchen.

"Hau, manje?" I asked, puzzled.

"I need you to keep me company phela."

"Hau but the living room is just next door and the house is an open plan."

"Yes but uzolala phela wena. I don't trust you. Now snuggle here and watch your man do the tricks." He patted on the couch with a smirk and I sat down comfortably and watched him raid the carpets and fridge.

"Hmm, this is such a compelling view. I'm denied one thing though." I said, biting my bottom lip.

"What is that?" He had his head peeked in the fridge and didn't look at me.

"Watching you cooking while half naked."

He turned swiftly to look at me. He had a shocked yet amused look plastered on his face.

"What?" He raised his eyebrow and I chuckled.

"Are you saying I should cook naked?" He asked.

"Yup. In your underwear and an apron only?" I said giggling.

"Really?" I nodded rapidly.

"Ooh yeah." He started to strip and throwing the clothes at me and I just couldn't stop giggling. He looked very silly but I loved it. He fished shortly and was left in his boylegs only. He unhangged the apron behind the door and wore it. He turned around and opened his arms wide.

"Aaand voula!" He said, I burst into laughter.

"Ungahleki phela. Better?" I gave him an affirming nod and a thumbs up. He chuckled and shook his head.

"The things you make me do behind these walls though. My interiors should never ever find out." He said, going back to his pots and cooking a storm.

"Okay Mr CEO?" I smiled. I watched him cook while we conversed over a light conversation. Soon he was done cooking and dishing up and I went to dine with him. He helped me sit down on my chair then sat down opposite me. The food smelled very delish. I was already drooling. He said grace then we digged in.

"So, what baby names do you have in mind?" I asked, with my mouth stuffed with food. He looked at me briefly then focused on his food.

"Well, we don't even know the gender. I suggest we just wait until the baby is born then we'll decide based on how we feel at that moment. Beside, I don't think such things need to be planned." He shrugged.

"Okay but no funny names for my child please." I said and he chuckled.

"Actually you know what, I've got just about the right name in my head." He said and eyed me. I gave him

the go ahead look at he laughed lightly.

"How about uSphenge?" He said and bust into laughter. I looked at him confused and totally astonished.

"What? Isn't that a Ndebele name?" I asked and he continued to laugh. He was in stitches.

"Do you even know what it means?"

He shook his head with tears rolling down his cheecks. He's really an idiot shame.

"Then why would y-...urg baby that's not funny man." I threw a servant on him.

"You should have seen your face, absolutely priceless. Your eyes looked like they wanted to pop out." He wiped his tears and got up.

"That's not funny Ozi."

"Hau but it's a name nje. I know so many Sphenges out there. What's wrong with it?" I pouted my lips with food in my mouth. He raised his hands in surrender and went to put his plate in the sink and came back to lean on the table next to me. He wiped

the sauce from my mouth with his thumb and licked it then looked at me softly.

"Did I tell you lately that I love you?" He said and I shook my head.

"Well Baby, you are my heart in a human form. You are the puzzle that's been missing in my life. I love you so much, it gives me chest pains." He added and I giggled.

"Lier."

"Oho. You could ne-" he paused, looked at me and frowned. I looked under the table and I was soaking wet.

"Baby." I whispered.

"What's wrong?"

"My water just broke." I said and he widened his gaze in shock.

"What? What does that mean?" He said, totally freaked out. I placed the fork on the table and touched my belly.

"Uurh. Oh my gosh."

"What's wrong baby. Are you giving birth?"

"No idiot. Urg not n- uuuuuurh!"

"Well I don't know what to do. What do you need me to do?"

"Call the flippin nursery team man Ozi."

"Okay, okay." He ran upstairs, made a swift U-turn then came running back again.

"Is it fine if I leave you here? Can I leave y-"

"OZITHOBILE MAAN!" I screamed.

"I'm sorry my love." He ran upstairs and I got up and went to kneel down next the couch and remembered what my doctor told me. liiiiiin and ouuuuuuut. I inhaled and exhaled as much as I can then repeated the process.

Insert 54

(Unedited)

Narrative.

The affluent tycoon, Ozithobile Langa, ran around the house like a headless chicken helping his beloved wife get ready for the delivery of their first ever child. If there's anything like "no words can explain how I feel." was precisely how Ozithobile felt. He was feeling absolutely foreign about everything that was happening. Seeing his wife go through so much pain really pierced his heart. He wished there was anything he could do to help her take away the pain. But he hoped and believed that his presence and moral support meant something to the frantic and in labour pains wife. The nursery team had already arrived, along with the camera crew. A pool of water was already prepared for Snenhlanhla's waterbirth. She spend the entire 8 hours pacing around the house, taking a nap and getting up,

screaming and shouting, breathing and wincing, while her husband was there, holding her hand, massaging, rubbing and breathing with her. Passion, love, patience and compassion didn't show enough sentiments for how present he really was for his wife.

Time was just 5 minutes after seven in the evening. The windows were opened to let the summer breeze help with cooling off the heavily pregnant Sne. It was predicted by the doctor that she would give birth around the evening. So they helped her get inside the pool and relax, butt naked. Ozi didn't like the idea of his wife being completely naked in the presence of all these strangers. It made his body cringe but he rather focused on the matter at hand. Sne got inside the pool and kneeled down, leaning with her hands on the pool, with her head rested and they looked at each other face to face with her husband. He brushed the sterns of her hair back gently while looking at her with so much compassion.

"I'm sorry that you have to go through so much pain, honey. I wish there was something I could do to help

you." Ozi said and she just gave him a very faint smile and squeezed her eyes shut.

"Hang in there alright. It will be over soon." He kissed her head. The midwife asked to checked her briefly and soon she was done then gave them both a smile.

"Okay Mrs Langa, the baby is ready to meet the parents now. We're gonna need you to lean on the pool with your back and spread your legs apart. Remember your breathing patterns and please breath in and out on my count then push as hard as you can, alright?" One of the midwives said.

"Can I get inside the pool aswell? I want to be close to my wife when she delivers." Ozi asked and the midwives smiled widely.

"Afcause you can Mr Langa. The pool is big enough for the both of you."

Ozi nodded and sprang on his feet. He charged to their master bedroom and changed into shorts and a vest. He hurried back to the next room where all the process was taking place and got in. He got inside

the pool and sat down behind his wife. She leaned her head on his chest, with her legs wide open and he was rubbing the bottom of the belly gently with his head on her shoulder. The camera flash lights were coming from all angles in the room.

"Isn't there a way we can do this? Like you leaving the cameras and stepping out?" Ozi said, annoyed.

"No sir, if you need proper captured moments then we need to be in this room to make sure of that." Said one camera dude.

"Okay but can you not take a direct video and pictures of my wife's private parts and of my son popping out please?" He said and the camera gave him a nod.

"Okay, it's time now. I'm gonna need you to take a deep breath...in then out on my count then push okay?" Said the midwife and Sne nodded. Ozi held on to her hand tight and pecked her cheek from behind.

"I'm here with you, honey. We can do this together." He said.

"Okay Mrs Langa. Ready?" She asked, Sne nodded.

"On 3, 2, 1 and push." Sne pushed with all her being and with every fiber in her body until she couldn't anymore. She stopped and breathed heavily.

"You are doing great sweetheart. It's only a matter of time till we meet our son. Keep up the good job. You are amazing." Ozi encouraged her, with tears treateting his eyes. He wiped them frantically and focused on his numb wife.

"One more try and hopely the last, you you push harder, Mrs Langa. Breath in and out on my count then push again. 3, 2, 1 and push." Sne held on to her husband and dug her nails in the back his hands and pushed with her all, screaming her lungs out. The baby popped out and resurfaced on the water. Its cries filled the room and the midwife held it. Ozi's face had turned pale with shock and excitement all at once.

"It's a boy." Said the midwife.

"Oh thank you sweet Jesus." Whispered Sne before throwing her head back on her husband's chest and retired. Ozi wrapped his hands around

her, underneath the water and kissed her neck. He burried his head on it and sobbed gently. This was the ultimate moment of both fear and excitement they were all waiting for. They were relieved that all went well without complications because honestly, not having parents to guide them through and be there for them was hard as it is. The worst thing that could have happened during this labour was if Sne loses her life delivering the baby or something unforeseen happens to the beloved and long awaited Ozi Langa heir.

"Well done my love. I'm so proud of you." He still had his head burried on her neck. She brushed the back of his head gently and they embraced each other. The umbilical cord got cut and they handed the baby to its parents. They held it together and looked down on it. It was sucking on its little fragile pale fingers and the parents chuckled in unison.

"He's so beautiful." Said Ozi, brushing its fluffy hair back and smiling down on him.

"I know right. He looks like his father. Look at the dark brows and the narrowed nose." Said Sne.

"I'm sorry to disturb your compelling momen parents but we have to get the mommy out of the water and also check on the baby." Said the midwife. They nodded with smiles and gave her their budle of joy. The room was filled with camera lights of the crew taking pictures and campuring the moments. Joyous was the mood for the evening.

Ozithobile Langa's POV

I closed the door and locked it soon after biding the camera crew and nursery team goodbye. I let out a sigh and smilled to myself. I couldn't be more happier and feel blessed that my wife's delivery was smooth with none complications. We can only thank the man above because he's trully been with us every step of the way. I made my way to the fridge and opened it. I could really do with a cold beer after such a hectic day of pacing up and down. I took out the beer and closed the fridge. I was about to open it

when I suddenly regretted the idea. It probably isn't such a good idea that I drink while my wife and newly born son are just upstairs. I took it back and walked upstairs. I pushed the door gently and walked in. I found my poor wife drifted to sleep. She must really be tired after such an eventful day, shame. I still don't know how she did that. I don't think I would have survived it if the tables were turned. She's a strong woman and I just think I love her even more after today. I walked to the bed and leaned over to her ear and whispered "I love you." then pecked her forehead. She didn't even move an inch. She's really out of it. I pulled the sheets and covered her then walked over to my son's cot and picked him up. He had his little eyes shut and was fast asleep. I really just want to hold him in my arms. I want to feel his presence on me. I looked down on him with a smile and joy overflowing in my heart.

"Hello there champ." I said softly. "It's such a great pleasure to finaly meet and hold you in my arms. And I want to thank you for being so good to mommy. She never had any compilations during

birth and through out her pregnancy. Thank you for being a gentle and good boy. You know, the Langas are very gentle people when it comes to women, champ. We love them with all our beings and get very gentle with them. It's good to see that you've already established what we are about even though you made a grand entrance." I said and his lips curved into a smile. I frowned and looked at him, puzzled.

"Did you just smile at me?" I said and chuckled. He looks so beautiful man. I can't really tell if he looks like me due to the fact that he's still very young but he does for sure and with no doubt look like the hottest version of the family, so he says, Banzi. I won't hear the end of it as soon as he sees him.

"I hope you know, judging from how your mother and I shagged, that we made you with nothing but love and affection. That woman is my life, champ. She does things to me. When I first saw her, I knew I wanted to have you with her. And when she told me we're expecting, I felt brand new, like I've just been given a new life. My life wasn't perfect and all glitters.

It still isn't but I need you to know that you brought light in both your mother and I's lives. I love you my boy and I'll protect you with everything I have because you are the only good thing that happened in our lives after a shitty and rollercoaster year we had. You've got crazy uncles and a beautiful aunt that looks ridiculously like mommy. You'd swear they are twins. But between you and I, I think your mother is the hottest and I'd choose her over and over again. Worry not though because you'll get to meet them soon and I know you'll also understand why I'd like to name you Thando if your mother ap-

"I love it."

I turned to look at her. She was looking at us with sleepy eyes. I looked at her with a stupid grin on my face then looked down on Thando again and nodded to him.

"Mommy's been eavesdropping on our private conversation but we'll forgive her because she's the queen of the house and she reigns supreme." He smiled on his sleep again. Sneaky ass. I chuckled and shook my head. I pecked his forehead and

placed him carefully on his cot again. I walked over to the bed and sat down next to my wife. I leaned over and we shared a sensual kiss. I broke the kiss and looked at her.

"Hi." I said softly.

"Hello daddy." She said with a smile.

"How long was I sleeping for?" She asked. I looked at the wall clock and it was just after 10.

"It hasn't been long. I thought you were gonna sleep until tomorrow like most woman do after birth."

"Where did you hear that." She asked.

"I did my research sweetheart. How long have you been listening to our conversation?" I asked.

"Long enough to know that you're talking to our few hours old son about sex. Sies maan Langa." She said and I burst into laughter.

"I was just explaining to him the reason why he kept meeting my cock. It's not that deep." I said and she chuckled.

"Hmm. If you say so."

"I don't see anything wrong if I talked to my son about sex. I mean he ne-"

"Ozithibile." She pinched my arm and I laughed.

"Okay I'm kidding. But did you mean it when you said you love the name?" She nodded and woke up to sit up straight. I helped her and she leaned on the headboard.

"Are you good?" I asked.

"Yes love, I'm good and yes, I love the name so much. It's symbolizes the love we have for each other."

"So we'll name him Thando?" She nodded. I smiled and leaned over to kiss her lips.

"Thank you so much for the precious gift you just blessed me with today sthandwa sami. You are a very incredible and strong woman. I've seen that today and I'll live the rest of my life loving you to the best of my ability."

"Are you happy?" She asked.

"I'm morethan that. No word can possibly describe how I feel." I looked over the cort and smiled.

"Can you believe we created that beautiful human being." I moved my gaze and looked at her, she had a very soft look plastered on her face.

"We did love. Just you and I." She said.

"I love you Makhumalo. You are so amazing."

"And I love you too Ozithobile Branden Langa. Thank you for being here through out the birth process. I appreciate it so much. You are a wonderful man and I know your father would have been super proud of you." She said and I moved my gaze and faced down. I suddenly felt the need to cry but I swallowed down the lump in my throat. She tilted my head up and searched deep in my eyes.

"I know you are still hurting about his passing and that you wish he was here, but he's looking down on you and I'm sure he's nodding prodly with a smile, and giving you a thumps up, together with your mother." She said, wiping the tear that dropped from my eye. I had not realised that I was already emotional. I gave her a faint smile and gazed in her eyeballs.

"Just as your parents are. I hope they are proud of the incredible woman that you are. I wish they were here so I'd thank them myself for giving birth to you and bleesing me with a wife. I've got a family of my own today through their generation."

"Did you call your brothers." She asked. Oh snap!

"I totally forgot about that. I'll go give them a call just now. Do you need anything before I disappear?"

"I wanted us to talk about turning one of the rooms into a nursery but we'll discuss it later." She said and I nodded with a goofy smile and got up. I placed a soft peck on her cheeck and walked out.

Snenhlanhla Khumalo's POV

I carefully rolled out of bed and motioned towards Thando's bed. I got there just intime because I found him already awake.

"Hey there cutie pie." I picked him up and went to sit

on the bed. I balanced his head carefully and breastfeeded him. He sucked on my breast for dear life. Shame, my precious boy must have been starving. I looked down on him as he indulged on his meal. I can't believe I'm a mother and that I'm holding this precious little human being that I created with love together with my husband. His scent gives me a feeling of fulfillment. I can't believe I carried him for the entire 9 month. I wish mom was still alive to guide me through parenthood. It's every girl's wish to have their mother guide them through this phase. I don't know anything about babies or how they should be natured apart from reading about it on books and researching on the internet. But I'm blessed to have a husband like Ozi. I know I can face whatever challege and subdue everything that comes my way, long as I have him by my side.

I finished breasfeeding Thando and held him up on my shoulder and rubbed his back gently so she'd burp. I felt Ozi's presence heavy on me and I turned to look at him. He was leaning against the door frame with his hands burried deep in his pocket and

ankles crossed. He was wearing a very fulfilled smile on his face.

"Hey." I said smiling back.

"You guys look so beautiful. I Can't believe you are all mine."

"Well, this is you Mr Langa. All yours with no doubt." I said. Thando finally burped and I removed him from my shoulder.

"There you go my boy. Well done." I wrapped the blanket around him and his dad came to stand next to us.

"Let me change his nappy and put him back to sleep while you get some rest." He said and took him away from me gently.

"Thank you love. I really am tired and I don't even feel hungry."

"Okay. Get some rest then and don't worry about us. Right champ? Daddy is gonna take care of you while mommy gets some much needed rest. Be nice on daddy so he'd also get some sleep alright?" Thando

made baby sounds and Ozi chuckled.

"Is it just me or he really enjoys having chats with his old man?" He looked at me and I just shrugged. I watched him change his nappy and went to sit down on the rocky chair and put him in his t-shirt...the kangaroo kind of bond.

"There you go, mfanam. Get some sleep now. I heard champs like you loves these kind of bonds. I hope I'm doing it right." He said and I just sat there and got smitten by the sight. He's just so natural and passionate.

"You are doing a great job love. They do love such bonds."

He smiled and focused on his son. I got inside the covers and watched them have their quality time without me bothering them..

Ozi started singing to him and I also benefited from the lullaby because soon I zoned out to my sleep.

Insert 55

(Unedited)

8 months later

Narrative.

Lifting the beautifully framed picture of his mini, yet perfect family, up from the desk, he leaned back on his chair and rubbed on his chin lightly with the tip of his thumb and a dashing smile of fulfillment plastered across his face. It still feel like yesterday when he held his son in his hands for the very first time. And even with the ball of energy that he's become, and all the sleepless nights he's giving them, Ozithobile still thinks his son is the best thing that's ever happened to him and his wife.

He placed it back, carefully on the desk so it would face his direction and picked his phone up to make a phone call. He dialed the reception and before he could blink twice, Inathi had already answered.

Impressive work ethics, he thought to himself.

"Hello Boss."

"Hi Inathi. I'm gonna sent you details of parcels I need you to buy and sent to my wife, please."

"No problem, sir." The line died.

He sent her a brief message before placing it back on the desk and spun his chair around to get up. He motioned across the window to stare outside. It seems the sun peeked through the skies beautifully today. It was definitely out to play and was shining so bright. He got lost in his thoughts, with his imagination running wild. It still rubbed him raw to admit, what a perfect life he's come to live..even in the midst of everthing, it all made perfect sense as to why he met his significant other when he did. A smile creped out from both corners of his mouth as he imagined the first time she bumped into him, leaving him with a coffee stained T-shirt. How could one meet the love of their lives in that manner? He though to himself and chuckled in disbelief while shaking his head.

He wished he spent his entire day reminiscing on his pleasant thoughts but reality was that, he had back to back meeting that he needed to prepare for. Hence he walked back to his desk and swiveled down on his chair, engaging on the laptop screen.

One would wonder how come one person would interact with so many people and getting their hearts broken a number of times before finding their soulmate. While all it takes for others is to get out of the house, make a wreckles turn at the corner and bump into their soulmate...and just like that, they have found the one. Without having to spend few pillor wetting nights over heartbreaks and self doubt.

Truth is, love, just like life, doesn't come with a formula. You just need to take a leap of faith in hope that your first one will love you right and move mountains for you, so much that you'd want for them to be your last...just as Ozithobile does to Snenhlanhla. Their relationship was at its best phase.

It was blossoming so beautiful and colourful like trees and flowers, so much that if it was to be given a name of one season, it would definitely be called Spring. It was as solid as a rock. No Meagan or bra Pat formed against it would have prospered.

Whatever secret they were using, it was clearly working for them. Ozithobile Langa was clearly setting the bars extremely high for other men as he suddenly become a reference for other women to their men to jot down some notes from. According to the society's standards, a man's wealth is projected through his woman and Sne was just a living testimony. The envy she'd receive from women's eyes and how she'd turn heads at malls was plain ridiculous. She is a drop dead gorgeous young mother whose beauty was slapping diffrent. She and her affluent husband became the envy and talk of the town with paparazzi capturing their every move in public places. Every Magazine and gossip column wanted to cover a story concerning the gorgeous, off the market tycoon, Ozithobile Langa having his first ever child at 33 with a gorgeous woman like Sne. Apart from the fact that they really

looked good together and would make a great cover page of some magazine, it just comes with the territory of being a well known persona that everybody wants a scoop about your life.

At the Langa Contractions.

He walked out of the boardroom to his office and swiveled down on his chair. He took off his glasses and took out his phone. He called his wife and It rang for a while until she picked up. A dashing smile from ear to ear was plastered across her face as soon as it appeared on the screen.

"If it isn't the man who keeps sweeping me off my feet."

With a stupid grin on his face, he replied.

"Hey there beautiful. How are you? "

"Receiving random bouquet of flowers with extravagant smelling perfume that I always wanted, on a random Monday, I couldn't get better. How did

you know?"

Ozi might be mistaken for a tough business guy and a bad boy at times but he's definitely a lover who pays attention even to the smallest details concerning his wife's desires and needs.

"I'm a good listener, my dear. Even when you become a bubbler mouth at times and the only thing I want to do is just sleep, I still listen to you." He said with a very warm smile and she couldn't help but return it.

"You are the best. Thank you, love."

She said and he nodded.

"You're welcome, beautiful."

They spend the next few seconds quiet, with Sne's eyes narrowed closely and observing his face on the other side of the screen.

"You look drained."

"I am. I just had a hectic meeting and there isn't anything that I'd like more than ditching everything else and coming home to take a shower and spend

time with you guys right now."

"How many more left?"

"Just one, and very imperative. That's why I can't even postpone it."

"Do what you got to do. You'll find us here waiting."

"You're the best and I can't wait. Where is my son?"

"Our son you mean."

He burst into laughter and threw his head back.

"Look at me, claiming him all to myself. My bad." He said, chuckling lightly.

"Well sweetheart, where is our son?"

"He's taking his nap. I don't know what got him so tired because he's been out for 3 hours now. Do you want to see him." He nodded.

"Just a moment." She walked to the cot and switched the screen.

"Can you see him?"

Baby Thando was sleeping on his back, with both his

hands and legs wide splayed and drifted off to lala land. This somehow was very amusive to Ozi. So much that he bust into laughter.

"Why the hell is he sleeping like that, looking like Jesus Christ on the cross? Wake his ass up" He said and Sne moved away and laughed humorlessly.

"Haibo baby, this is how kids sleep."

"Says who? Who taught him how to sleep like that because I didn't?"

"Maybe he takes after you." She winked.

"Hell no. I do not sleep like that. That little man is crazy. Mvuse (wake him)"

"Hai une drama Langa. How would you know how you sleep when I'm the one who see you when you're sleeping?"

"I know because Langa men don't sleep like that. I've seen my brothers sleep and they don't sleep like that"

"Hai phela a son can only take after his father. We shouldn't look far, uyazi." They both chortled.

"I don't what you are insinuating with that statement but I'm not falling into that trap. I'm a Langa man and Langa men sleeps exactly like that, men. Stop teaching my son funny sleeping positions when I'm not there during the day."

"Leave my son alone please." They laugh it off untill he glanced at his wrist watch and looked at the phone screen again.

"Got to run?" She asked.

"Yes sthandwa sam'. I'm sorry to cut you short but let me love you and leave you Mrs Langa wam' omuhle. My meeting is due in five minutes."

"Okay love. I can't wait to see you."

"I can't wait to see you too. Give Jesus junior a kiss for me lapho and wake his ass up alreday. I'll see you guys later. I love ya'll."

"I love you too baby. Now go secure the deal."

He chuckled and hung up. He took his files and stormed out. He has an important meeting with potential overboard clients and there's nothing he

wants more than to seal this deal and secure the bag. Everybody in the construction cooperative knows Ozithobile Langa doesn't play games in the boardroom, he's the grill.

He walked in the boardroom and found them already seated. They rose in a fluid motion from their seats and extended their hands for a shake.

"Gentlemen?"

"Mr Langa."

They exchanged greetings and shortly everyone got seating.

"Shall we begin?" Asked Ozi, looking as intimated in his crisp white shirt that was tucked in his fawn trousers and grey tie, as ever.

"Yes Mr Langa. The last time we spoke, we were very impressed by your work ethics and services. And as we promised that we'll go do our research and come back to you, we looked your company up and there was nothing but impressive reviews about it on the net from previous clients. This left us completely swept off. Therefore, We are glad to say that we will

be morethan willing to do business with you, under one condition though." Mr Surge said and Ozithobile leaned back on his seat and gave him the go ahead signal.

"As much as we acknowledge that your company comes at top of the range, we however, feel it's ridiculous how much you're charging us."

Ozithibile looked at him and chuckled. He pushed himself forward to lean on the table. He pushed his glasses at the bridge of his nose and looked directly at him.

"Do you know what you want Mr Surge?"

"What do you mean?"

"I mean If you know what it is that you precisely want then you'd comprehend why we're charging at that rate. We are not playing games here Mr Surge. We're running a multy billion company that's been creating excellent work for morethan 10 years now. I feel very insulted by your statement to say the least. Because 1. There's nothing robust about wasting your energy in saying all that you just said about my company if

you're still gonna ask for discounts. This is not a tuck shop where we sell candy. 2. If you want to negotiate, go find other potential servicers who would adhere to your demands. We do not roll like that here and lastly, If you've done your research as much as you claim you have, then you'd understand why we're still standing at the top." His voice contained so much power behind it, much intimidating to these men.

They all looked at each other then at him. Obviously getting the taste of Ozithobile Lang's "not so easily impressed" charector in the boardroom. This was just proving the word on the streets about him, right. They weren't lying. He sure is the baddest and wasn't shaking in his ground.

There was silence for a while...one that leaves you very unsettled on your chair.

"Mr Langa, we still think it's a bit steep."

"I am not negotiating anything. My offer from last time still stands. I will not settle for anything less than what I know my company deserves. If you feel

we're not good enough then gentlemen, feel free to take your business elsewhere. This meeting is adjourned."

Tall and intimidating, he rose up from his chair and grabbed the files from the table and headed to the door.

"Mr Langa, wait."

Very annoyed and with not so much patience left in him, he stopped and turned.

"I have a very beautiful wife and a son waiting for me at home gents. I don't have all day."

"We'll take it."

"I beg your pardon?" He played dumb.

"We'll sign this deal. There's no any other company that will deliver what we want other than Langa Contructions. So we have a deal."

He wanted to hit the roof and contained himself.

"Are you sure?"

"One hundred percent."

He maintained his straight face and walked back towards them. They rose up from their chairs and extended handshakes.

"You are a very tough nut to crack Ozithobile Langa. I underestimated you and even though I was warned, I still had my doubts. You've got a pretty face for a hardcore businessman busniessmen concratilations." Mr Surge said while his team were giving him nods. He chuckled lightly and shook his head. You clearly have no idea who the fuck I am. He thought to himself.

"Thank you. It's a pleasure doing business with you gentlemen. Now, Let's build those 50 malls." He said and they bid farewell to one another before they all left. He did the victory move as soon as the door was shut and gave himself a pat on the shoulder.

"You are the real deal Ozithobile Langa. Your father would have been proud" he said to himself then pulled myself together. Self-proclaimed much! He walked out of the boardroom very bold.

He kicked his office door and walked in. He threw the files on his desk and unbuttoned his chest coat. He loosened his tie and rolled his sleeves up. He poured a glass of whiskey and downed it. He glanced at his wrist watch, it was just after 4. Grabbing his laptop bag and car keys, he walked out. He got inside the elevator and it went down. He got out and saw Inathi. She was already leaving but stopped when she saw him. She gave him an affirming smile and he returned his goofy one, accompanied by a rapid nod.

"They walked out all smiles sir. And I couldn't help but overhear how they commanded you. I can't believe you attended that meeting alone and still managed to secure the bag." She said, ecstatically.

"I was born for this Inathi."

"You sure were. They even gave me a tip." She said, laughing and he widened his gaze.

"They did what? No, you kidding!"

She just kept nodding and smiling.

"Must be nice mos. Keep up on whatever that you do.

You'll go places." We both chuckled.

"Do you want a lift?"

She was about to say something when he raised his hand.

"Actually you know what, enjoy your last taxi days because you'll miss them. Have a great evening Ms Inathi."

He said, walking out.

"Sir wait, what do you mean."

"Go home Inathinkosi."

He left her dumbstruck and headed to his car. He decided on his favorite artist and played his album on an avarage volume. He remembers how he always had this album in his car but never liked it. Then it happened that he woke up one mysterious morning and decided to buy coffee at this cafeteria that Banzi always bragged about and bumped into the love of his life. If destiny does bring people together, then it sure did bring him and Sne together that particular morning. He could not thank himself

enough for deciding on taking Banzi on his offer and went there that morning because then he wouldn't have gotten the chance to meet the love of his life when he did.

It seemed just so ridiculous how everything made sense for him to play this album after bumping into her and he feel it love with it since. It must true what they say, he guessed. Music is able to bring certain aspects of our lives into a form of reality.

He couldn't be more glad she bumped into him when she did because then he wouldn't be this happy, today.

He felt a smile creep out from both corners of his mouth and he chuckled, shaking his head. Love huh?!

He brought his car engine to life and drove home.

He drove in and parked at the parking bay. He grapped hi stuff and headed to the door. Thando was screaming at the top of his lungs that his dad

could hear him all the way from outside.

He pushed the door open and was welcomed by a devine smell of a home cooked meal hitting his nostrils, as soon as he stepped in.

"Honey, I'm home."

He moved his gaze to the most appealing sight a man could ever ask for, from such a hectic day. Ontop of a table, stood a glass of cranberry juice with an opened looking like a novel beside it. A few feet away, avarage and impossibly elegant, she stood infront of the stove in her body hugging dress that revealed her firm assets from behind. He stared at it back just as it was starring at him. He tilted his head for a better view and cursed under his breath. This is bone of my bones. Love of my life. The woman who blessed me with her purity and gave me a son. And even after so long, she still turns me on effortlessly. This is the Apple of my eye. He thought to himself as he dropped the laptop bag on the floor and motioned towards her. He curved his hands around her from the back and she tilted her head to the side and gave him enough room.

"Welcome home."

"You smell so damn good." He inhaled on the seductive scent that filled his nostrils and groaned softly.

"It's the perfume you had delivered. I'm glad you love it."

"I love you more."

She placed the lit ontop of the pot and as soon as she turned, their lips found one another and they explored. He pulled her closer and grabbed her ass that she felt his hard buldge on her stomach. She moaned, much to his arousal, he deepened the kiss and another soft moan escaped her mouth. He chuckled against her lips and pulled back. He pressed his forehead on hers and they looked at each other in the eyes for a moment.

"Let's save the best for last, sweetheart."

He pecked her lips and pulled away from each other's embrace. He made her twirl and took a few steps back then stopped and admired her.

"You look stunning in that dress."

"Thank you. I figured it would be what you'd want to come home to, after such a long day."

"It sure is and I'm absolutely impressed. I've got good news also but we'll share it during dinner."

"Okay baby. You have enough time to refresh and bond with Thando before dinner could be ready. I could get you a glass of cold beverage just to unwind so long."

"Thank you sweetheart. But let me see him first then shower."

He went over and placed a soft sensual peck on her lips then went to pick his laptop back and headed out.

"It smells so divine and homely in here by the way." He shouted as he disappeared to the living room, leaving his wife fluttered by the comment.

He found Thando gawking on the TV screen and giggling on the cartoons. He stopped and watched

him for a while. Thando wasn't noticing him one bit. He was clearly lost in the world of the cartoons.

"Hey champ." He turned his head and as soon as he saw his dad, he raised his hands to the air in excitement and spoke in his baby language.

"Da-da...da-da.. " he jumped up and down inside his wheel, clearly delighted to see his dad.

"Yes my boy. Dada is home." He picked him up from his wheel and roughed his hair up, playfully. Thando kissed him all over his face and ears with his drooling mouth and Ozi just chuckled.

"How are you, champ? You good? Yeah? What are you watching here? Cartoons? You like them, don't you? I missed you man. Didn't you miss me? Yeah....yeah Know you did. I know you did right!"

Thando just continued being a bubbler mouth with his baby talks and his dad was playing along. He laid him on the floor and tickled him, giving him good laughs and giggles for a while.

"There you go. Good boy. You know what they say about good laughs right? You do don't you? Smart

boy."

He played with him for a while and had their bond. This has become a daily routine when he comes back home from work.

"Daddy has to go shower now. Mommy cooked us a very delicious dinner. So let me dash so we'd eat, alright. Now, kiss Dada."

Thando leaned forward and kissed him.

"Ooh it feels good, man. I Never though kissing another man feels this good."

"Da-da."

"You agree, it feels good right? Okay champ. Let me go shower now. Be a good boy. I love you."

"Aah Looo Uuu" he mumbled, causing his dad to laugh. He placed him back on his wheel and headed upstairs.

He walked down in a Jean and a white T-shirt on and found his wife and son already seated on the dinner table.

"Waiting for me?"

"Uh-huh."

He kissed her wife's cheek and his son's forehead before seating down and joining them.

"This smells so good. Thank you for taking good care of us sweetheart."

He held his hand out across the table to take his wife's. He kissed it then gave it a light squeeze.

"Let's say grace and eat."

Sne said grace and they digged in.

"So how was your day?"

"It was great hun, can't complain."

"Did you manage to find a baby sitter?"

"No. I manged to interview all of them but none of the candidates was suitable."

He chuckled and looked at her with one eyebrow raised.

"Why? Are they that bad?"

"No. They just sounded so inexperienced. I didn't want to take my chances."

"So what's your plan now?"

"I think he'll continue going to that daycare until I find the right suitable candidate."

"Okay."

They ate in silence.

After Thando was born, they decided to place him on a daycare because his mother was supposed to continue with her studies. She wanted to stay at home until she was at least a year old but Ozi didn't want to hear any of that. He said she must pursue and finish her studies and so she did. Everybody managed to convince her against her thoughts when they had come to see Thando, few days after he was born. Even Lwazi made a pleasant surprise when they didn't expect to see him after such a long time since he was gone. It was a very beautiful day, as family and friends had flocked to the Langa residence and spent the entire day showering baby Thando with gifts. Even Amo showed up that day.

Amongst them was Mam' Gumedé and both her sons, Amanda and Sizwe, Mandla and Sma(Ozi's brother cousin from back home) and Banzi. Even the nursery room that was interior designed specifically for Thando came as a surprise when they launched it. She was totally swept off her feet by her sneaky husband but who would complain at such a great gesture?!

"So how did your meeting go?" Asked Ozi
smiled. She widened her eyes and sprang excitedly
on her feet. She ran to her husband as he also stood
up to catch her. He lifted her up and spun her around.

"Congratulations baby. I'm so proud of you."

He put her down and they kissed.

"Thank you sweetheart. For staying up with me and
help me prepare for the meeting. You are the best
partner a man could ever ask for."

"I didn't do much. But you're welcome."

He cupped her face and kissed her sensually.
Thando was busy fighting to finish her drum stick to
even notice his parents.

They pulled away from the kiss and he looked at her with so much passion.

"We're invited at a gala dinner tomorrow. I can't wait to flaunt you."

"What? Tomorrow? But I don't have a dress for that, baby." She panicked. He brought his dark brows together and frowned.

"But you have a whole closet full of closed Nhlanhla. What do you mean?"

"No baby. A woman has to have a dress that goes with a pair of heels for every event. This is a gala dinner we're talking about. I have to look extravagant."

"Okay you'll go shopping tomorrow then."

She smiled and tiptoed to give him a kiss.

"You are the best. I'll buy some for you too."

He looked at her puzzled before raising his hands in surrender.

"I know I won't win this one so I'm not even gonna protest. Do your thing wifey."

"Now we're talking." She smiled.

"Okay okay. Can we go back and eat now?"

She pulled him by the hand and they went back to their seats and began eating again.

"Is he gonna finish this meat, baby?" He asked, looking at Thando who still battled with his meat.

"I don't think so."

Ozi attempted to take it away from him but he whimpered. They both burst into laughter and he gave it back to him.

"One would even forget him when he has meat in his hands this one. It's like that's all he ever cares about. Look at him, he doesn't even notice us one bit." He said, shaking his head and indeed, Thando becomes very quiet and focused when he eats his meat.

"Can we go for a walk while he's busy salivating on his meat." He wiggled his eyebrows and Sne giggled.

"Hai baby. Let him sleep first."

"He'll wake up and disturb us like he did last night.

It's time he slept in his nursery room. Phela uyabona lomuntu. Futhi he's just a cock block nje. He must just go."

Sne giggled at this and they continued to enjoy their delicious dinner while maintaining eye contact and conversing while paying attention to the electrifying wave that was going on between them from across the table.